

SCOPE OF WORK

For an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), including a technical support Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plans (PERSUAP), to assist USAID Agricultural activities in Georgia through the AgVANTAGE Project

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Background:

USAID implementation partners are obliged to follow the U.S. Government environmental regulations outlined in 22 CFR 216, which include the “use” (interpreted broadly) of pesticides. The activities undertaken by the AgVANTAGE project may require the “use” of pesticides for effective implementation of project activities. Therefore AgVANTAGE considers it necessary to undertake a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe-Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) in order to ensure compliance with USAID’s pesticide procedures, to identify alternative and mitigative measures, to facilitate integrated pest management (IPM), and to address these issues for environmental and human health risk reduction.

Objectives:

- Write an IEE and supporting technical PERSUAP for the AgVANTAGE Project, with linkages to certification and trade issues, recommendations for the AgVANTAGE Project implementation partners to put into simple workplans that will achieve a measure of compliance and significantly reduce pesticide risks to human health and the environment.
- While researching the PERSUAP, visit and evaluate pesticide policymakers, pesticide sales systems, pesticide storage systems, pesticide use systems, pesticide cleanup, and pesticide/container disposal systems.
- While researching the PERSUAP, consider natural resources (water, soil, air) and biodiversity (sensitive areas and parks, rare species, natural bodies of water) that may be at risk from pesticide use, and identify mitigative measures.
- Provide short-term train the trainer training courses on pesticide safety and integrated pest management, with an emphasis on certification and trade issues.
- Provide monitoring of compliance by AgVANTAGE partners, and for changes in national pesticides and pest management policies, and other factors.

Work Location:

This assignment will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia at the AgVANTAGE Project Office and may include field visits to select project sites.

Date:

PERSUAP completion and implementation will be accomplished in phases. Phase one will be researching pesticide, health and environmental (natural resource, biodiversity) background for the PERSUAP. Phase two will be drafting/editing the IEE/PERSUAP with input from USAID’s implementation ACDI/VOCA partners. Phase three will be providing train the trainer training for key chosen project implementers. Phase four will be facilitation and assisting AgVANTAGE trainers in

training farmers. Phase five will be providing monitoring and lessons learned to adapt the PERSUAP for changes in pest management and pesticides policy, environmental policy, trade climate, and on-farm factors.

Phase one: June 16- 26. Phase two: June 27- July 10. Phase three: July 11-13. Phase four: Whenever AgVANTAGE implementers choose during the cropping season. Phase five: October 16-20. Refresher PERSUAP compliance/risk reduction training will be necessary during the early part of 2007. The exact LOE and timing will be determined during the implementation of Phases one through five. In addition, we anticipate the need for Dr. Schroeder's technical assistance in the agricultural processing sector. The exact tasks, timing and LOE will also be determined during the implementation of the PERSUAP activity. (seek approval for six day work week).

Level of Effort:

A grand total of 35 days during 2006, including a total of 23 days to research and write the PERSUAP for 34 chemicals and up to 5 additional recommended chemicals (more will require more days). Additional 2-3 days for train-the-trainer training at the end of the writing and editing assignment, which will add a measure of compliance. Further 3-4 days to facilitate and assist with follow-on training by AgVANTAGE project implementers for opinion-leader farmers, which will add another measure of compliance. And, 5 days for monitoring at the end of the field season for lessons learned and to fine-tune the PERSUAP based upon lessons learned and inevitable changes in the crop-production-policy-trade system, as a USAID-recommended check and balance.

Specific Tasks:

Following are the specific tasks to be undertaken by the consultant:

1. Review the current IEE and October 2005 'prelude PERSUAP' prepared by USAID/Tbilisi for the AgVANTAGE project.
2. Review the AgVANTAGE 2005/6 Work Plan and activities related to conducting a PERSUAP and consult with project technical staff on the types of activities and pesticide use within the project.
3. Develop a work plan, including resources needed, tasks, and schedule for conducting and completing a PERSUAP and prepare an outline for the PERSUAP document. Included in this work plan should be the communication protocol for Mission review and approval of the PERSUAP.
4. Guide AgVANTAGE staff in developing simple workplans that incorporate recommendations from the PERSUAP study, and indicate pesticides that can not be used, those that can be used with specialized training but phased out, and those that may be used.
5. Develop a system for using the completed and signed-off workplans and other monitoring tools/questionnaires to check compliance.
6. Pending the identification and selection of local AgVANTAGE field oversight and/or implementation staff, the consultant will initiate training of these staff in 22 CFR 216 compliance and the PERSUAP process.

7. Provide facilitation support for follow-on training by AgVANTAGE staff of farmer opinion leaders during the cropping season.
8. Be “on-call” to address additional inevitable compliance issues that arise over the field season, and at the end of the field season perform a lessons learned study and amend the IEE/PERSUAP appropriately.

Deliverables:

- A work plan for conducting the IEE and PERSUAP for the AgVANTAGE project.
- IEE and PERSUAP reports with recommendations for reducing pesticide risks.
- Guidance for AgVANTAGE for produce workplans for PERSUAP compliance and risk reduction.
- A train-the-trainer course for key AgVANTAGE responsible staff that have field oversight responsibilities.
- Facilitation of a follow-on training course for farmer opinion leaders.
- Monitoring tools and a schedule for their use and reporting.
- As part of consultant’s “Service-Plus Continuous Virtual Support” business strategy, on-call on an ongoing basis throughout the cropping season to address issues that arise with answers and suggestions by email and phone, at no additional cost to project.
- After harvest, a lessons learned exercise and PERSUAP fine-tuning and amending exercise.