

Agriculture and Rural Development Support Project

Markets and Rural Development Director

Position Description

Background: The USAID Agriculture and Rural Development Support project, hereinafter ARDS, is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). ARDS builds on USAID's previous projects in Ukraine and lessons learned by USAID/Ukraine, Ukrainian partners, and other donors. ARDS is implemented by Chemonics International, Inc. and began on September 7, 2016 and is scheduled to end on July 30, 2020.

ARDS was designed to support broad based, resilient economic growth through a more inclusive, competitive, and better governed agriculture that provides attractive livelihoods in rural areas. ARDS works both at the national and regional level, with a special focus on rural development in southern and eastern Ukraine. For its work in agriculture value chains, ARDS is primarily focusing on dairy, fruits and vegetables, and meat. In rural areas, ARDS has flexibility to expand beyond agriculture into non-farm related employment generation. ARDS embraces the collaborating, learning, and adapting (CLA) framework promoted by USAID. Across all tasks of the contract, ARDS works with government institutions, private sector entities, and other partners in planning, monitoring, mapping outcomes, and thereafter scaling up what works and/or adapting by redesigning strategies and tactics employed to implement tasks.

Position Description

The Director of Markets and Rural Development manages four people and an array of short-term technical consultants, grants, and contracts focused improving systemic constraints to productivity and market access for Ukrainian SMEs. The Director's responsibilities include organizing task team leaders for work plan development; leadership during quarterly reviews, oversight and quality control of scope of works for short-term technical advisors from Ukraine or international, and requests for applications or proposals; reporting; collaborating and learning with market actors and donor projects; and staff evaluations. The Director will provide technical leadership and bring to bear global innovations to help agribusiness solve systemic constraints to growth. He/she works closely with the Directors of the Enabling Environment and Governance, Strategic Investment Fund, and Communication & Learning. ARDS operates in a very sophisticated IT environment, using most of the elements of Office 365 (MS Project, Teams, OneNote, PowerBI, Planner, etc.). Therefore, the Director must embrace modern technology and be able to lead his/her team to become more efficient through the use of available tools. The Director of Markets and Rural Development reports to the ARDS Director.

Responsibilities

- Oversee the development, update and implementation of the ARDS work plan as related to markets and rural development tasks, ensuring application of market systems development approach
- Assign resources to tasks in MS Project in consultation with other directors
- Oversee the Market and Rural Development team's achievement of targets set forth in the ARDS monitoring, evaluating, and learning plan.
- Work with the Director of Communications & Learning to produce content for ARDS learning and dissemination materials (e.g., best practices, lessons learned, success stories, and other communications to be identified); and manage contract deliverables (e.g., quarterly and annual reports);

- Identify leverage points of new opportunities, promote appropriate collaborations, identify interventions and scale-up best practices.
- Support collaboration, learning and adapting and knowledge management efforts by promoting the capture and sharing of lessons learned, new innovations and best practices and participating in periodic meetings with USAID projects, other donors and government partners.
- Provide leadership for behavior change and communication tasks, ensuring interventions are geared towards system-level measurable impact and results.
- Serve as a member of the ARDS senior management team and advise the Director on matters related to markets and rural development.
- Assume any other duties as assigned by the ARDS Director

Qualifications

- At least ten years' previous experience in agribusiness or leadership role on a donor funded agriculture development projects
- Demonstrated experience in achieving concrete results in agribusiness or agricultural development projects. Please note that providing "trainings" does not count as a result.
- USAID or previous donor experience is required.
- Proven ability to manage and implement work using tools such as MS Project or other Office 365 Suite of programs (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, OneNote, Power BI, etc.).
- Well versed in project management professional norms (www.pmi.org) including mastery of work breakdown structure creation, scheduling, etc.
- Firm understanding of the market systems development approach (<https://beamexchange.org>)
- Superior interpersonal, public speaking, and team building skills
- Undergraduate degree required; advanced degree preferred.
- Fluent English writing and speaking skills required

Application Instructions.

Send electronic submissions to ards.hr@ukraineards.com by November 7, 2017. Please submit your CV and cover letter with "Markets and Rural Development Director" and your name in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Only finalists will be contacted.

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