Vacancy

Sahaj – Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (NAMDP) – Phase 2

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1. **Introduction to Sahaj – Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (NAMDP) – Phase 2**

Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (NAMDP), also known as Sahaj, operates under bi-lateral agreements between the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the Government of Switzerland. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Sahaj is implemented by a consortium led by Swisscontact. Swisscontact is a leading partner organisation for the implementation of international development projects. Represented in 38 countries with over 1,000 employees, Swisscontact promotes – since 1959 – inclusive economic, social, and ecological development to make an effective contribution towards sustainable and widespread prosperity in developing and emerging economies.

1.1 **Background: Sahaj – Phase 1**

Sahaj has been designed with a long-term vision of thriving and inclusive agriculture markets. Sahaj Phase 1 (October 2016 – August 2020) aimed to increase farmers’ income by facilitating their engagement in commercial agriculture markets and participation in networks within markets. It contributed to developing stronger and better functioning market systems that would increase farm-productivity and boost marketing potential of the products produced by smallholder farmers, including women and people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

1.2 **Sahaj – Phase 2**

Sahaj Phase 2 is expected to start from October 2020 (subject to ratification of the bilateral agreement for phase 2 between the governments of Nepal and Switzerland). Building on the achievements and learnings in phase 1, Swisscontact with its consortium partner will implement Sahaj phase 2 in Province 1 of Nepal. Sahaj phase 2 will focus on forward production linkages\(^1\), on overall agriculture commercialisation, trade, and employment generation, particularly at the level of SMEs.

The project has three main pillars in phase 2: agriculture service provision, non-agriculture service provision, and business enabling environment / federal state building. Under these pillars, interventions will identify and address constraints to innovative and sustainable products/service delivery by agriculture service providers (ASPs) and non-agriculture service providers (N-ASPs). This includes addressing policy bottlenecks and unlocking potential for closer collaboration between sub-national governments and the private sector. Sahaj phase 2 will have a rolling portfolio of agricultural sectors in Province 1, cross cutting the above-mentioned pillars. Based on the needs and feasibility of systemic interventions in specific sectors and results of rolled-out interventions, Sahaj may opt out of some sectors and include new sectors during the implementation of the programme. Monitoring and Results Measurement (MRM) is a crucial process for quality assurance of Sahaj phase 2. Timely and robust evidence generated through Sahaj’s MRM system will effectively support programme steering, learning, adaptive management, and accountability.

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\(^1\) FAO, 2002: “Production linkages can be divided into backward and forward linkages, or, to use an alternative terminology, up-stream and down-stream linkages. Backward production linkages refer to linkages from the farm to the part of the non-farm sector that provides inputs for agricultural production, for example agrochemicals. Forward production linkages refer to the part of the non-farm sector that uses agricultural output as an input. The distribution and processing of agricultural outputs are fundamental components of forward production linkages.”
2. **Vacancy: Sahaj – Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (NAMDP) – Phase 2**

For the second Phase of Sahaj – Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme (NAMDP), subject to ratification of the bilateral agreement for phase 2 between the governments of Nepal and Switzerland, Swisscontact invites applications from committed and experienced Nepali citizens for the following position.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Serial Number</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Place of work</th>
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<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Officer – Business Enabling Environment and Federal State Building (BEE &amp; FSB)</td>
<td>Biratnagar, Province 1</td>
</tr>
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See section 4 for the job descriptions.

3. **Application Procedures**

Interested candidates who meet the requirements for this position are requested to send their current CVs (maximum four A4 pages) and a motivation letter to np.info@swisscontact.org latest by **11:59 PM Nepal time on 20 September 2020**. Along with the CV and the motivation letter, please send the duly filled in “job application form”, which is available on our website (same address as above).

**In the "subject" line of your email, please mention the position applied for.**

Swisscontact Nepal will not entertain any phone enquiries or other such solicitations for this positions. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the selection process. Swisscontact Nepal reserves the right to reject any or all applications.

**Swisscontact Nepal promotes workforce diversity and applies positive discrimination to candidates from discriminated groups (women, Dalit, Janajati, Madhesi/Terai and other minority communities).**
4. **Job Description**

**Officer – Business Enabling Environment (BEE) & Federal State Building (FSB)**

**Start of employment:** 15 October 2020  
**Place of work:** Biratnagar, Province 1, Nepal  
**Reports to:** Manager – Business Enabling Environment (BEE) & Federal State Building (FSB)

**Tasks**

The Officer – BEE & FSB is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of interventions in relevant policy issues in agriculture and inter-connected markets. S/he is also responsible for implementation of interventions that contribute to strengthening the federalisation practices relevant for agriculture market systems. Her/his major tasks include:

- Contribute to research and analysis of policy and regulatory constraints and opportunities in the agriculture sector in Province 1 with a special focus on the areas where NAMDP is involved in.
- Contribute to identifying key policy and regulatory issues that impede the inclusive growth of the agriculture sector in Nepal.
- Contribute to developing and implementing appropriate policy interventions to address key constraints, including organising meeting with relevant stakeholders, develop briefs and materials to support policy dialogue and advocacy.
- Document constraints in the regulatory environment identified by other teams and share with the Manager and Legal expert.
- Contribute to activities such as developing a clear policy road map for each policy issue, identifying partners at different levels and planning/designing required assessments to be initiated by the programme and assist the BEE & FSB Manager in identifying key milestones to be achieved.
- Contribution to all relevant MRM processes; using MRM as a tool to improve interventions and strategies and proving results. Prepare and/or contribute to relevant documentation for MRM.
- Provide/compile input for the Yearly Plan of Operations (YPOs) and (semi-)annual progress reports.
- Work closely with the subcontractors (co-facilitators), assist supervisors in managing the co-facilitators
- Maintain professional working relationships with partners (subcontractors and intervention partners).
- Comply with the Project Manual of NAMDP and other relevant requirements of Swisscontact and SDC

**Requirements**

- Minimum 3 years of relevant work experience
- Minimum bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline
- Good knowledge of business enabling environment issues including policies and regulations affecting agri-businesses.
- Passion for learning and implementing innovative ideas.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in Nepali and particularly good command of spoken and written English
- Willingness to travel frequently, often to remote places and sometimes within short notice.
- Good knowledge on agribusinesses, and agriculture and non-agriculture services for agri businesses will be an added advantage
- Good knowledge of market systems development approach desired