**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 AN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER 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.

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. Objectives and expected 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 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. Missions of the SupMed project engineer

The agricultural engineer will work under direct supervision of the CIHEAM-IAMM, project manager for the SupMed project, and in collaboration with the institutional partners of the project in Lebanon : the Green Plan HASAD programme, the Union of Baalbeck-Hermel cooperatives and Hermel Farm Service Centre (FSC). He/she will be in charge of:

- Referencing the farmers of the 3 villages targeted by the project and identifying which are the most representative for the implementation of project activities according to criteria which will be pre-identified with the steering committee

- Contributing to the various workshops and technical training programmes of producers and managing/supporting the coordination, organization and monitoring of the training programmes with external experts recruited by the project (awareness of the effects of CC, technical training on agro-ecology)

- Planning and leading technical training programmes on the subject of irrigation

- Undergoing technical training on the bioeconomic modelling tool

- Regularly collecting technical and administrative data from the 80 referenced farmers in order to update the indicators of the dashboard monitoring the chosen adaptation strategies and sending them to the CIHEAM-IAMM

- Implementing demonstration plots and supporting volunteer producers on a daily basis in the adoption of new farming practices and setting up the monitoring of the practices and interventions carried out : monthly dashboard per farmer and territory involved, monitoring and control of the use of inputs provided by the project

- Participating in the creation of an experimental nursery within Hermel Farm Service Centre

- Creating, in collaboration with local and institutional partners (Union of cooperatives, Farm Service Centre, etc.), 3 irrigation associations in the villages targeted by SupMed and contributing to their activity.
- Helping to write the specifications of the charter of best agricultural practices and promoting this charter to farmers and marketers

- Helping to prospect for farmers and promote the production of farmers who have signed the charter (marketing, organization of promotional and marketing operations)

- Helping the project coordinator to plan project coordination meetings and taking part in meetings of the project support and steering committees

- Participating in national and international experience-sharing seminars and meetings

### 4. Required qualifications and skills

- Agricultural engineering diploma

- At least 2 to 3 years of experience in agricultural or rural development projects. Excellent knowledge of the Lebanese agricultural sector and the local Beqaa valley context, as well as of the area concerned by the project would be an advantage.

- Knowledge and skills in agro-ecological practices and water-saving irrigation techniques

- Knowledge of agronomic modelling techniques and simulation software would be an advantage

- Good level of English and/or French (B1 to B2 level minimum)

- Soft skills:
  - Leadership abilities and a taste for international teamwork
  - Ability to synthesize, availability, rigour and ability to work independently

### 5. Work conditions and organisation

- The engineer will be under the direct responsibility of the CIHEAM-IAMM, which is in charge of managing the project. He/she will be working in close collaboration with local partners: the Union of Baalbeck-Hermel cooperatives and Hermel Farm Service Centre on whose premises he/she will be working, as well as the UL Faculty of Agricultural Science and the Green Plan HASAD programme

- Workplace: Hermel Farm Service Centre (FSC), and trips to the 3 villages as well as to Beirut for coordination meetings. Travel abroad as part of the project's experience-sharing activities.

- Duration of the contract: one-year fixed-term contract, potentially renewable until the end of the project (4 contracts)

- Working time: half-time work on the basis of 11 working 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 accordance with the CIHEAM-IAMM salary grid, depending on the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate. Living and travel expenses when travelling abroad will also be covered.

### 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: April 15th, 2021, effective start as soon as possible.**