**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Facility Project: TCP/GUY/3501 - Development of a National Integrated Management Programme and Action Plan for the Red Palm Mite *Raoiella indica* in Guyana**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - TCDC CONSULTANT: RED PALM MITE MANAGEMENT**

**Background**

Red Palm Mite (RPM) is one of the most damaging pests of coconut in many countries of the Caribbean, including Guyana. Feeding by the mite impacts young coconut plants the most, although both young and old plants can be severely affected, with most of their lower leaves turning yellow. This is followed by the abortion of the flowers or small, developing nuts, resulting in severe economic losses to farmers. In light of severe RPM infestations on coconuts in Guyana, which have impacted negatively on farmers’ incomes, it is critical that mitigation, adaptation and control initiatives be identified and implemented against this pest in the earliest possible time.

Based on a request from the Government of Guyana, a project has been recently approved under FAO’s technical assistance programme (TCP) facility to contribute to the sustainability of the coconut industry in Guyana through effective management of Red Palm Mite.

A Consultant is to be recruited under FAO’s *Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries* (TCDC) partnership programme to conduct activities during a Mission to Guyana with the following objectives:

* In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other key stakeholders including farmers, conduct a baseline study of the current status of the Red Palm Mite *Raoiella indica* Hirst 1924 in Guyana and existing management practices.
* Share the survey findings during technical and stakeholder consultations, geared towards the formulation and endorsement, of a comprehensive nation-wide Management Programme for Red Palm Mite and an Action Plan for its implementation.
* Finalize the National Management Programme for Red Palm Mite and the Action Plan.

The Expression of Interest (EoI) should include a covering letter, detailed *Curriculum Vitae* with names and contact information for at least two References and any other information that will assist with the evaluation process.

The EoI documentation should be sent on or before the deadline of **Friday 16 January 2015** to Ms. Angela Alleyne at [angela.alleyne@fao.org](mailto:angela.alleyne@fao.org), copied to [fao-guyana@fao.org](mailto:fao-guyana@fao.org)

The full Terms of Reference for the Consultant are as follows:

**Terms of Reference for TCDC Consultant in Red Palm Mite Management**

Under the general supervision of the FAO Representation in Guyana, the technical supervision of FAO’s Lead Technical Officer (LTO – FAO’s Plant Production and Protection Officer based in Barbados) and in close cooperation with the National counterparts as well as the LTO, the TCDC Consultant will assist the Government of Guyana in the development of a National Integrated Management Programme for Red Palm Mite and an Action Plan for its implementation.

Assistance to be provided will be carried out in one Field Mission of 13 days. In addition, 7 days of home-based desk work is anticipated.

The TCDC Consultant will carry out the following activities:

Prior to the start of the Field Mission:

* Review Reports and other relevant information from the country, as well as from regional and international sources[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Determine the impact of Red Palm Mite (RPM) on coconut production elsewhere in the Caribbean as well as globally.
* Evaluate thoroughly the existing control strategies / pest management programmes in the Caribbean and elsewhere.

During the Field Mission:

* Hold individual consultations with a wide range of in-country stakeholders (identified in advance by FAO and the National Counterparts).
* Conduct field visits to the key coconut producing areas to evaluate RPM damage, including the presence of natural enemies
* Undertake any other activities considered necessary in order to collate a comprehensive National Integrated Management Programme for Red Palm Mite and an Action Plan for its implementation.
* Prepare and present the draft National Management Programme for Red Palm Mite and the Action Plan at a one-day Stakeholder Consultation and facilitate / elicit constructive feedback
* Finalize the National Integrated Management Programme and the Action Plan for Red Palm Mite, taking into consideration the stakeholder feedback.

After the Field Mission:

* Prepare and submit to the LTO a draft Mission Report of all relevant activities undertaken, including the National Integrated Management Programme for Red Palm Mite and Action Plan as Technical Annexes (deadline – 10 working days after completion of Mission).
* Finalize the Report taking into consideration the LTO’s feedback (deadline – 5 working days after receiving feedback).

In carrying out the tasks, the TCDC Expert will quantify gender roles and biases which may emerge within the context of the overarching objectives, and will seek to address these issues where possible.

**Qualifications and Experience:**

The Consultant will be expected to have:

1. Post-graduate training (M.Sc. or Ph.D. levels) in Entomology / Acarology / Crop Protection
2. A strong background in the biology and hands-on management of invasive species and preferably the Red Palm Mite, with at least 7-10 years of experience in the development and implementation of large-scale pest management programmes.
3. Experience with management of Red Palm Mite will be an asset.
4. A basic knowledge of gender issues and gender mainstreaming.

The selected candidate must have a good command of written and spoken English.

1. <http://www.cardi.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/02/Red-Palm-Mite-bibliography-compiled-by-CARDI-Dec-2012.pdf> etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)