

SPARK Rwanda Project Manager IPoVaf

Position:	Project Manager Irish Potato Value chain Financing (IPoVaF)
Location:	Kigali, Rwanda
Application Deadline:	27 November 2017
Duration:	Full-time

The Project Manager will be responsible for the overall management of the Irish Potato Value chain Financing (IPoVaF) project in order to ensure a successful implementation. IPoVaF is a 2 years project, to be funded by Access to Finance Rwanda and implemented by SPARK and its partners, that aims to Increase access to financial services to enhance productivity, income and job opportunities for Irish Potato smallholder farmers in Rwanda.

Project specific objectives:

- New and increased effective, affordable, cost efficient and client centric financial and informational services offered by Financial Institutions (FIs) to Irish Potato Small holder farmers (SHFs) to ensure financial inclusion for the poor
- Enhanced market position, efficiency and managerial competencies for Irish Potato SFHs and sustained relations with other chain operators (market players)
- Increased financial literacy, changed positive mind-set towards digitalisation, access and use of digital information, communication, payments, savings and credits (and potential additional services) of SHFs.

Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision and reporting responsibilities to SPARK Rwanda Country Manager; the Project Manager will be tasked to:

- Provide Leadership and Management to the overall and day-to-day operations of the project to ensure an efficient and effective high-impact implementation (achieving the planned project goals, deliverables, tasks, costs and deadlines) that result in:
 - Increased Irish Potato Collection Centres (IPCCs) (co)-owned by Irish Potato SHFs cooperatives
 - Enhanced market position for SHFs through improved managerial performances of IPCCs and sustained relations with other chain operators (market players)
 - Access to mobile financial services and information platform that fits with SHF needs in Irish Potato VC & financial education for SHFs to create understanding, trust and ensure uptake of financial services
- Conduct (together with experts) Capacity Needs Assessments (CNAs) for the project beneficiaries and other field studies in order to develop coherent technical vision, initiate innovative strategies and design detailed implementation plans with an adequate field project structure including recruitment to achieve the outputs of the project
- Manage and monitor the work of the project team and experts in the programme by providing guidance and coaching to ensure an engaged work force and deliver

technical support and training modules to project team and partners and directly to potatoes cooperatives and individual SHFs

- Ensure good collaboration and Manage the contracts with the Software and Services Provider and the Financial Institutions.
- Ensure timely technical reporting as per the scheme and instruments concluded with the Donor
- Ensure an adequate establishment of the Buyers and Suppliers Tracker MIS and Informational and Financial services platform;
- Ensure efficient and effective project budget implementation and management
- In collaboration with the HQ M&E expert, ensure proper project outputs and indicators monitoring through a comprehensive internal results analysis framework and tools; report on findings and suggest project implementation improvements; ensure comprehensive and well documented lessons learnt from the project.
- Coordinate and supervise the project (external) evaluation studies (baselines, Midterm reviews and end line studies);
- Ensure strong relation with the Donor and ensure proper project administration and reporting
- Build and manage relationships to ensure good collaboration with various partners including Small Holder Farmers, Cooperatives, Fecoporwa, Irish Potato Collection Centres Management structures, Financial institutions, Line ministries (MINAGRI and MINEACOM), Local government (Districts), NGO's, and other key players in the Irish Potato Value Chain;
- Establish networks and collaboration with other organisations working in related fields;
- Organize and coordinate projects knowledge, networking and learning events (seminars, workshops, etc.)
- Reports to Country Manager; flexible to support in any other ad hoc tasks and duties.

Requirements and Skills

- More than 7 years of experience in project management in international development (grant management of minimum 1 million USD: project design, implementation, operations, MEL, reporting and budgeting), proven experience to consistently meeting or exceeding donor expectations. Proven experience in rural financing, financial inclusion and agro economy project would be an added value;
- University degree in a field related to agro economy, agribusiness, agri financing, business information technology, international development or business administration; A master's degree in one of the above mention fields will be an added advantage;
- Good knowledge and experience of the agri (ie: Irish Potato sector) value chain development (including agri capacity development/agri business development services) and rural agri financing and business environment in Rwanda;
- Good knowledge of Business Information Technology specifically digital (cloud-based) solutions such as mobile financial and informational services platform for the rural farmers population in East-Africa;
- Skilful people manager, with ability to lead, inspire, coach and train subordinates and contracted experts, and to achieve the highest possible results through staff.
- Proven ability to operate on both strategical as operational level
- Proven experience in Partnership Management
- Excellent verbal and written language skills in English and Kinyarwanda;
- Responsible and honest;
- Good communication and social skills and the ability to work in a multicultural setting;
- Good team worker while able to work independently;

- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines;
- High energy, pro-active and service minded;
- Hands-on attitude and willing to help out flexibly if required;
- Willing and able to travel frequently to the target districts (Musanze, Burera, Nyabihu and Rubavu);
- Driving licence (B Category) would be also an added advantage
- Residents of Rwanda are encouraged to apply.

SPARK Offers

- A dynamic and exciting position in an international environment;
- A gross monthly salary between € 1.600 and € 2.000 (to be paid in RWF) depending on professional experience and based on a fulltime appointment of 40 hours;
- Professional capacity building, training, exposure and networking opportunities.

How to apply?

For more information, please visit the SPARK website: www.spark-online.org. If interested, please send your letter of motivation and your CV (in English) to vacancy@spark-online.org up and until **23 November 2017**. **Reference: Project Manager IPoVaF Rwanda**. All applications will be assessed on rolling basis; interviews can therefore take place before the application deadline.

For questions about the vacancy, please contact vacancy@spark-online.org reference; **Project Manager IPoVaF Rwanda** or call +250 789 923 718.

Due to a large volume of applications, we cannot respond to every applicant. After the deadline for application we will screen all applications and will invite / inform only selected applicants for the first round of interviews. There may be a delay between the deadline and the moment we contact selected applicants

About SPARK

SPARK develops higher education and entrepreneurship to empower young, ambitious people to lead their fragile and conflict-affected societies into prosperity. SPARK is a dynamic and growing, international not-for-profit development organisation with 80+ staff members, in more than 14 offices around the world. SPARK supports refugees in the Middle-East by providing them with scholarships in universities and higher education institutions in the region. SPARK also supports young entrepreneurs in fragile states, to start or grow their own businesses.