

Joint Mid-Term Review: Improving Food Security in West and East Africa (FoodAfrica) and Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystem Services and Food Security (CHIESA)

Questions and Answers, Part II

Queries arrived by 20/05/2014 10:00 am +2 GMT

Question 1: Our potential candidate for the team leader position holds a B.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering that is certified as a EUR ING. Our candidate has more than 40 years of experience, most of which has been related to work in developing countries. He has held the team leader position on numerous multi-disciplinary assignments for Danida, Sida, UN, EU and WB.

Given our candidate's substantial experience, would MFA dispense for the requirement of holding a M.Sc. level of degree?

Answer 1: Unfortunately, it is not possible for the Ministry to make an exception on this case.

The eligibility of tenders shall be assessed in accordance with the minimum tender requirements defined in the Instructions to Tenderers. For the proposed team, one of the requirements is that each team member shall have at least M. Sc. level of education.

Question 2: The tender documentation refers to Annex F, which should be accessible online. However, the link directs us to a non-functioning page.

Answer 2: The links are correct and pages function. However, the links may be difficult to follow from the official Instructions to Tenderers PDF file, as it is not possible to use the copy/paste function. Please find the links to Annex F below:

Annex F Finnish Government Travelling Regulations:

o in Finnish:

Valtion matkustussääntö 2014

http://www.vm.fi/vm/fi/04_julkaisut_ja_asiakirjat/01_julkaisut/06_valtion_tyomarkkinalaitos/20130101Valtio/Matkustussaaento_e_suomi.pdf

o in English:

a) Finnish Government Travelling Regulations 2013

http://www.vm.fi/vm/en/04_publications_and_documents/01_publications/06_state_employers_office/20121227Govern/Matkustussaeentoe_Enkku.pdf

b) Collective Agreement Concerning Compensations for Travelling Expenses 2014

http://www.vm.fi/vm/en/04_publications_and_documents/01_publications/06_state_employers_office/20140101Govern/Matkustussaeentoe_enkku.pdf

Question 3: The ITT clearly states what specific roles each member of the team should have and evaluation criteria for the various team members. However, can the technical points be received if the team as a whole has the required experience and knowledge that is asked for, but divided differently between the team members than what is stated in the ITT? An example would be that the team leader has expertise in, for example, food security and development issues in developing countries, while another member of the team has significant experience as a monitoring and evaluation expert.

Answer 3: The technical points are awarded as stated in the Instructions to Tenderers. The MFA cannot award points if the team possesses the required expertise but divided differently between the team members than stated in the Instructions to Tenderers. Only the expertise required from the team as a whole can be held by any team member.

Question 4: Are there any specifications in respect to where the various team members are based during the duration of the mid-term review? Is, for example, the team leader to be based in Finland for the duration of the project (not including the field visits)?

Answer 4: At least the Team Leader has to be present in Finland at the following meetings:

- 1) Briefing/inception meeting at the MFA
- 2) Debriefing with the MTT FoodAfrica program management team
- 3) Debriefing at the MFA

Question 5: The terms of reference (ToR) mention that the mid-term review "is not expected to assess the scientific quality of research carried out". We understand that the focus of the review is to provide

an assessment of the performance and progress of the FoodAfrica and CHIESA programs. As poor research quality will affect the developmental aspects and practical applications, we wonder if it would be acceptable to consider also this aspect to some extent in the review?

Answer 5: As stated in the ToR, the mid-term review (MTR) is expected to concentrate on the developmental aspects of the two programs. However, if the MTR team is of the opinion that the scientific quality of research has an impact on the developmental aspects, they can take this into consideration to some extent.

Question 6: The two projects (FoodAfrica and CHIESA) are clearly meant to be regional, but we expect that there will be some variation in the development outcomes across countries. How important do you consider that the regional integration/outcomes of these projects are? In other words, do you consider that success is determined by the overall regional outcomes/benefits or whether it is simply a sum of the parts of the various countries?

Answer 6: The MFA expects the MTR to provide answers on how the success is determined.