



## **Call # 06/2022 - Expert engagement for preparation of a Manual for improved production and quality of apple**

The "Macedonian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives" – (MAAC) is an organization that consolidates the work of agricultural cooperatives and their members to achieve their individual and mutual rights and interests in a modern and democratic way and contributes to the development of sustainable agriculture and quality of life. The aim of the organization is to protect the economic, social and cultural interests of the cooperatives and to work on improving the conditions of the production market.

MAAC has the status of socio-economic partner of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia and is representing the interests of agricultural cooperatives before MAFWE.

MAAC is an association established in 2012, and from 2022 MAAC has 51 members (agricultural cooperatives from all regions of the country and from different sectors).

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This call for consultancy is issued within the USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project (EDGE) under the project name: "Improved production and quality of selected fruits and vegetables". The overall goal of the project is to increase capacity and income for coop members from North Macedonia and Serbia by improving their productivity and competitiveness of the value chain and strengthening market linkages for their products. All planned activities in project will result to improve overall productivity and income generation on long term as well as direct positive impact on agricultural cooperatives and agricultural producers in general.

### **Description of the engagement:**

Macedonian association of agricultural cooperatives is looking to hire minimum 1 expert whose main engagement will be preparation of a Manual for improved production and quality of apple.

### **Obligations to be implemented by the consultant:**

Preparation of a short Manual that will include content on improved quality and competitiveness of apple production. The preparation of the Manual is planned to be realized by minimum of 1 expert - representatives of science such as MANU, FZNH, Agricultural Institute etc. The Manual should be prepared based on the expert's analysis, studies and experiences as well as to include images, graphics and charts so it could be more reachable to the farmers.

The purpose of this Manual is MAAC, CUV an CUSS members (representatives of agricultural cooperatives from North Macedonia and Serbia) to gain more knowledge about the apple



production so by that, the topics that are desirable to be an integral part of the Manual should be: Modern agro-environmental technologies for apple production, How apple production has been affected by the climate changes; Improvements due to increased efficiency of apple production techniques; Market standards for apple production: Sorting, Packing, Marking, Proposals for new innovative solutions for apple processing and obtaining products with added value; Conclusion/Recommendation etc.

**Required qualifications of the consultant:**

- Completed high education (PhD on the topic: apple production is desirable);
- At least 5 years' work experience and vast knowledge on the apple production;
- Well-developed interpersonal and teamwork skills;
- Computer skills MS Office and Internet;
- Excellent planning and organizational skills;
- Fluent speaking of Macedonian and English;
- Citizenship of the Republic of North Macedonia;

**Criteria for selecting a consultant:**

- Experience and number of scientific editions published in the field of apple production;
- Portfolio of the applicant;
- Financial offer.

**Application process**

All interested candidates can apply no later than 16.01.2023, by 16:00 at the e-mail [mazz@mazz.mk](mailto:mazz@mazz.mk) with the subject: Application for the call #06/2022 Preparation of a Manual for apple production. The applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Professional CV;
- Portfolio / list of clients / organizations for which the same / similar activities have been delivered;
- Proposed methodology for the planned activity;
- Financial offer, i.e. compensation for realization of the task, with all expenses included (daily allowance plus travel expenses). The offer should include amount for preparation of a Manual for apple production. The offered price should be expressed in gross amount in USD, including personal income tax.

The selection of the most favourable bidder (consultant) will be made according to the principle "best value for money". The criteria for quality will include previous projects and expert experiences.

Those who have applied will be notified of the results of the call, electronically, no later than 3 days after the selection.

The MAAC retains the right not to select any candidates upon this call, in case the received bids do not match the required quality.