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MINUTES

OF LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (LPAC)

"EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA)"

UNDP-ADA Project

UN House, UNICEF Conference Room

25 November 2019, 11:00 - 11:45

LPAC Members:

Mihaela Stojkoska	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia
Nora Alanakyan	Deputy Head of Office, Austrian Development Agency
Paschalis Bokkers	Team Leader for GAIA, Austrian Development Agency
Mane Tapaltsyan	Deputy Head of the Agriculture Programmes Implementation Department, RA Ministry of Economy
Ira Panosyan	Head of the Department of Agricultural Programs Elaboration, Resource Use and Cooperative Development, RA Ministry of the Economy
Anna Gyurjyan	Programme Officer, UNDP Armenia
Tatevik Koloyan	Programme Officer, UNDP Armenia
Davit Harutyunyan	Policy Advisor, UNDP Armenia
Dianna Areyan	Programme Associate, UNDP Armenia

Purpose:

Presentation of the objective, scope, expected results and cooperation framework of the "EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia (EU-GAIA)" UNDP-ADA project document, assess the relevance of the proposed project to national priorities and seek for comments and approvals from all relevant stakeholders.

Documents presented:

- Project Document;
- PP Presentation.

Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska:

Welcomed the LPAC participants and presented the LPAC purpose and procedure.

Reporting:***Ms. Anna Gyurjyan:***

Presented the conceptual framework of the project, the overall and specific project objectives, the main outcomes and expected results, the target regions, and the main direct and indirect beneficiaries; mentioned the project duration and the total budget.

Questions and comments:***Mr. Paschalis Bokkers:***

Mentioned that the official launch of the project is planned to take place on the 24th of February 2020, during which the value chain (VC) assessment results will be shared. Presently, ADA team is in the process of recruiting team for the field office in Vanadzor. Two more field officers will be hired from the targeted regions.

Ms. Anna Gyurjyan:

Mentioned that UNDP is currently in the process of recruiting the project staff. Second round of announcement for the position of the Project Manager has been given. The Project Assistant has already been recruited.

Ms. Nora Alanakyan:

Noted that everything is ready for internal signing of the cost-sharing agreement on upcoming Wednesday, the 27th of November, in order to start the project inception phase from the 1st of December.

Ms. Mane Tapaltsyan:

Was interested how the VCs will be chosen, what are the indicators/criteria against which they will be selected.

Mr. Paschalis Bokkers:

Mentioned that the criteria are included in the respective TORs, which will be shared with the representatives of the Ministry of Economy. However, the main criteria are the VC profitability and size. There will be VC identification stage, which will be followed by a workshop with the major stakeholders, who will decide on choosing the VCs. It is expected to study 8-9 VCs and choose only 5. UNDP will focus on 3 value chains that will provide the best development opportunities and possible upscaling.

Ms. Anna Gyurjyan:

Noted that although the VCs will be identified at the end of the inception phase, during the proposal development stage it was thought that the berries and non-traditional vegetables will be among the selected VCs, as there were among the VCs under ENPARD funded Value Chain Development Project.

Ms. Mane Tapalstyan:

Asked for more detailed budget to understand how much will be spent on the trainings and capacity building measures.

Ms. Anna Gyurjyan:

Mentioned that the requested information is provided in the Annual Work Plan part of the Project Document. In total, about 163,000 EUR will be provided to capacity building activities.

Ms. Tatevik Koloyan:

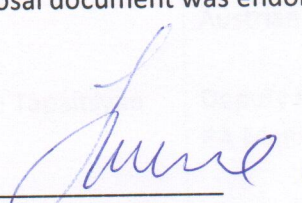
Noted that AgriTech accelerator will be launched in January, which will seek for innovative solutions for the identified field challenges. As both projects will be launched in the beginning of the next year, it is a good opportunity to think of possible cooperation and matching areas within the two projects, especially because both projects have the State Agrarian University as one of the major stakeholders.

Ms. Mane Tapalstyan:

Informed the LPAC participants about the establishment of the information analytical center in the agricultural block of MoE and requested ADA's support in that during the project implementation.

Conclusion:

Based on discussion outcomes and positive feedback from the LPAC participants the Project Proposal document was endorsed for the signature.



Mihaela Stojkoska
Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
LPAC Chair