

Donor-funded Lesotho Project Manager – Landell Mills

Irrigated Horticulture Support Services Activity (Horticulture, Training, Gender, and Social Development (HTGSD) Consultant)

The Market Driven Irrigation Horticulture (MDIH) Project, part of the MCC Lesotho II Compact, aims to increase rural incomes through commercial irrigated horticulture, including for women, youth, and the rural poor, and establish a sustainable and inclusive model of irrigation, water resource, and land management. It will invest in climate-smart irrigation infrastructure and attract commercial (anchor) farmers to collaborate with local smallholder farmers to produce high-value crops and build strong value chains. The MDIH Project will also support government reforms and capacity improvements to sustain inclusive and sustainable growth of the horticulture sector.

The MDIH Project is composed of several activities, including providing Irrigated Horticulture Support Services. Landell Mills, in partnership with Niras, is contracted to manage the sub-activity relating to Horticulture, Training, Gender, and Social Development (HTGSD). The project will target farmers in four irrigation schemes in Lesotho, with the objective of the HTGSD Consultant to support smallholder farmers to transition from dryland mainly subsistence agriculture to sustainable irrigated commercial horticulture. The Project will also support the private upstream and downstream services supporting farmers in these schemes, as well as the government support framework (enabling environment).

The position

The Project Manager will report to and work in close cooperation with the HQ Project Manager (based in the UK) and senior backstopping team members, based at Landell Mills' office in Trowbridge, UK.

The position is based in Maseru, Lesotho, and will involve travel to other project locations in the country. It may also involve visits to the Landell Mills office in the UK for training, planning, reporting and coordination purposes.

Duties and responsibilities

The HTGSD Project Manager will manage the day-to-day operations of the service contract. The tasks and responsibilities will include:

- Work with the local sub-contractor, to ensure that the project admin and logistics are set-up and managed efficiently. This will include ensuring there are well-maintained and equipped project offices, vehicles...etc.
- Ensure the day-to-day support to the technical assistance team, including review of technical documents, liaising with project partners and stakeholders, support to organisation of meetings and project activities, etc.
- Prepare and issue project management templates and provide training to the team on their use.

- Manage the recruitment and contracting process for non-key experts together with partner backstopping managers, including sourcing, negotiating, contracting and mobilising teams.
- Mobilise and make all travel arrangements for key and non-key experts, working with the administrator in the UK office.
- Provide mobilised consultants with day-to-day support on contractual and managerial issues as required.
- Maintain an online portal for documents...etc.
- Act as the day-to-day administrative focal point for the Contracting Authority (MCA-Lesotho II), including on finance and tax queries.
- Work with UK finance manager and local finance manager to ensure taxes are complied with, and reimbursed by the state as per the project contract agreement.
- Assist the Team Leader in the preparation of the inception and progress reports, and the Key Experts Team as required.
- Support the organisation of consortium management meetings.
- Support the Project Director in monitoring and updating the project budget.

In doing the above, you will be expected to contribute positively to the implementation of the service contract of the HTGSD. You will also be expected to contribute to internal knowledge sharing and communication. You will liaise extensively with the expert team, the HQ Project Manager, however you will ultimately report to the Senior Project Manager and Project Director.

Person specification

Skills/abilities	Essential / desirable attributes
An enthusiasm for providing international consulting services with an ability to be based in Maseru and travel in Lesotho	Essential
Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to work to a high standard, prioritise multiple tasks and meet deadlines	Essential
Business orientated and numerate, with proven ability in or the potential to attain financial targets of the HTGSD service contract	Essential
Good communication skills and be comfortable and experienced in representing the consortium in front of senior client and beneficiary staff	Essential
A team player, who is motivated and flexible	Essential
Perfect fluency in English with an ability to write concisely and convey technical information in an easily readable and convincing manner	Essential
Fully computer literate (e.g. Word, Excel, SharePoint)	Essential
Qualifications and experience	
A graduate degree in a relevant field, e.g. agriculture, agribusiness, rural development, business, finance, economics etc.	Essential
3 years of experience in managing and delivering donor-funded project contracts	Essential
Experience with managing projects for the Millenium Challenge Corporation	Desirable

About Landell Mills

Landell Mills (landell-mills.com) is an international consultancy providing a range of development and cooperation-oriented services. We aim to assist countries and their peoples to attain the sustainable development goals. Approximately, 50% of our work is on behalf of clients using EU funds. Other clients include the ADB, the WB, various UN agencies, GIZ and FCDO.

We provide services across all areas of the programme cycle from project identification through to implementation and evaluations. We work in the areas of markets, enterprise, and trade; agriculture, fisheries, food security and nutrition; environment, water, climate change and disaster risk reduction; and policy dialogue, regional integration, and governance.

We work in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. We have an in-house staff of about 50, with most being based at our offices in Trowbridge (just outside Bath, UK), Bristol and Blackrock (just south of Dublin, Ireland). We also engage up to 300 experts on assignment at any one time and staff offices in key project locations.

What we offer

- A full-time fixed-term position (the current project end date is early 2029). Candidates who only want to be based in Maseru for a certain maximum period (minimum two years) will also be considered.
- A competitive salary – commensurate with experience.
- Emergency medical and travel insurance.
- Other expenses to be mutually agreed.

Where you will work

The position will be based in Maseru (Lesotho). Country travel will be an integral part of the job.