

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT FOR SUSTAINABLE MANURE MANAGEMENT IN ANIMAL FARMS IN LENINGRAD REGION, RUSSIA

Project name	Project Implementation Unit for Sustainable Manure Management in Animal Farms in Leningrad Region
Country	Russia
Type of contract	Consultancy services
Type of notice	Invitation for Expression of Interest
Issue date	June 10, 2010
Closing date	August 31, 2010

Assignment Description

In order to contribute towards the protection of the Baltic Sea, the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) has been in the process of establishing a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for initiating and supporting practical investments for safe manure management in the big agricultural enterprises/farms in the Leningrad Region. On the one hand, the PIU will support the agricultural companies/farms to implement practical measures for improving their manure management, and on the other hand, support the agricultural and environmental authorities to enforce environmental legislation and to create an enabling environment for safer manure management.

Leningrad Oblast (Region) hosts about 18 large-scale poultry farms, breeding almost 20 million birds for egg and meat production. Even in international scale, the farms are very big. The poultry production is spread rather evenly in the region, the City of St. Petersburg dividing their location into northern and southern sub-regions. The number of pigs is about 55,000. Altogether, the total nutrient content of manure produced by livestock is estimated to be 18,600 ton/y for nitrogen and 4,600 ton/y for phosphorus. Presently, the manure is mainly disposed of into ponds or heaps located in the nearby fields. Especially with chicken manure, the all the time growing manure stores create a huge risk for serious nutrient leakage to the water bodies as there is hardly any utilisation of poultry manure e.g. as fertiliser. Even though cattle manure is mainly used as fertiliser by the farms themselves, poor storage and manure spreading practices and technology create serious nutrient leakage risks.

Several activities are presently ongoing for solving the problems. NEFCO is in the process of implementing a project for preparing a Business Plan for joint investments of manure management within poultry factories, BATLHAZAR –project coordinated by HELCOM surveys the hot spots and proposes actions to improve the situation. PRIMER Project (Identification of Priority Measures to Reduce Eutrophication from North-West Russia into the Gulf of Finland, 2008-2009) surveyed the nutrient leakage potential from the farms and indicated the most critical farms.

In order to support concrete investments, NEFCO is now in the process of establishing a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for initiating and supporting practical investments for safe manure management in the big agricultural enterprises/farms in the Leningrad Region. The PIU is planned to function for five years, divided into three phases (1 / 2 / 2 years). Depending on the results, the PIU may also be terminated after each phase. The main functions and activities of the first phase include the following:

- development of a data base on relevant manure management methods and technologies;
- promotion of safe manure management (awareness rising);
- networking; and

- support for preparing and managing practical investments.

In case there is justification to continue with the second and third phase, the PIU will concretely support project preparation and implementation through relevant consultancy services.

Assignment Duration: It is expected that the PIU will be operation in the fall of 2010. As noted above, the project will be divided into three phases (1/2/2 years).

Maximum Budget Available for the Assignment: The estimated budget for Phase I is EUR 545 000; exclusive of VAT. In case the consecutive phases will be implemented, the annual budgets are estimated to be about EUR 660 000.

Funding Source: NEFCO will be the direct client of the assignment, whereas the funding will originate from the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP), which is managed by the EBRD, and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The NDEP will cover the core of the PIU costs while the Finnish ministries will finance various sub-consultancy assignments.

Eligibility: Procurement will be limited to firms from EU member countries, Norway, Canada and EBRD countries of operations. Sub-consultancy assignments financed by the Finnish Ministries are eligible only for Finnish companies, but those will be tendered separately.

Submission Requirements: Interested consultants are hereby invited to submit expressions of interest.

In order to determine the qualifications and competence of consulting firms seeking to be shortlisted, the information submitted should include the following:

- company profile, organization and staffing;
- details of experience in similar assignments undertaken in the previous 5 years, including their locations (especially assignments in the Russian Federation); and
- CVs of key experts available to work on the assignment.

The above information should not exceed 25 pages including CVs.

Evaluation Criteria: The criteria to be used in the evaluation of the submitted EOIs are the following:

- company's experience in similar assignments (30%);
- experience in manure management (20%);
- experience in Russia (30%); and
- company's financial strength (20%).

Expressions of Interest should be submitted, in English, by email to NEFCO at procurement@nefco.fi.

Note: Following this invitation for Expression of Interest, a shortlist of qualified consultants will be formally invited to submit proposals.