**Lebanon Investment in Quality (LINQ)**

**Application for Technical Assistance**

**Issuance Date: January 3rd, 2020**

**Closing Date: July 3rd, 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Lebanon Investment in Quality (LINQ) is a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project that aims to increase the competitiveness of value-added Agri-businesses in Lebanon that will result in increased productivity, trade, growth and competitiveness of Lebanese agribusinesses through investment in improved technology, food safety, quality assurance, and marketing and branding.

LINQ will partner with agribusinesses, processors and growers of fresh produce (destined for further processing) with a focus on below objectives:

1. Facilitate access to new markets through improving product safety and quality, guiding the organization to become export compliant and building the appropriate market linkages
2. Improve the marketing and sales of existing and new products in a cost-efficient way
3. Improve the overall productivity and efficiency of the business operations

LINQ is seeking partners from agri-business enterprises in Lebanon that are looking to innovate and grow through adopting new practices that improve food product quality and safety, introduce innovative products, facilitate access to new markets, or revamp product design or packaging. Interested businesses must commit to contribute to the objectives of the project through adopting and applying new practices provided under the technical assistance

Interested parties from private enterprises, cooperatives and agribusinesses, such as those working as aggregators of fresh fruits and vegetables, food processors, packers and exporters are encouraged to apply. Technical Assistance awards provide targeted professional support to businesses to help them achieve their objectives. Applicants that receive technical assistance are eligible to re-apply for investment grants under subsequent LINQ RFAs.

**LINQ is accepting applications on a rolling basis, and applicants are encouraged to submit them as early as possible. Applications submitted after the closing date, July 3rd, 2020, will not be considered.**

The LINQ team will be readily available to answer questions and explain the requirements to interested parties. The format template for the Application is given in Attachment A. This application document is also available by email request to rprince@landolakes.org.

All Applications should be written in English and submitted electronically (in MS-Word or PDF file format) via email to: rprince@landolakes.org. Please include the name and telephone number of the person(s) in your organization who will be the contact person.

## LINQ reserves the right to fund any or none of the submissions. Any investment or expenditure made by a prospective business partner prior to official execution of a USAID LINQ Technical Assistance support is solely and entirely at the investor's own risk.

Sincerely,

Celine Melki Chief of Party

# Attachment A: LINQ Technical Assistance Partnership Application

|  |
| --- |
| ***Background Info:*** |
| Name of Organization |  |
| Organization’s Registration Number |  |
| Organization’s Starting Date |  |
| Address/Location (Mouhafaza, Caza, Street) |  |
| Contact Person Name  |  |
| Contact Person Mobile Number and Email |  |
| Owner Name(s) |  |
| Organization Type (SAL, SARL, COOP…) |  |
| Industry/Sector |  |
| Define the nature of your business |  |
| List of Products / Services |  |
| Product Distribution: In which regions and channels? How many customers? |  |
| Export countries |  |
| Organization Sales Value in $ (for past 12 months) |  |
| Number of local farmers supplying raw agricultural products to the business |  |
| Local agricultural product(s) used in production |  |
| Number of employees in the organization |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| **Full-Time** |  |  |  |
| **Part-Time** |  |  |  |
| **Seasonal** |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |

 |
| Organizational Structure – fill and add as many positions as needed: |  |
| ***Project/Business Initiative:*** |
| Current gaps or challenges faced by the business |  |
| Technical, business or operational support needed by the business (training, coaching…) |  |
| Goals and objectives of the needed Technical Assistance |  |
| Expected start date and duration of the Technical Assistance |  |
| Any needed tools/supplies to complement this Technical Assistance? *Limited investment only* |  |
| Any support received from another USAID-funded project? Specify details: |  |
| ***Impact of Intervention:*** |
| Organization sales increase in value in $ (2020 vs 2019) |  |
| Increase in purchase from farmers in $ (2020 vs 2019) |  |
| Increase in number of farmers supplying the business |  |
| Increase in number of point of sales covered in 2020 |  |
| Number of anticipated jobs created in 2020 (split by gender) |  |
| Number of owners/employees to be trained/coached |  |
| Number of farmers to be trained/coached |  |