

For the implementation of value chain development components of “IMPACT – Improve – Act! En-gendering rural economic development in Mongolia” Project, AVSF recruits a Value Chain Technical Assistant (TA).

CONTEXT

Active in Mongolia since 2004, AVSF currently implements **2 programmes** of cooperation in **3 provinces** with **10 main local partners** (herders’ organisations, cooperatives & national NGOs). The yearly cooperation budget for 2020 amounts to **approximately 1 200 000 €**. Moreover, a large size project proposal related to AVSF Sustainable Cashmere Programme is pending funding decision. AVSF builds on a professional, technical and administrative team of **13 people**, including 2 expatriates. Current main donors are EU and AFD’s Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM).

With limited sustainable agricultural policy orientations of the Government of Mongolia, and in a context of regular increase of livestock numbers and associated pastureland degradation, AVSF’s cooperation aims at supporting herders’ organisations for a sustainable management of pastoral resources, directly connected to a better valuation of quality livestock products (notably animal fibres) on the domestic and export markets. The cooperation in Mongolia focuses on 3 priority areas of intervention:

- **Sustainable management of natural and pastoral resources;**
- **Structuration of professional herders’ /producers’ organisations** on the yak down and cashmere value chains: governance, capacity building on quality, labelling, processing, financial management, marketing, etc.
- **Support to the improvement of animal health services.**

By the end of 2019, AVSF is launching a 3 years’ project funded by the EU CSO-LA programme: “*IMPACT – Improve – Act! En-gendering rural economic development in Mongolia*”, in partnership with Group for Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity NGO (GERES) and Mongolian Women’s Fund NGO (MONES).

IMPACT overall objective is to contribute to empower women as agents of development and change in their productive activities and in the policy making process in Mongolia, with specific objective to strengthen the role of rural women’s groups in agricultural productive systems (organic vegetable and sustainable cashmere) and towards their local and national representatives. The Project will be implemented in the rural provinces of Arkhangai and Khentii, with a strong national advocacy component in Ulaanbaatar.

CONDITIONS

Job Title :	Value Chain Technical Assistant (TA)
Preferred date of arrival:	mid-February 2020
Training and integration course:	1 week of training at departure by the SCD near Lyon (from 3 to 7 February 2020) 2 days of integration with AVSF - Lyon
Type of contract :	Volunteer International Solidarity (VSI) - Contract carried by the SCD (Development Cooperation Service)
Duration of the contract :	12 months - renewable
Net monthly benefit :	1 500 €
Benefits :	Supports to air tickets (return) Installation package Social insurance for the expatriate : CFE - mutual insurance - pension - health repatriation insurance

MAIN MISSIONS

Under the managerial supervision of AVSF National Coordinator, and under the functional responsibility of MONES Project Manager based in Ulaanbaatar, the TA will be in charge of ensuring timely implementation of field activities related to Organic vegetable production and Sustainable Cashmere in Khentii. (S)He will furthermore support GERES and MONES in ensuring value chains development in Arkhangai province. (S)He will ensure appropriate coordination between the partners' field staff.

TA will coordinate her/his work with an Agricultural TA (GERES) counterpart based in Arkhangai province, 2 English speaking Field Coordinators, 2 Gender Officers and 2 Field Animators in both provinces, a Driver in Khentii, and a part-time Finance/Admin Assistant based in Ulaanbaatar. TA will be further supported by AVSF Value Chain Manager and HQ Program Managers involvement is further expected (Gender, Producers Organisations and Markets).

1. Value Chains Development Technical Assistant – Organic vegetables and Sustainable Fibres

- Under the guidance of the Capitalisation Expert, coordinate AVSF capitalisation study on Sustainable Cashmere Programme implemented since 2014. Provide assistance to GERES TA to capitalise on organic vegetable production.
- Responsible for agricultural technical contextualization, elaboration & dissemination of methodology & training materials based on the capitalization studies and current practical handbooks developed by GERES and AVSF.
- Responsible for theoretical and technical Training of Trainers on cooperatives management, Sustainable Cashmere production and marketing, and value chains development in both provinces.
- In coordination with AVSF Value Chain Manager: responsible for the up-scaling and dissemination of the Sustainable Cashmere Programme, including: creation or reinforcement of herders' cooperatives, supporting improvement of cashmere quality and commercial activity as well as livestock productivity and pastureland management, implementation of the certification system elaborated by AVSF, and support to and coordination of a study on up-scaling and dissemination strategy.
- Provide agronomic technical support and coordinate data collection on the gender sensitive study related to the targeted value chains, led by MONES and in coordination with AVSF Gender Program Manager.
- Provide support in Khentii to GERES Agricultural TA in the development of organic vegetables value chain.
- Support the selection, implementation and monitoring of financial support to third parties to selected beneficiaries.
- Coordinate with MONES the integration of gender equality in the activities under her/his responsibility.
- Provide value chains and rural economic development input to MONES related to Results 1, 3 & 4 of the project.
- Coordinate with partners on the provincial advocacy related activities. Collaborate with AVSF National Coordinator for the national advocacy components.

2. Coordinate and manage field teams

- (S)He will be responsible to oversee and manage the completion of tasks/duties of the field staff in the province.
- (S)He will be directly overseeing AVSF Field Coordinator and driver in the province.

3. Support AVSF National Coordination

- Responsible for AVSF project activities implemented in Khentii and related narrative reporting, with the support and supervision of AVSF Project Manager, National Coordinator and HQ Program Managers.
- Represent AVSF towards local Government, private sector and civil society organizations in Khentii province.
- Support National Coordinator in the identification & design of new project proposals.

LIVING CONDITIONS

- Based in **Khentii province** – Eastern Mongolia: located at 6 hours driving from the capital Ulaanbaatar, the province centre hosts around 20 000 inhabitants. Services (accommodation, communication, health services) and essential goods (food, medicines) are to some extent available. The climate is cold and dry. During the winter (5 months below 0°C), temperatures can drop under -40°C. The summer (6 months) is usually hot and dry (up to 35°C in July). Regular travel and field missions to rural areas in harsh conditions (long distance road trips on dirt tracks, limited water and sanitation infrastructures) are to be expected. Regular travels to Arkhangai province and Ulaanbaatar are also to be expected.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

The candidate will possess a **higher education degree** (Bachelor or Master) in agro-economy, agricultural value chains or rural economy development. Previous experience working in organic vegetables or livestock fiber sectors will be considered as an asset.

(S)He will have a confirmed work experience of **at least 2 years** within agricultural value chains, and in the area of local and rural development. Previous experience on rural projects in Mongolia, Central Asia or agro-pastoralist societies will be considered as an asset. Past experience in supporting innovative marketing schemes for agricultural products, reinforcement and animation of herders or farmers organisations, and project cycle management in international cooperation will be considered as an asset.

The successful candidate will be an **enthusiastic team player** with a feeling for and experience in **field work, international solidarity** and **sustainable development**. (S)He will have demonstrated **analysis, synthesis and writing abilities**, strong interpersonal **communication skills** as well as **good facilitation and dialogue skills** with herders' organisations and local authorities, and an outstanding capacity to work in **autonomy** and **adapt to difficult local conditions**. Mastering **English** and **French** is compulsory.

Interested candidates shall send their applications by email (Cover letter + Curriculum Vitae), indicating the reference « TA Khentii » before the 31 December 2019 to:

AVSF – HR Management Department –

Mail: recrut@avsf.org

Recruitment interviews will be scheduled between 6 and 15 January 2020