



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**



**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)
RURAL COMMUNITY FINANCE PROJECT (RCFP)**

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: RECRUITMENT OF RURAL FINANCE OFFICER

The Government of Liberia (GOL) and the International Funds for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed a five (5) year financing agreement in Rome, Italy on 22 February 2016 to undertake the Rural Community Finance Project (RCFP). The agreement was later rectified by the Liberian Legislature on October 11, 2017 and subsequently signed into handbill for implementation. An estimated 80% of the Project will be funded by IFAD in the form of loan and grant, while the remaining 20% will be funded by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) in the form of establishing the office of the Technical Assistance Supervisory Unit (TASU), MFDP in the form of taxes and duties waived on imported goods and services regarding the Project, RCFI in the form of shareholders contribution to share capital.

The Government of the Republic of Liberia has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) toward the cost of the Rural Community Finance Project (RCFP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of staff of TASU/TASC. The project development objective is to increase access to finance, inputs, technologies and markets for smallholder tree crop farmers in Liberia, and to develop a long-term development program for the tree crops sector.

The Project is geared towards enhancing access to financial services in Liberia through the Rural Community Finance Institutions (RCFIs) and improves access to rural financial services especially for the rural population on a sustainable and affordable basis and creates additional RCFIs. This, the Government believes will contribute to the development of the rural financial sector and the financial system as a whole, thus

promoting financial inclusion. As part of the Project's implementation arrangements, the CBL is responsible under the project design to establish the office of the Technical Assistance and Supervision Unit (TASU). The TASU is an Apex Body that will provide Technical Assistance (TA) and support to the RCFIs under Component I of the Project, which focuses on rural financial services - enhancing existing RCFIs (currently 12) and creating new RCFIs (estimated 9 RCFIs).

The RCFP is divided into three Components:

Component 1: This Component involves Rural financial services and deals specifically with the RCFI creation and operation, Technical assistance and supervision and Grant to overcome the effects of the Ebola Virus Disease

Component 2: This Component supports the CBL for the improvement of an existing regulatory framework for the microfinance sector, the RCFIs, credit unions, and the related supervisory systems. Support will focus mainly on international technical assistance, meetings and training of regulators and operators.

Component 3: This Component comprises project-related coordination, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, financial management and procurement oversight, will be assured by the Program Implementation Unit (PIU) operating under the Program Management Unit (PMU) under the Ministry of Agriculture. The PMU is charged with overall coordination and harmonization of all projects operating in the agricultural sector

The specific objectives of the RCFP are as follows:

- To promote the interests of its shareholder RCFIs by providing non-banking services where applicable and necessary, on a sustainable basis;
- To assist the shareholding RCFIs to become operationally profitable as soon as possible;
- To monitor, inspect and supervise the operations of shareholding RCFIs through off-site review of their prudential returns and on-site examinations, and ensure their compliance with banking laws, mandatory prudential regulations and internal regulations, in order to complement the supervisory role of the CBL;
- To provide training for directors and employees of RCFIs, and other related bodies or entities;

- To provide a forum for the board and management of the respective RCFIs, to share best practices, ideas, challenges, skills and knowledge to enhance the developmental objectives of shareholding RCFIs;
- To coordinate, collaborate, partner, work with or engage in joint ventures with other financial services institutions or bodies, both locally and internationally, in the acquisition of funds, the procurement of technical and managerial support, equipment supply and the provision of advisory or consultancy services geared towards advancing the TASU objects.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE BELOW POSITION

Post Title: Rural Finance Office (RFO)
Reports to: The Manager of Technical Assistant Supervision Unit (TASU)
Primary Location: Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)

The Rural Finance Officer (RFO) is next in line to the Manager and serves as the Deputy to the Manager. The RFO reports directly to the Manager. The RFO is responsible for the design and implementation of the process to create RCFIs and assist in their overall development and sustainability as well as provide technical support to the existing RCFIs.

- Coordinate programme activities relating to rural financial services including product development;
- Monitor the progress achieved in the creation and evolution of RCFIs and their compliance with rules and regulations;
- Plan and be responsible for the implementation of the RCFIs in number of counties (to be determine)
- Finalize the monitoring and reporting system;
- Maintain close contacts with relevant commercial banks interested in providing support services to RCFIs, such as correspondent banking, investment of excess liquidities, cheque clearing, and refinance, and develop suitable memoranda of association with these where demanded by RCFIs;
- Maintain close contacts with relevant technical service providers and money transfer agencies, and facilitate the integration of the RCFI network into domestic and international money transfer systems;

- Support the Manager in establishing close links with all partner institutions, in particular CBL, MOA, PMU, other donors engaged in rural finance, relevant service providers, financial institutions, etc.;
- Assist the Manager to prepare the draft Annual Work Plan and Budget related to the rural finance component for the consideration of the manager;
- Prepare reports for project management and finances;
- Take the lead in annual risk assessment of the entire network;
- Confirm that all the required criteria for lending are met at cost without any discrimination;
- Must be a team player; and
- Undertake any other activities that may be assigned by the Manager.

Qualification Requirements

- The applicant must have at least a bachelor's degree in any business-related course to include Finance Accounting, Economics, Management and/or Public Administration;
- The applicant must have a Minimum of three (3) years of work experience in related areas or Project Management. Also, knowledge of community based financial institutions would be an added advantage ; Knowledge and experience in monitoring and evaluation;

The applicant should be computer literate, and have good organizational, strategic, conceptual, interpersonal, communication, report writing and research skills;

All Interested and qualified applicants should address their applications including letter of interest along with Curriculum Vitae and copies of relevant Diplomas/Certificate to the below address via email. Kindly indicate in the email subject, the Title of the position you are applying for.

Recruitment Team
IFAD Projects PIU
Programme Management Unit
Ministry of Agriculture
Email: ifadrecruit@moa.gov.lr

Deadline for submission of Applications: August 29, 2019 at 5PM GMT

Visit the www.moa.gov.lr/careers_opportunities/vacancies OR
www.emansion.gov.lr/careers_opportunities/vacancies for
details on the Term of References and submission of your applications.

Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.