# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

# AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Coordinator**

**for the Climate Resilient Agricultural Value Chains Development Project (CRAVCD)**

1. **Project background information**

The Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic established the Agricultural Project Implementation Unit (APIU) to coordinate, manage and implement agricultural projects and any other future projects that receive financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other donors.

The financing agreement for the Climate Resilient Agricultural Value Chains Development Project (Loan Agreement (Regular Operations [Preferential]) and Grant Agreement (Special Operations)) between the Kyrgyz Republic and ADB was signed on December 13, 2023 in Bishkek. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Ratification of Agreements on Financing the CRAVCD between the Kyrgyz Republic and ADB, signed on December 13, 2023 in Bishkek dated June 27, 2024 No. 109 was issued.

State policy in agriculture is aimed at ensuring food security and stimulating the development of medium and large processing complexes, logistics centers for exporting products to foreign markets and comprehensive support for companies with the highest export potential, by providing access to long-term and cheap credit resources, and trade information. The strategic goal of reforms in the agricultural sector is to ensure food security, develop sustainable agriculture and create conditions for the development of clusters in the production and processing of agricultural products. These country development priorities are included in the National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2026, approved by Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic dated October 12, 2021 No. 435.

The CRAVCD, financed by the Asian Development Bank, focuses on poverty reduction by increasing rural productivity and creating income-generating activities.

The main result of the proposed project will be an increase in the supply of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to domestic and international markets.

The CRAVCD will have two outcomes: (i) increased lending from participating financial institutions (banks) to support the development of horticultural value chains and (ii) strengthened horticultural value chains.

Executive agency is the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (MWRAPI KR).

Implementing agency is the Agricultural Projects Implementation Unit of the MWRAPI KR.

Open Joint Stock Company "Aiyl Bank" as a participating financial institution (bank) will finance agribusinesses at the national level.

The goal of the project is to increase the supply of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to domestic and international markets, increase the export potential of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as create income-generating jobs in the horticulture sector.

The project consists of two main components:

**Component 1:** Financing by Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) of Eligible Sub-Projects by providing sub-loans to Eligible Sub-borrowers in accordance with this Loan and Grant Agreement and the Project Agreements,

**Component 2:**(i) Strengthening horticulture value chains through contract farming agreements between farmers and processors and/or exporters, promoting climate-smart agronomic and processing practices to reduce losses, training women owners and/or managers in management business and entrepreneurship, as well as the implementation of measures to promote cross-border trade in Kyrgyz agricultural products; and (ii) support for project implementation by the PIU, including through improved project management, monitoring and reporting, and strengthening the capacity of PFIs to develop and implement horticulture finance policies, procedures and loan products, provide staff training in horticulture subsector lending, conduct activities to reach clients to increase their awareness of PFIs' products and services, and strengthen the capacity of PFIs to develop an appropriate Environmental and Social Management System ESMS.

1. **Goals and objectives**

The main purpose of the terms of reference is to provide technical support within the framework of the CRAVCD.

1. **Scope of work and responsibilities**
2. Work with the Director of APIU to develop annual work plans and budgets for proposed project activities for ratification by ADB and the Government;
3. Provide the necessary support for the implementation of planned activities, including administrative activities, procurement of materials, vehicles, etc.;
4. Establish and maintain of a project database on value chain operators with a detailed description of warehouse capacity, throughput, enterprise turnover, number of personnel, areas of product receipt and other data that will expand the project's knowledge of the structure and composition of value chain participants;
5. In cooperation with the Director of APIU conduct project introductory meetings to inform potential beneficiaries about the project and its objectives;
6. Assist in the preparation of quarterly reports on the work performed;
7. Support the training of PFI instructors and PFI staff on ESMS and its institutionalization in financial institutions;
8. Support regional coordinators and business officer in conducting information meetings on contract farming between farmers/farmer groups and value chain operators;
9. With the support of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, establish and maintain a project monitoring and evaluation system that records the achievement of the DMF indicators, facilitate the preparation of the Project Completion Report (PCR). Collect all necessary data disaggregated by gender.
10. Support the value chain specialist in his/her discussions with farmers/farmer groups on the implementation of climate smart agriculture and the introduction of improved post-harvest handling practices to maximise farm gate prices;
11. Maintain records of the learning activities carried out within the project and, where appropriate, conduct knowledge and practice surveys to record the impact of the targeted training; and
12. Perform other tasks as requested by the Director of APIU.
13. **Reporting and approval procedure**

The consultant will be accountable to the APIU director, who will evaluate the performance of the consultant's duties.

1. **Qualification requirements**

The consultant must meet the following criteria and qualifications:

* Higher education or master's degree in a relevant field (economics, business administration or similar disciplines.);
* Have 7 years' experience working with SMEs, either as an employee of a commercial enterprise or as a member of a project team involved in the development of SMEs
* Knowledge of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of agricultural development and the policies of international development institutions (ADB, WB, IFAD, etc.);
* At least 3 years of experience working with international projects or institutions involved in the implementation of projects in the field of agricultural development, adaptation to climate change and environmental protection;
* Fluency in Kyrgyz and Russian languages; knowledge of English will be an advantage;
* Computer skills: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point).

1. **Work period**

The work period of the position will initially be 12 months, with the possibility of extension by mutual agreement of the two parties, with a probationary period of two months.