

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy Vacancy for the

Evaluation of ITC's Work on Agricultural Value Chains

Background: The [Independent Evaluation Unit](#) (IEU) of the [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC) plans to conduct an evaluation of ITC's activities in support of agricultural value chains. The purpose of this call for expression of interest is to identify a qualified evaluation consultant to conduct this portfolio evaluation. Therefore, individuals (or teams of consultants) are invited to apply for this assignment.

The evaluation is foreseen to be conducted in two main stages, comprising (i) an inception phase with a portfolio and literature review, followed by (ii) data collection, analysis and report writing. The overall process is expected to take place in the timeframe from July 2022 to June 2023.

Focus and scope: ITC supports sustainable and inclusive livelihoods by boosting the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), placing trade-led growth at the centre of public policy, and building supportive business ecosystems in developing countries. In this context, connecting MSMEs to value chains is considered by ITC as central to its mission. Accordingly, supporting value chains is given particular importance in the organization's latest [Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#).

ITC works with many different stakeholders and through a wide range of activities in the area of agricultural value chains. At the enterprise level, ITC supports supply and production in view of market opportunities. The organization also supports MSMEs in managerial practices and in areas such as sourcing, marketing, branding, standards, and market linkages. At the business ecosystem, regulatory and policy levels, ITC works to mobilize policymakers, business support organizations (BSOs) and the private sector to develop strategies and build alliances. The organization also convenes stakeholders along value chains to build partnerships among them. Moreover, ITC's work includes a focus on rural MSMEs as well as on sectors where there is the greatest potential to achieve developmental change, especially for women, youth, and people in vulnerable situations.

The scope of the evaluation will encompass all ITC projects providing support to agricultural value chains, with the last 4-5 years as the timeframe to be considered.

Objectives of the evaluation: In particular, the evaluation is expected to

- provide a comprehensive overview of the ITC portfolio in the area of agricultural value chain support and the different approaches being used,
- determine the relevance of interventions in this area to support the organization's mission and assess which interventions provide most added value to ITC's work and mandate,
- assess the quality and effectiveness of interventions in this area,
- and serve as a basis for improvements by providing recommendations as well as lessons learned or examples of good practice that may benefit future activities in this area.

Application process: To apply, please send your expression of interest to evaluation@intracen.org, with a copy to sbettighofer@intracen.org, indicating in the title 'EOI for Agricultural Value Chains Evaluation'. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.

The application should include an updated CV and 2-3 exemplary reports of evaluations conducted. In addition, applicants are encouraged to address the following questions in their cover letter:

- Why are you interested in this evaluation?
- What expertise and experience do you have that qualifies you for this specific evaluation?
- What are the daily rates that would apply?

The terms of reference for this consultancy are attached in the annex of this document.

--- The closing date for this call is Monday, 27 June 2022 ---

ANNEX

Terms of Reference

Evaluation Consultant

Assignment title:	Evaluation of ITC's Work on Agricultural Value Chains
Vacancy job title:	Evaluation Consultant
Duty station:	Home-based
Travel:	Possibly once to Geneva and/or to other destinations for case studies
Total workdays:	about 50-60 days, from July 2022 to June 2023

Background

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization for trade-related technical cooperation in developing countries. The Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of ITC seeks an evaluation consultant, with proven experience in evaluation, trade and development, and agricultural value chains, to design and conduct the evaluation of ITC's work on agricultural value chains.

Duties and responsibilities

The evaluation consultant will be managed by the IEU and under the overall guidance of the Head of Evaluation and Monitoring, OED/SPPG.

The consultant will be responsible for the delivery of the outputs as set out below:

- *Preparation and inception phase:* conduct a review of ITC's portfolio in the area of agricultural value chain support. This portfolio review is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of how related projects can be characterized and which parts of the organization are responsible for their delivery. Complementing the portfolio review, carry out a literature review summarizing key findings in the area of agricultural value chain support. Design the evaluation approach, data collection instruments, and prepare a draft inception report; revise the inception report based on comments received.

The inception report should include (i) the portfolio and literature review based on document analysis, possibly complemented by a number of exploratory interviews, and (ii) the suggested evaluation approach including the design and data collection methods, the evaluation matrix and an updated timeline for the evaluation.

(approx. 18 days)

Main deliverables: draft inception report;
revised inception report

- *Data collection and analysis:* conduct interviews with different stakeholders in the area of agricultural value chains support and use other data collection methods, which may include case studies (possibly with field visits), a survey and/or other means of data collection; prepare a synthesis paper summarizing findings from the data collection. Possibly prepare and carry out a validation workshop with key stakeholders to discuss main findings.

(approx. 18 days)
Main deliverable: synthesis paper

- *Report drafting:* prepare an outline of the evaluation report, indicating the report structure and key inputs to be integrated; prepare a draft evaluation report based on the findings from data collection and analysis (and possibly the feedback from the validation workshop).
(approx. 15 days)

Main deliverable: draft evaluation report

- *Finalization and dissemination:* Revise the draft report based on comments received; document how comments have been addressed; prepare a draft communication product that highlights the most significant learning points generated by the evaluation, and a presentation to be delivered to key stakeholders.
(approx. 4 days)

Main deliverables: revised evaluation report;
audit trail addressing comments;
draft communication products

Required profile

Education

- Advanced university degree in social science, international trade, agriculture, development studies, economics, business administration, or other related areas

Experience and skills

- Minimum of eight years' experience in conducting evaluations, including experience in evaluating activities in the area of development cooperation;
- Experience in the area of trade and development, and in agricultural value chains is required;
- Work experience with UN agencies or international organizations is an asset;
- In-depth knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analytical methods;
- Knowledge of UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation, the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and the Guidance Document on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations is desirable;
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with stakeholders from different backgrounds; and
- Excellent report writing skills, being able to write clear and concise analytical reports.

Languages

- Proficiency in English. Working knowledge of other ITC/UN official languages is an advantage (in particular French and/or Spanish)