Program Background
Cardno supports the implementation of the Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program Phase II (CAVAC) on behalf of the Australian Government. CAVAC works to increase the productivity and incomes of small farmers and trade in milled rice and other crops by strengthening market systems and investing in irrigation infrastructure.

Position Background
One of CAVAC’s objectives is to promote Cambodia’s trade competitiveness in milled rice and other crops. CAVAC’s initial focus was on increasing the availability of new or improved rice varieties suitable for export. However, CAVAC’s engagement has expanded to include addressing factors in the policy environment that impact international competitiveness.

In line with the Australian Government’s new Foreign Policy White Paper and RGC priorities, CAVAC aims to further strengthen its focus on trade issues and regional integration of the agricultural sector. Currently the RGC is broadening its agriculture strategy to address trade and commercialisation issues. Further, the Ministry of Commerce is updating the Cambodian Trade Integration Strategy (CTIS 2019-2023) to strengthen its competitiveness and to prepare for LDC graduation, expected in around 2027. Regional trade in agricultural goods will be one of the main points of focus in this strategy. It is expected to address regional cooperation issues, through further integration into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and possibly integration into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

It is important to ensure that CAVAC’s engagement in this area is properly targeted. Support must reflect RGC priorities and focus on appropriate and achievable objectives. This first requires a good understanding of what is a complex institutional environment across both the public and private sectors. This is a precursor to understanding how CAVAC can best contribute to, and support Cambodia’s further integration into regional and international trade institutions.

Objectives and Scope
The objective is to identify options for a specific strategic policy issue related to trade and regional integration that CAVAC will address. This feasibility study will provide the basis for developing a full policy engagement strategy, consistent with CAVAC’s policy engagement framework. The work will involve two main tasks:

1. **Undertake a mapping exercise in collaboration with CAVAC staff:**
   - Identify key stakeholders. For each stakeholder, the mapping will identify existing CAVAC relationships / entry points. It will identify key stakeholder functions with respect to trade policy, their priorities and incentives with respect to trade and regional integration, authority, and their role in policy design and implementation.
   - The mapping will cover **Government agencies** (including but not limited to Ministry of Commerce (MoC) including Department of Customs and Excise; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF); Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts (MIH); Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC); Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF); and Ministry of Planning (MoP)), **key donors** (UNDP, GIZ, IFC, etc.), and **other entities** (such as business associations or other representative bodies).
   - Identify critical data gaps in Government policy-making (as reported by above stakeholders) and the implications of those gaps.
   - Map current work being undertaken related to trade in agricultural products including CAVAC activities, RGC initiatives, Other donor activities, and key regional developments (in particular related to ASEAN, as well as the establishment of the RCEP).
2. Informed by the mapping exercise, identify options for entry points for CAVAC, taking into account:
   - DFAT objectives (including CAVAC priorities and principles as defined in the approved Program Narrative)
   - RGC priorities as identified through stakeholder engagement. Consider (a) the implications of the recent decision by the European Union to impose safeguard measures on rice imports from Cambodia and (b) priorities being identified in the current update of the Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy
   - CAVAC’s existing capabilities, knowledge and relationships (consistent with principle four of the CAVAC Program Narrative). This does not mean that CAVAC cannot expand its capability, but that the emphasis is on ‘building out’ from CAVAC’s capability, rather than starting something completely new
   - The likely methods that can be used to conduct policy engagement and contribute to policy outcomes, such as analytical work, capacity building or other advisory work, dialogue facilitation (for example between different RGC agencies or with ASEAN)
   - Risks (in particular reputational and political risks to Australia)
   - An overall assessment of feasibility of contributing to policy outcomes within CAVAC’s timeframe (i.e. by December 2021)
   - Identify any additional analytical activities that may need to be undertaken prior to developing a policy engagement strategy.

**Deliverables**

The Adviser will submit to the CAVAC Team Leader a draft stakeholder mapping by week three of the engagement, and a draft options paper at the end of the engagement.

**Inputs**

The task will be carried out by a Short-term International Adviser working in collaboration with CAVAC staff. The Adviser will provide 25 days of input, starting as soon as possible. The Adviser will be engaged on the Australian Government Adviser Remuneration Framework at Category C4.

**Selection Criteria**

- Postgraduate qualification in Social Sciences, International Trade, International Relations or other relevant discipline
- At least 15 years of experience in trade policy
- Demonstrated experience with analysing policy issues from a political economy perspective
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English
- Understanding of the Cambodian context, experience working with the Government of Cambodia, professional or academic experience in agriculture (food safety), and experience with trade issues in the ASEAN or Asia Pacific region are desirable criteria

**How to apply**

A copy of the terms of reference for the above position can be obtained from the CAVAC website https://cavackh.org/jobs-tenders/

Email your application with Trade Policy Adviser in the subject line to recruitment@cavackh.org

Your application must contain the following:

- Your CV, outlining your work history and experience
- A statement addressing the essential criteria (no more than two pages)
- Name and contact details (phone and email) of three professional referees