

Project FFEM – SupMed – Project N° CZZ 2476.01G

Collective and contextualized strategies to promote resilient and sustainable agricultural production in rural Mediterranean areas

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF A PROJECT FOCAL POINT AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPMED PROJECT IN LEBANON

1. Context/Background and objectives of the SupMed project

The SupMed project is funded by the French Facility for the Global Environment (FFEM, or *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial*) and coordinated by the CIHEAM-IAMM. It aims to support farmers in Lebanon and Egypt in the implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change (CC).

It concerns the Luxor Governorate in Egypt and the Beqaa valley in Lebanon, two areas marked by significant levels of poverty, public agricultural advisory systems undergoing restructuring and a risk of natural resource overexploitation (water and soil) aggravated by climate uncertainty. In Lebanon as in Egypt, private and public agricultural advisory services significantly rely on capacity development as well as a frame of reference in connection with the implementation of strategies to deal with climate change.

The SupMed project aims to structurally and sustainably reduce the overexploitation of water resources and improve the income of farm households. For that purpose, it will put forward, implement and assess integrated, agronomic and socio-economic initiatives based on agro-ecology in order to reduce water dependency in each of the project territories. These initiatives will be jointly developed with local stakeholders and adapted to the context of the two territories involved: the Beqaa valley and the Luxor Governorate. In total, the project aims to have at least 400 farmers per territory subscribe to a voluntary charter for the implementation of adaptation strategies based on agro-ecological practices.

Beyond local experiments, the project will also contribute to the development of national strategies to fight climate change by capitalizing on the results obtained and promoting the sharing of experience between the territories of the two countries concerned and institutional stakeholders.

The project is divided into 6 stages i) raising awareness among local stakeholders regarding the effects of climate change and agro-ecological practices, and improving the irrigation infrastructure ; ii) the joint development and the selection of adaptation and mitigation strategies to better manage water demand, diversify production and improve the income of farm households in the context of climate change ; iii) the use of a contextualized decision support tool based on bioeconomic modelling ; iv) the concrete implementation of strategies resulting from the model by volunteer farmers ; v) the promotion and dissemination of SubMed results ; vi) project coordination and governance arrangements with local partners.

2. Expected objectives and results of the project

- **The preservation of water resources:** the project aims to renovate and strengthen irrigation infrastructure and its local governance. Such development will be carried out via the creation of hill lakes and pressurized networks in Lebanon, and irrigation canals and pumping stations in Egypt. In both countries, the involvement of irrigation associations will be at the heart of the project activities.

- **The adoption by farmers of new sustainable farming practices that help reduce water demand and improve the income of producers.** This objective will be broken down into several phases : i) training local stakeholders to deal with CC issues as well as training farmers, ii) identifying contextualized adaptation strategies co-developed with farmers using a bioeconomic modelling tool

Project FFEM – SupMed – Project N° CZZ 2476.01G

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iii) technical training in agro-ecological practices for volunteer farmers and the implementation of field experiments (volunteer farmers), iv) the adoption of a charter of best practices and the creation of a nursery, v) the creation of new innovative sectors, vi) strengthening the skills of farm service centres and regional agricultural directorates regarding the development of contextualized CC adaptation strategies.

- A contribution to national strategies linked to CC : i) support to universities and research centres for the development of contextualized adaptation strategies (training, user and reference guide), ii) strengthening ministries for the development of territorial and national adaptation strategies (Lebanese-Egyptian network, experience-sharing seminars, etc.), iii) the dissemination and promotion of the project results (popularisation documents and guidelines)

The project is expected to last 4 years, starting in spring 2021.

3. The missions of the focal point from the SupMed project to the *Green Plan*

The focal point will work in direct collaboration with the CIHEAM-IAMM team, which is in charge of managing the SupMed project, as well as with the institutional partners of the project in Lebanon: the Green Plan HASAD programme, Hermel Farm Service Centre, the Union of Hermel Municipalities, the Lebanese University Faculty of Agricultural Science, and the Union of Baalbeck-Hermel Cooperatives. He/she will be in charge of :

- The institutional coordination and communication between the HASAD Green Plan programme and the SupMed project coordination team throughout the duration of the project. It includes:

- Participation in the steering committee (definition of the overall strategy and vision ; presentation and monitoring of results ; validation of half-yearly action plans ; budget approval)
- Coordination between the HASAD project and the SupMed project
- Administrative monitoring of the technical and financial contribution of the Green Plan HASAD programme to the SupMed project

- Facilitating communication between the SupMed project and the Ministries of Agriculture

- Mobilizing national networks (research centres, experts, regional directorate, etc.) to participate in training programmes and various events within the SupMed project.
- Facilitating relations with national and local institutional stakeholders in the implementation of project activities : support for the organization of project coordination and monitoring meetings, support for the mobilization of stakeholders to participate in the training programmes set up by the project on the subject of adaptation strategies to CC, support for the promotion of innovative sectors

- Contributing to capitalization activities and the dissemination of project results:

- Participating in the reflection on the definition of national strategies for adaptation to CC, participating in the Lebanese-Egyptian network on bioeconomic modelling as a tool to support future agricultural policies on CC and in meetings to reflect on and disseminate the project results
- Participating in regional experience-sharing sessions in Egypt and across the Mediterranean area

Project FFEM – SupMed – Project N° CZZ 2476.01G

Collective and contextualized strategies to promote resilient and sustainable agricultural production in rural Mediterranean areas

- Help communicate project results to local stakeholders beyond the territories concerned by the project: dissemination of documents to farm service centres and farmers.

4. Required qualifications and skills

- Agricultural engineering diploma
- At least 5 years of experience in agricultural or rural development projects related to climate change in Lebanon and in a management position at a regional or national level.
- Knowledge of the issues regarding adaptation strategies to climate change, as well as water resource management and national and international trade issues.
- Excellent knowledge of the Lebanese agricultural institutional fabric and ability to mobilize local stakeholders
- Language skills in English and/or French

5. Work conditions and organisation

- He/she will work in close collaboration with the CIHEAM-IAMM coordination team, which is in charge of managing the project, as well as with local partners: Baalbeck-Hermel Union of cooperatives, Hermel Farm Service Centre, as well as the UL Faculty of Agricultural Science.
- Workplace: Beirut Green Plan HASAD programme, with occasional trips for coordination meetings in the project territories. Travel abroad as part of experience-sharing activities in Egypt and the Mediterranean area.
- Duration of the contract: one-year fixed-term contract, potentially renewable until the end of the project (4 contracts)
- Working time: 5.5 days/month, he/she will have to provide CIHEAM-IAMM with a timesheet and a detailed report of the activities carried out for the SupMed project on a monthly basis.
- Salary: the salary will be defined in consultation with local stakeholders and in accordance with the CIHEAM-IAMM salary grid, depending on the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate.

6. Application and selection process

He/she must send a detailed CV and cover letter **written in French or English** to the following address: **Belhouchette@iamm.fr** ; and specify the name and number of the project (SupMed FFEM Project - CZZ 2476.01G).

7. Selection process

Applications will be submitted to a selection committee, made up of members of the project coordination team.

The successful application will be subject to final approval by the FFEM secretariat.

Deadline for submitting applications: March 31th, 2021, effective start as soon as possible.