



ARISE Plus Lao PDR: LAO QUALITY CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- Are you passionate about quality?
- Do you work in the specialty agriculture (e.g. coffee) or wood processing sector?
- Do you care about the Lao business community and want to support them on a long term basis?
- ✓ If so, this is for YOU and we encourage you to apply!

The EU funded ARISE Plus Lao PDR (The ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU Plus – Lao PDR) aims at promoting **inclusive economic growth, increased climate change resilience, mitigation of vulnerability and job creation in Lao PDR**. The project is oriented towards the improvement of the overall business environment and the increased participation in global value chains for two selected sectors: **wood processing and specialty agriculture (e.g. coffee)**. In the context of the ARISE Plus Lao PDR project, the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency between the World Trade Organization and the United Nations, will offer support to **improve the quality of products and operations** in these two sectors in order to comply with EU and other relevant quality requirements.

As part of this support, a pool of **Quality Champions (QCs)** will be trained and qualified to serve Lao business as part-time trainers, coaches and advisers through national institutions. Upon the successful completion of the course, participants will be given an international qualification and commit to serving on a long-term basis as QCs. The **Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI)** will act as a focal point for this programme in Lao PDR.

QCs will be equipped to manage quality-related activities in businesses and to improve the quality of products and operations. The training will cover the **fundamentals of quality management, problem solving techniques, internal standardization, food/product safety, ISO 9001, Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt, training and advisory skills**.

The QC qualification also includes the implementation of a quality improvement project in an enterprises under the guidance of international experts. The quality improvement projects will focus on compliance with specific export market requirements and selected standards.

Once qualified, the QCs will be part of ITC’s international network of Quality Champions with an online profile on the Lao Platform for Quality.

QUALITY CHAMPION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- The international scene – mandatory market access requirements, WTO TBT & SPS agreements, standards, certification, conformity assessment...
- Quality Assurance, Control, Improvement, Planning, Management
- Standardizing Work
- Developing quality culture
- ISO 9001

Structured Problem Solving – Lean Six Sigma Green Belt

FOOD SAFETY

ENTERPRISE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

SOFT SKILLS

- Training skills
- Advisory skills

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Key elements of the Quality Champions programme:

1. A team of up to **20 Quality Champions** will be selected from the private and public sector through an **open application process**. Selection criteria are among others relevant subject as well as sector experience in addition to long-term commitment.
2. The QC qualification programme will last approximately **12-15 months** and will include **5 short technical workshops** with assignments in between as well as the implementation of a **quality improvement project** in a processing company or similar.
3. QCs will be trained on using tools and techniques for ensuring quality and food safety in a business and building international requirements into operations. They are guided and overseen by international experts.
4. The quality improvement projects implemented by the QCs as part of their qualification will focus specifically on **complying with EU quality and food safety requirements** and include a series of coaching sessions and in between guidance and support.
5. Once qualified, QCs will be able to implement training and improvement projects without external support through national counterparts.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify for selection:

- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in quality management, production management, agro-processing, wood processing, exports of agricultural and/or wood products, food safety or other relevant areas.
- Experts with less than 5 years' experience should have at least a Bachelor's degree in relevant field (e.g. Science, Agriculture, Business Management, Engineering, Food science, Food technology, Quality Management or equivalent)
- Fully familiar with Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Ability to communicate in English
- Availability to dedicate an average of 4 days per month over period of 1 year, out of which approximately 50% will be during working hours
- Commitment to be part of a network of trainers and advisors to help others grow and develop by serving as expert trainers and advisors as well as master trainers on a long term basis via national service providers.

All training will be free of charge. If long-distance travel and accommodation is required to attend workshop or to carry our support to enterprises, this will be reimbursed based on current national rates. Otherwise no financial compensation will be given during the training and qualification period.

For more information please contact:

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APPLICATION FORM

To be filled in **English** and sent via email to kinnaphone.sounthongdeng@intracen.org no later than **Wednesday, 15 July 2020**

Please send your application as **one pdf file**. Kindly name the file as follows: "Lao PDR QC application your full name"

NB: Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview as part of the selection process

General

Full Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Citizenship:	

Contact details

Physical address:	
Town, region:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	
Skype address (if available):	

Education:

Institutions:	Degree(s) or Diploma(s) obtained:	Specialization

Professional trainings undertaken if any

Course title	Date	Name of institution

Employment record and experience starting with the current

Period	Employing organization and Contact info for references	Position	Summary of activities performed/ responsibilities

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Membership in Professional Associations if any

Professional body	Reference Number if applicable

Language Skills (5 – excellent, 1 – poor)

Language	Reading	Writing	Speaking

Use the space below to outline your key areas of expertise in relation to the programme

Please indicate any previous experience you may have had as a trainer or advisor

In case you are currently involved with any service provider other than your current employer (e.g. by delivering part time/evening time training and/or advisory services), please describe your role and the type of initiatives you are involved in

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Please describe any specific quality related initiatives that you are/have been directly involved in

What do you consider to be the main quality-related challenges for Lao SMEs exporting or aiming to export? You may use this space to share your personal experience or highlight general issues that you are aware of. If you wish, please also share any proposed solutions and ideas you may have regarding how to address the challenges.

Please describe your main reasons for wanting to join this program

Please elaborate on your commitment to serve as a trainer/advisor on a long term basis through national service providers upon qualification, including how much time would have available, any particular constraints, etc.

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I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above information correctly describes myself, my qualifications, and my experience, and I confirm my availability to participate fully in the trainings and enterprise support activities. I understand that any misstatement or misrepresentation described herein may lead to my disqualification.

Name of Applicant

Signature

Date