

Evaluation of FAO's Work on Genetic Resources

Call for Expressions of Interest – Lead Consultant and Experts

FAO's Office of Evaluation (OED) is currently in the process of initiating an evaluation of FAO's work on genetic resources, which is scheduled to run from July 2014 until spring 2015.

Background

FAO has a long history of working on genetic resources. In 1983 the FAO Conference adopted the "International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources" and established a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, which in 1995 broadened its mandate to cover all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture. In 2009 the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, of natural resources in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forests, agricultural heritage and genetic resources was identified as one of the three Global Goals of FAO Members. Also FAO's renewed Strategic Framework, adopted in 2013, among others aims to generate "information for understanding the status, trends and perspectives for further development of agricultural sector production systems and of resources (land, water, genetic resources and biodiversity), and to provide "conceptual and analytical tools for assessing, planning and managing the sustainable use of natural resources in agricultural sector production systems, including through the conservation or rehabilitation of land, water, genetic resources and biodiversity".

Purpose

The evaluation will provide FAO management and member countries with an assessment of the contribution of FAO's work on genetic resources towards the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and biological diversity for food and agriculture in member countries.

Methodology

The evaluation will be conducted through a consultative process that emphasizes interaction with internal and external stakeholders. The evaluation will also include a variety of data collection exercises such as a meta-analysis of past evaluations, an inventory of FAO work on genetic resources, broad-based inquiry using surveys, interviews and email correspondence as well as conducting specific case studies.

Timetable

The preparatory phase of the evaluation started in spring 2014, and the Terms of Reference will be finalized in July 2014. The evaluation will require most inputs from the Lead Consultant and Experts during the period September-November 2014, with some contributions to the final report to be delivered in spring 2014.

Composition and profile of the evaluation team

The Evaluation will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team made up of external consultants and members of the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED). OED is looking for a Lead Consultant and 3-4 experts with significant evaluation experience (preferably some in the UN system) and expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Sustainable use and development of genetic resources (in particular, plant and animal genetic resources, including in-situ conservation);
- Legal, political, economic, institutional etc. issues related to genetic resources work

In addition, the evaluation may require national or regional experts to conduct case studies in countries where FAO's genetic resources work has been particularly relevant. The team of experts will work under the overall supervision and responsibility of OED Director; the experts should not have been substantially involved in the design or implementation of FAO genetic resources work during the evaluation period and will be required to sign a conflict of interest declaration.

Female candidates and candidates from developing countries are encouraged to apply.

Essential qualifications of experts

- Postgraduate degree in relevant disciplines (Economics, Political Science, Law, etc., as well as Biology, Crop Science, Forestry, etc.);
- At least 15 years of relevant and proven experience at international level in their fields of expertise;
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills;
- Previous experience in conducting/taking part in independent evaluations.

In addition to the above, the Lead Consultant should have proven experience in leading large complex evaluations and a strong knowledge of capacity development approaches.

For experts working on case studies, relevant country or regional experience may substitute for some of the qualifications stipulated above.

The working language will be English. Knowledge of other Official FAO languages (particularly French and Spanish) will be desirable.

Application process

Interested candidates should send their application by **4 August 2014** to the email address: Opportunities-Eval@fao.org with copy to Sara.Holst@fao.org. Please specify "Evaluation of FAO's work on genetic resources" in the email subject line.

Applications should include a detailed Curriculum Vitae containing:

- Information on gender, age, current residence and nationality;
- Expected daily fee rate (exclusive of expenses); and,
- Availability between September 2014 and March 2015.

Potential candidates will be contacted in early 2014 for interviews. Short-listed candidates will be requested to register in the FAO iRecruitment platform (<http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/>)