**Project Summary**

**Project Background**
In response to the dramatic rise and volatility of food prices since 2007, the European Parliament and the Council have adopted in December 2008 the Regulation establishing a facility for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries, with a budget of EUR 1 billion (“the Food Facility”). The Food Facility constitutes a *short-medium term cooperation instrument*, in-between emergency assistance and long-term development cooperation. The Food Facility supports three main types of activities:

- measures to improve access to agricultural inputs like fertilizers and seeds and services like vets and advisors;
- other small-scale measures aiming at increasing agricultural production like microcredit, rural infrastructure, training and support to professional groups in the agricultural sector; and
- safety net measures, allowing for social transfers to vulnerable population groups, often in the form of labour-intensive public works (roads, irrigation projects etc).

**Main Objective**
The main objective of the assignment is to gather results-oriented information on projects and programmes in the field and to report on progress in order to maintain and, where possible, improve the quality of external co-operation activities through timely, independent, well-targeted information on implementation.

**Outputs**
- Project synopsis, Monitoring reports and BCS
- Special reports (including synthesis/analysis of ROM results either geographically, or sectorially, as well as recommendations)
- The contractor is also be required, if necessary, to present the work, findings and conclusions in short seminars/workshops to stakeholders, in Brussels or in the region.

**Implementing Features**
The Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) system is based on regular visits to projects by external monitors (consultants) who produce short, semi-standard reports and give ratings and comments following standard criteria, estimating the efficiency, effectiveness, impact, relevance and likely sustainability of projects and programmes. Opinions of Task Managers (response sheet) are also recorded, with the monitoring reports and basic documents, in a central database.

Having one consistent approach ensures that the Commission has comparable data for all regions where it provides external assistance.

For the Food Facility, about 120 ongoing projects are to be visited at least once each year (once in 2010 and once in 2011).

**Services Provided**
- Management of Central office in Brussels.
- Monitoring of 80 projects once a year
- More than 100 monitoring reports per year
- Regular summary thematic and regional reports to EC
- Recommendations to EC Services