



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate L. Economic analysis, perspectives and evaluations
L.4. Evaluation of measures applicable to agriculture; studies

Brussels, 13 August 2009
AGRI L.4/MZ D (2009) / 228560
D68\DF1\marketing standards\ Q&A1

Subject: Request for additional information related to the Open Call for Tender "Marketing standards in the fruit and vegetable sector ". Tender N° AGRI-2009-EVAL-07

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed the answer of the European Commission to the questions raised by a potential tenderer.

In view of improving the quality of the tenders and to ensure that all additional information is evenly distributed amongst the participants in the tendering process, this letter will be made available to all interested parties.

QUESTION 1:

Scoping paper – is this to be written by a supposed expert on the Common Agricultural Policy? Or is this our research recommendations from the industry as collective findings to be provided to the Commission.

Task 1.5: Establish a scoping paper, drawing on the output of tasks 1.1 to 1.4. The paper, whose purpose is to provide guidance to the study team, must be approved by the Commission.

ANSWER 1:

The scoping paper, as stated in section 2.3.1 of the tender specification, is to provide guidance for members of the contractor's team. The main aim of this scoping paper is to create, among the different team members, a common understanding, concerning the functioning and situation of the different markets to be covered. In addition, this scoping paper is also supposed to provide each member of the team with a better insight as regards the differences between the markets, the theoretical foundation of the study as well as which information sources will have to be used for answering the different study questions.

The scoping paper has to be sent to the Commission as a part of the first interim deliverable. It will be discussed and, if it is found appropriate, approved by the Commission before the data collection starts.

QUESTION 2:

Is the experience specific to research and methodology of the research personnel? Or do we need to include details of specific persons who will make recommendations to the EU in terms of policy? Or do we need to outline how we would work with experts and the EU...?

Our organisation has deep research expertise in the member state markets, food & agriculture, supply chain, fruit & vegetables, applied economics....etc however our specific knowledge of the Common Agricultural Policy is limited.

4.1. Experience required

- Knowledge of the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy;
- Knowledge of the sector of fresh fruit and vegetables;
- Knowledge of food and agricultural products supply chains;
- Knowledge of relevant state-of-the-art techniques, methodologies and tools.

4.2. Specific skills

- Be able to collect the necessary information in at least the 5 Member States indicated;
- Experience in the field of applied economics;
- Knowledge of developments and current policy debates in the Common Agricultural Policy;
- Capacity to work at Community level in French and English.

ANSWER 2:

Any tenderer, at the time of the submission of the offer (here: 21 August 2009), has to cover **all** requested experience and knowledge areas as well as the other specific skills, as stated in the section 4.1 and 4.2 of the tender specification.

If the tenderer does not have (at all or partly) the required knowledge and/or skills within his/her own team, he/she may rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links that it has with them, to meet the criteria for technical capacity, as specified in the section 8.2.3.2 point (5).

In order to know more about different possibilities on how to present an offer with other entities, please refer to section **7.3 "Joint tender"** of the tender specification. However, where a Tenderer proposes, though not exclusively, **"external experts"**, the following information is required for EACH "expert":

- (i) fully detailed up-to-date Curriculum Vitae of "expert";
- (ii) role and contribution (number of man-days) of "expert" to service;
- (iii) definition of current employment status of "expert";
- (iv) written confirmation from "expert" of intention to participate in the service, with the authorisation of the employer (University Department, etc.) if applicable;
- (v) a completed Conflict of Interests declaration by the "expert" (see Document N° 3 G to the Letter of Invitation to Tender).

It is up to the tenderer to decide how the offer will be structured, i.e. how the required experience and/or skills are to be covered. Please note as well that all offers will be evaluated against the criteria stated in section 9.3 of the tender specification.

Please note that all the information, questions or observations of all nature which are in this note, do not engage the Commission in any way. Such engagement may only occur after the completion of the corresponding market procedure, by signature of the contract.

Leo MAIER
Head of Unit