

Expressions of Interest



Selection of Individual Consultant
Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP)



The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP), a project jointly financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Sri Lanka, aims to build resilience and market participation of 40,000 rural households in the climate change affected districts of Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Matale, Mannar, Puttalam and Kurunegala. This is pursued through capacity building for climate resilience and inclusive value chains, combined with investments for climate resilience and inclusive value chains including last mile infrastructure. The lead programme agency is the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries, which would be establish a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs the implementation of SARP.

Hiring an Individual Consultant to conduct Study on Agrarian Service Centers and Agrarian Banks of the SARP Project Area

Ref No: SARP/PMU/CS/IC/ASC/2024

Qualifications and experience

- The Consultant should possess the following qualifications and experience as a minimum standard Post graduate degree/ bachelor's degree in statistics; or other relevant field with knowledge of statistics
- The Consultant shall have at least 10 years of experience in data analysis in the context of rural development.
- Number of successfully completed data analysis carried out
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent report writing, computer and analytical skills

Specific professional experience of the Consultant

- Should have at least 05 years of working experience in analysis & modeling including, similar experience in the areas of evaluation of institutional processors or similar in nature of works is preferred

Associate:

- Adequate no. of associates (members) as required to complete the task to be proposed.
- If the consultant believes she/he is in need of additional associates to carry out the assignment, qualification details of them is required to submitted for review.

Location and period of execution

SARP Project Management Unit, 2/2/1, Kandewatta Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
And other relevant government implementing partner's offices (for Meetings and discussions)

Period of Execution: 60 days.

Those who are interested **can download the TOR through website www.sarp.lk** Please forward your proposal (complete resume with relevant copies of the certificates and experiences as per the TOR) **on or before 2.30 p.m. on 30.05.2024 by registered post/by hand to reach the following address and e-mail a soft copy of the registered post application with all the documents indicating subject of the email as the post you apply to procurementsarp@gmail.com**

For more details, please contact Procurement Specialist on 077 344 1309 or procurementsarp@gmail.com during working days, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

**Project Director,
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project,
No. 2/2/1, Kandewaththa Road, Pelawaththa , Battaramulla.**

16th May 2024.



*Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience
Project (SARP)*

Terms of Reference

For

**Short Term Consultancy to Study on
Agrarian Service Centers and Agrarian
Banks of the SARP Project Area**

Ref No: SARP/CONS/ASC/2024/01

Submission date: 10th April 2024

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Ref. No: *[insert reference number]*

Foreword

These terms of reference have been prepared by *SARP* and are based on the 1st edition of the IFAD-issued standard procurement documents template for terms of reference available at www.ifad.org/project-procurement This document is to be used for the procurement of services in projects financed by IFAD.

IFAD does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or translation, if applicable, or any other aspect in connection with the content of this document.

Terms of Reference (TOR)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SHORT TERM CONSULTANCE TO STUDY ON AGRARIAN SERVICE CENTERS AND AGRARIAN BANKS OF THE SARP PROJECT AREA

1. Client

The client for this assignment is Smallholder Agribusiness Resilience Project (SARP)

2. Country background

Climate Change (CC) represents a major challenge in Sri Lanka with an increasing trend towards heavier and less predictable rains, hot spells and extended dry periods. This is acutely affecting rural households in the Dry Zone region. CC is also exacerbating the effects of environmental degradation, population pressures and unsustainable land use practices with depleted land being further degraded by heavy rains and floods. The World Bank-CIAT Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) country profile for Sri Lanka (2015) points to critical vulnerabilities related to the overreliance on rain-fed systems, limited access to irrigation systems, and limited diversification with paddy rice comprising about 46 percent of the total harvested area. Local communities have in the past managed this water stress by constructing many small cascade systems of reservoirs, transfer canals and irrigation schemes. Currently, the livelihood of a large population in the dry zone depends on small tank-based irrigated farming. A number of studies confirm that smallholder farmers cultivating under these village irrigation systems are poorer and more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than dry zone farmers who have access to major irrigation. As productivity and crop yields decline with low water availability and unseasonal rains resulting from climate variability and extreme events, these farmers are dragged deeper into poverty and face food deficits, which have to be met by buying food for consumption, increasing the level of indebtedness and further eroding their capacity to cope with climate risks. In order to address the CC challenges facing the regions a request was made by Government to IFAD to address the challenges of CC on smallholder farmers whilst promoting farm commercialization.

Since the end of the civil war in May 2009, the Sri Lankan economy has grown at a steady rate, averaging 6-7 percent up to the present day resulting in significant poverty reduction. Real GDP growth was recorded at 3.2 percent in 2018, compared to 3.4 per cent in the previous year. This rapid economic growth rate has led to Sri Lanka being classified as a lower middle-income country with a per capita GDP of USD 4,104. Sri Lanka is undergoing a structural transformation away from agriculture, with agriculture accounting for 10 percent of GDP, industry for 30.5 percent and services for 60.0 percent. The shift is a result of productivity growth and accelerating urbanization. Agricultural exports as a share of GDP have also declined from 39 percent in 2000 to 21 percent in 2016. Remittances from Sri Lankan migrants abroad and tourism play an important role in offsetting any trade deficit. GDP growth, however, dropped slightly to a rate of 3.8 percent in the first half of 2017 as a result of drought affecting the agricultural and industrial sectors. However, this transformation is progressing relatively slowly and 30 percent of the labor force remains in agriculture.

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The population of Sri Lanka in 2022 was reported at 21.7 million, with a rural population accounting for over 81 percent of the total, the largest percentage in South Asia. The fertility rate is relatively low compared to other countries in the region with annual population growth reported as 1.14% in 2022 below the average for South Asia.

When considering poverty and food security, it is highlighted that extreme poverty is rarely found and is concentrated in geographical pockets. The population groups most affected by poverty are agricultural smallholders, plantation workers, under-employed and landless laborers, particularly youth and women.

3. Background on the project

SmallHolder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP) was established to address smallholder poverty mainly based on Climate Change (CC). It represents a major challenge in Sri Lanka with an increasing trend towards heavier and less predictable rains, hot spells and extended dry periods. This is acutely affecting rural households in the Dry Zone region. CC is also exacerbating the effects of environmental degradation, population pressures and unsustainable land use practices with depleted land being further degraded by heavy rains and floods. The Government of Sri Lanka requested IFAD to address the challenges of CC on smallholder farmers whilst promoting farm commercialization.

The goal of SARP will be to contribute to Sri Lanka's smallholder poverty reduction and food security in the Dry Zone region. The development objective is to build resilience and market accessibility of 40,000 rural smallholder households in the project area (180,000 persons), **which has not been addressed by any other similar international development project.**

SARP will focus on priority districts in the North, North Central, Central, and North Western provinces of the dry zone. The project will focus on selected 173 tanks forming water management cascades in three river basins; Malwathu Oya, Mi Oya and Deduru Oya. The selected cascades are located in areas where farmers and farming livelihoods are highly exposed and vulnerable to increasing climatic variability. SARP will target three categories of households; the extreme rural poor, poor with the potential to sell in local markets and more commercially oriented smallholder farmers.

Project Components: The development objective of the project will be achieved through implementing two components focusing on capacity building for climate resilience and inclusive value chains (Component 1) and climate-sensitive investments for climate resilience and inclusive value chains including last-mile infrastructure (Component 2). Each of these components comprises two technical sub-components supported by a cross-cutting component that will service the project through effective coordination and management.

Component 1 will be implemented through two sub-components;

- 1.1: Strengthening adaptive capacity of service providers and farmers to climate change and
- 1.2: Strengthening capacity for inclusive value chain development.

The objective of sub-component 1.1 is to strengthen the capacity and skills of local service providers, **water user associations**, watershed management organizations and farmers to adapt to climate resilience. The objective of sub-component 1.2 is to strengthen capacity for inclusive value chain development

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through trainings in nutrition, business management, finance and marketing for Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups and individuals to improve nutrition, access markets and enhance their income.

Component 2 will be implemented through two sub-components:

2.1: Investments for climate resilient production and infrastructure and

2.2: Investments for inclusive value chain development.

The objective of sub-component 2.1 is to enhance climate resilience and promote better production conditions through investments in the construction of water and land development and adaptive farm technologies. The objective of sub-component 2.2 is to increase profitability and income through investments in markets, feeder roads and service support centers for smallholder farmers, women and youth.

Component 3: Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMU) at national level will be led by a National Project Director. The PMU will coordinate SARP together with the sister project SAPP (Smallholder Agribusiness Partnership Program) for synergy effects. It will be supported by technical lead agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture(MOA) that include the Department of Agrarian Development(DAD), the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Department of Irrigation(DI). A National Steering Committee (NSC) will provide strategic oversight. At District level, SARP will set up two hub offices in selected districts led by Area Coordinators responsible for day to day implementation.

4. Background of the assignment

The Agrarian Service Centres (ASC) have been set up to serve clusters of villages. SARP will support the priority of DAD to transform the ASCs into ‘one-stop-shops’ for the provision of advisory and support services. ASCs in each target area will be capacitated to deliver integrated planning and implementation support to the cascade systems. While the ASCs were designed to provide various services required by the farmers in a coordinated manner, the weaknesses in the ASCs include a lack of trained advisors, shortage of funding, lack of modern equipment (computers and GIS software) inhibit the effective and efficient provision of support services to farmers. SARP intend to develop the capacity of 39 Agrarian Service Centres, located in proximity to the selected cascades, to serve as local knowledge, coordination, and communication hubs for planning, design, and implementation of project interventions. Investments will be made in awareness building, knowledge generation, learning and exchange. It is also required to develop capabilities (training and equipment) of ASCs to undertake scientific crop selection with farmers and DOA through soil testing and input management. It will implement improved soil testing facilities to support farmers to rationally select crops, inputs and climate-smart practices according to soil conditions. Further it is required to have a combined service delivery for farmers at the ASC level with the coordination of Agriculture Instructors (AI), Coconut Development Officers (CDO), Palmyra Development Officers (PDO), Export Development Officers (EDO) etc.

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5. Overall objectives

Overall objective of this assignment is to assess the current capacities of 39 ASCs belonging to SARP project area and develop recommendation for strengthening their ability to deliver comprehensive services for farmers as a “One-stop-shop”

6. Objectives of the assignment

The specific objectives of the assignment are the following but not exclusively limited to the listing:

- a) Review and provide analysis of the existing capacities of the 39 ASCs in terms of service providing, knowledge sharing to the farmers in the ASC area
- b) Review and provide analysis of resources given to the particular ASCs by the Government of Sri Lanka, other donor funded projects or any other funding agencies
- c) Identify the coordination gaps among DOs, AIs, ARPAs, CDOs, EOs and any relevant officers in terms of service delivery and recommendation for improvements.
- d) Review and provide analysis of Climate weather and market information system established in the particular ASC if any (this shall cover the status of the functionality of the installed equipment, systems, and utilization of the systems and equipment for the intended purposes)
- e) Identify the service gaps of the ASCs suggest suitable remedial measures
- f) Review and analysis of capacities of the Agrarian Banks (AB)
- g) Feedback of the farmers on service level of the ASC and AB and provide recommendations for improvement
- h) Identify essential resources/equipment, training needs for staff and any other needs to upgrade ASCs to one stop shops

7. Scope of work

The selected consultant shall prepare a comprehensive report covering the specific objectives listed above and give recommendations.

The assignment is to be conducted to cover six (06) districts covering all 39 Agrarian Service Centers belonging to the SARP project area. (Anuradhapura District, Kurunegala District, Mannar District, Matale District, Puttalam District, Vavuniya District)

- Expected deliverables are as follows:

Reports	Covering	Time/ month
Preliminary draft report	Gap analysis of the 39 ASCs in terms of service delivery, coordination among defined extension officers described above	After 14 Calendar Days from the start of the consultancy
Submission of final report	Completion of all the expected objectives and submit comprehensive report	After 60 Calendar Days from the start of the consultancy

Other Specific Tasks of the Assignment are;

8. Proposed work plan of the assignment

A work plan shall be submitted by the service provider indicating the details of the deliverables.

The project duration is 30 (60) calendar days.

9. Deliverables (outputs)

- Submit an action plan with a time frame for the deliverables.
- Final Report: A comprehensive report summarizing the findings of the research and evaluation, including analysis, insights, and recommendations.

10. Capacity building and transfer of knowledge

NA

11. Consultant's qualifications and experience

A. Consultant

The consultant will have overall responsibility for the assignment of the selection of cascade tanks

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Qualifications and skills; General professional experience

The Consultant should possess the following qualifications and experience as a minimum standard Post graduate degree/ bachelor's degree in statistics; or other relevant field with knowledge of statistics;

- a) The consultant shall have at least 10 years of experience in data analysis in the context of rural development.
- b) Number of successfully completed data analysis carried out
- c) Excellent communication skills
- d) Excellent report writing, computer and analytical skills

Specific professional experience of the consultant`

- a) Should have at least 05 years of working experience in analysis & modeling including, similar experience in the areas of evaluation of institutional processors or similar in nature of works is preferred

B. Associates:

Adequate no. associates as required to complete the task to be proposed.

If the consultant believes she/he are in need of additional experts to carry out the assignment, the additional expert's details and qualification details are to be submitted for review.

12. Location and period of execution

SARP Project Management Unit, 2/2/1, Kandewatta Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

And other relevant government implementing partner's offices (for Meetings and discussions)

Period of Execution: 60)days

13. Project coordination

Project Director and Social Inclusion and Institutional Development Specialist

14. Services and facilities to be provided by the client

- The SARP (procuring entity) will facilitate to coordinate with all 39 ASCs in the 6 project districts
- The SARP will not provide any human resources, office space, office furniture, computer equipment, the internet and other telecommunication facilities, vehicles or transport services and any other equipment or service which would be required to provide this consultancy service.
- Relevant staff should promptly answer for any queries or clarifications with regard to the assignment.

15. Services and facilities to be provided by the consultant

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- The assignment shall start immediately following receiving of letter of awarding
- consultant and its associates shall cover their travel, accommodation and per diem expenses which will be occurred for performing the consultancy themselves.
- The consultant shall be equipped with all required office space, tools and materials such as laptop, printers, internet facilities, stationeries etc. as required.
- Deliverables must be mutually satisfactory to SARP/MoAPI and the IFAD. It is advisable to submit some of sub deliverables before the given deadline to avoid unnecessary delays.
- The consultant will provide weekly updates of tasks carried out and participate in regular meetings or teleconference discussions upon request from either SARP or the IFAD.

16. Payment Mode

- 1st Payment 10% of the initial contract amount will be made on submission of the action plan with a time frame for the deliverables.
- 2nd part of the payment 40% will be made after submission and acceptance of the first draft of the report
- 3rd and final payment 50% will be made after Submission finalized report

Technical Proposal

- a) Consultant (applicant) profile
- b) CVs of associates (members) that will conduct the assignment; the CV should make special reference to knowledge and experience related to matters specific to this assignment

Financial Matter Proposal

- a) Financial remuneration shall be negotiated in the time of interview or later on.



Annex 1 List of Agrarian Service Centers with contact details

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Ref. No: *[insert reference number]*