

Call for Tender for an Evaluation of an BMZ-funded project in Cambodia

The following project is to be evaluated:

Economic Inclusion Through Sustainable Cooperative Systems in Asia 2021-2023 – **Sub-Project Cambodia** (*WINGS - Wirtschaftliche Inklusion durch nachhaltige Genossenschaftssysteme in Asien 2021-2023 – Teilprojekt Kambodscha*)

Commissioned by:

DGRV – Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e. V., Adenauerallee 121, 53113 Bonn, Germany

1. Background

DGRV - Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e. V. (German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation reg. assoc.) is the top-level auditing association according to the Cooperative Act. As national apex organisation its main task is the encouragement and development of the cooperative movement and the cooperative audit in Germany. International cooperation, exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer are traditional strengths of German cooperatives and constitute an important part of DGRV's consulting activities. For more than 30 years, DGRV is actively engaged in development projects worldwide, working mostly in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). DGRV's international cooperation activities are being organized and monitored by the "International Relations Department" (IRD), based in Bonn. For more detail, please refer to www.dgrv.de, www.dgrv.coop and our information material on DGRV.

In Asia, DGRV operates in several countries within the framework of the Project *WINGS - Wirtschaftliche Inklusion durch nachhaltige Genossenschaftssysteme in Asien*, funded by BMZ. Activities in Cambodia are a sub-component of this Project. DGRV established first contacts in Cambodia in 2002/03, the country office in Phnom Penh was set up in 2009.

In its program in Cambodia DGRV supports the establishment of a market-oriented cooperative system using a multi-level approach. In addition to supporting agricultural cooperatives (ACs) at the micro-level, the development of cooperative unions and alliance structures is becoming increasingly important. At the national level, DGRV supports state institutions with the creation and further development of necessary legal and regulatory framework conditions.

The current project phase covers the period January 2021 to December 2023. A continuation from 2024 onwards is planned; the respective funding proposal to the BMZ shall be prepared until July 2023. Thus, it is important to document and assess the present status of project progress. For doing so, DGRV is commissioning an external evaluation to be implemented by a mixed evaluation team composed of one international team leader and a local consultant acting as co-evaluator. **This Tender is looking for the International Evaluation Team Leader.**

2. Purpose/Objectives of the Evaluation

The evaluation shall assess project results, including an assessment of impact realized to date (progress towards achieving the set objectives). In doing so, the DAC evaluation criteria *relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability* shall be used as basis on which the evaluative judgements are made.

The evaluation shall focus on the following two main topics:

1. The Multi-Level-Approach: (How) does it work in practice?

While the project activities in Cambodia started on the micro-level with information, consultancy and training for agricultural cooperatives, DGRV soon became also very active on the macro level. The elaboration of the Cooperative Law for the Agricultural Sector and its adoption in 2013 was a milestone in the development of the cooperative system in Cambodia. The same can be said for the founding of the first unions of agricultural cooperatives (ACUs) and CACA, the national apex body for Cambodian agricultural cooperatives, in 2020. However, while the implementation of this multi-level approach works on paper, how does it look like in practice? To answer this question, the evaluation shall specifically look at the following issues:

- Where are still possible gaps in the legal framework?
- Are the responsible actors fulfilling their role?
- In which way/ with which tasks are they possibly overburdened?
- How can they be better positioned to handle future tasks?

2. Integrating ACs into agricultural supply chains: Dead end or promising perspective?

Most of the approx. 1,200 agricultural co-operatives registered in Cambodia are focusing on credit and saving services and the supply of farm inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. To broaden the activity base of ACs and the benefits they can offer their members, since some years project activities on the micro level have seen a switch in focus from the organizational to the economical development of ACs. The facilitation of contract farming and the integration of ACs into agricultural supply chains is gaining more and more attention. However, joint initiatives in national or international marketing of agricultural products are still very challenging for most cooperatives since they lack experience and often have insufficient financial resources. In this context the evaluation shall look in particular at the following questions:

- Is the new focus of concentrating on the business development of ACs leading in the right direction?
- If ACs fail to broaden the services which they offer their members what would remain as benefit of being a cooperative?
- Is the stronger integration of cooperatives in supply chains a promising approach, or is there a risk that, with economic development, basic cooperative principles will fade into the background?

3. Scope and Tasks of the Evaluation

The evaluation will cover project interventions located in Phnom Penh and in the Provinces of Battambang, Kampong Chhnang and Tbong Khmun. Stakeholders to be considered in the evaluation include DGRV staff in the Country Office Cambodia, partner organisations, cooperating actors in the private sector and selected ACs in the above-mentioned Provinces.

The evaluation methods should be participatory, inclusive and involve as many relevant stakeholders as possible. Due to the type of project data sources as well as analysis will mainly be of a qualitative nature. Thus, besides undertaking a desk review of the key project documents and other relevant literature, it is expected that the evaluators will perform the following tasks:

- interviews with representatives of the above-mentioned stakeholders
- focus group discussions with key beneficiary group to assess changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices

Note: The consideration of non-beneficiaries remains an option to be discussed and assessed for its feasibility.

4. Expected Outputs/Reporting

- Inception report outlining how the objectives and issues addressed in the ToR can be achieved within the evaluation. Possible amendments or modifications of the ToR which may be recognized during the preparatory phase will be decided amicably with DGRV.
- Presentation of preliminary results for debriefing (incl. pptx).

- Evaluation report outlining the main findings and conclusions derived from the analysis as well as giving qualified recommendations for the further development of DGRV's activities in Cambodia for 2024-2026.

5. Procedure and Time Table

For the evaluation up to 25 days are foreseen, including 3 days preparation, 14 days field visits (including international travel), 3 days analysis, 1 day workshop with core staff and 4 days for final reporting and presentation. The evaluation can be scheduled for the period mid October 2022 to end of December 2022 with the field visits taking place between November 15 and December 23. The draft report shall be handed over to DGRV no later than January 5, the final report no later than January, 31, 2023.

6. Management and Logistical Support

The evaluation will be managed by DGRV Country Office Cambodia in close cooperation with DGRV headquarter in Bonn, Germany. The DGRV Country Office in Phnom Penh will provide administrative support for this evaluation. Additionally it will assist with logistical support (transport, office space, secretarial services etc.) as requested by the consultant.

7. Requirements for the Consultancy

This evaluation will be conducted in Cambodia and focusing on the agricultural cooperative sector. It will therefore require high skilled experts with proven knowledge, skills and experiences in undertaking a similar assignment in the same regional and sectoral context. A mixed evaluation team composed of one international team leader and local consultant acting as co-evaluator is foreseen and will be recruited by DGRV.

The specific required skills and experiences of the international team leader are:

- Proven evaluation experience in the field of development cooperation
- Knowledge of evaluation methodologies including quantitative and qualitative techniques
- Relevant developing country experience, preferably in Cambodia/South-East Asia
- Knowledge of the cooperative sector, the underlying concepts and prerequisites
- Knowledge of the agricultural market sector, preferably in the Cambodian/South-East Asian context
- Ability to converse, read and write in English
- Ability to read and write in German, basic knowledge of Khmer would be a plus
- Knowledge of partnership approaches and models

Are you interested in this assignment?

Please send your offer including CV and remuneration expectation by e-mail to:

bewerbung.international@dgrv.de

Subject: Evaluation of the BMZ Project Cambodia

DGRV – Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e.V.

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Closing date: 11th of September 2022