



Call for applications

Program for women entrepreneurs and women cooperatives in the rural areas of southern Lebanon

Rules and procedures

Background information

The National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA) is now opening a call for applications to participate in a Program dedicated to women entrepreneurs and women cooperatives in the Lebanese rural areas. The Program is a unique opportunity to enhance the skills of women and their capacities to run a business, it will develop in two phases: phase A) training course; phase B) technical and financial support to the best selected business plans.

At its first edition, the Program follows a series of activities conducted by NOWARA at national level to enhance the status of women working in rural areas, such as the National Award for best leading economic-agro food initiative led by women in Lebanese rural areas established since 2008.

The Program will target different regions of Lebanon over the next three years. This year the Program will focus on the southern region of Lebanon.

The Program is promoted in the framework of the three years project: “Socio Economic development for the rural population of Southern Lebanon” AID 9323/CTM/LBN promoted by CTM ONLUS and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture.

Target group

- women head or member of a cooperative in rural areas of South of Lebanon.
- women entrepreneurs in rural areas of South of Lebanon.

Criteria

The Training Program this year targets **Southern Lebanese women producers**, members or heads of a cooperatives and/or individual entrepreneurs, in Lebanese rural areas, that fulfills the following criteria:

Criteria for women working in Cooperatives:

- a. The candidate has a Lebanese citizenship
- b. The candidate age is between 18 and 60 years
- c. The candidate has the ability to read and write
- d. The candidate is head or member of a cooperative registered in Lebanon
- e. The candidates is nominated by the cooperative to represent the cooperative
- f. The cooperative is active and has ongoing activities since a minimum of two years.
- g. The activity is run by women – majority of women in the board of directors of the cooperative and/or the majority of members are women.
- h. The activity is of micro, small, artisan or medium size
- i. The activity is run in partnership or in consortia with other women businesses
- j. The candidate has to submit a creative and innovative business idea

Criteria for individual entrepreneurs:

- a. The candidate has a Lebanese citizenship
- b. The candidate age is between 18 and 60 years
- c. The candidate has the ability to read and write
- d. The candidate runs an activity of micro, small, artisan or medium size
- e. The activity is run in partnership or in consortia with other women businesses
- f. The candidate has to submit a creative and innovative business idea

- ❖ Maximum 30 women will be shortlisted
- ❖ NOWARA focal points cannot apply
- ❖ Previous years beneficiaries of NOWARA Awards cannot apply

Administrative Requirements

Applicants must submit the following documents:

- Application form filled and signed (ORIGINAL)
- Copy of ID signed
- Letter of application (ORIGINAL)
- Nomination letter from Cooperatives (applicable for those applying on behalf of the Cooperative)
- Certification on Women Business Status (in ANNEXE)

Applications

Applications have to be submitted to: CTM Onlus/Local Action Group Office, Zayat street, Municipality bldg, 3rd floor, Tyr, Lebanon, attention of Mr Hussein Hobballah, tel: 07-740216 or to NOWARA, Ministry of Agriculture, Embassy Street, Bir Hassan, Beirut, Lebanon, attention of Ms May Mezher, Tel: +961-1-8496011-301 Fax: +961-1-823900, or to NOWARA Coordinators and NOWARA Facilitators in Lebanon. Applications can be downloaded by the NOWARA website: www.nowaralebanon.org.

For more information please write also to: info@nowaralebanon.org.

Deadline for applications: May 31st, 2012

- ❖ **A specialized Committee** will evaluate the files and issue the final results. Field assessments for the short listed candidates might be performed.
- ❖ Participation to the Program means approval and commitment to abide by the rules and procedures of this Program.

Technical and financial support to the best selected business plans

Following the training course (Phase A), the Program envisages to finance up to five best selected business plans and to offer technical support for their implementation (Phase B).

Only women that participated to the training course can participate to phase B.

The value of financial support for each of the selected business plans is a max of 6.000 USD as assistance to the best applicants, the amount of which will be managed by the project committee.

The winners would have to contribute in kind to their project idea's implementation.

Main topics of the Training Program

- ❖ *Marketing and quality aspects*
- ❖ *Accounting and Bookkeeping*
- ❖ *How to write a successful business plan*
- ❖ *Business laws*

Indicative Calendar of the Program

Deadline for submission of Applications	31 st May 2012
Notification of results of the evaluation of applications and communication to successful candidates	15th June 2012
Phase A) Training course	Between 25th June and 14th July 2012
Phase B) Presentation of business plans	By 18 th July 2012
Phase B) Technical and financial support Shortlist of best business plans	September 2012

Please note that the training course will be held in Tyr, South Lebanon, for a total of 40 hours over 8 days:

- Week 1: 3 days of five hours

- Week 2: 2 days of 5 hours

-Week 3: 3 days of 5 hours

A detailed Calendar of Phase B will be shared with successful candidates.