



Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP)

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation



Vacancies

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. The lead programme agency is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation, which would be establish a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs the implementation of SARP. Total project finance value is USD 59.57 Mn.

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the below mentioned positions of for Project Management Unit at Battaramulla and Hub offices (Nikaweratiya and Medawachchiya).

1. **Rural Finance Specialist (Category C) - 01 Position at PMU**
2. **Nutrition Specialist (Category C) - 01 Position at PMU**
3. **Area Coordinator (Category C) - 02 Positions at HUBS (Nikaweratiya & Medawachchiya)**
4. **Accountant (Category D1) – 02 Positions at PMU & Medawachchiya HUB**
5. **Internal Auditor (Category D1) – 01 Position at PMU**
6. **Communication and Knowledge Management Officer (Category D) – 01 Position at PMU**
7. **Consultant – Youth (Consultancy Basis) – 01 Position at PMU**

Salary Scale: Based on the Management Services Circular 02/2026.

General Conditions are applicable to the Above - Mentioned Positions.

All the Qualifications should be in the relevant field of the positions.

All applicants are requested to forward their applications along with a Curriculum Vitae, including details of two non-related referees, and copies of all relevant certificates. Applicants who are currently employed in the Government or Semi-Government sector should forward their Curriculum Vitae, including details of two non-related referees and copies of all relevant certificates, through the Head of their institution. All applications should be sent by registered post to the address given below on or before 20th April 2026.

Please visit www.sarp.lk for more details about the required qualifications, experience, and as well as the TOR and application procedure.

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

05th April 2026



Recruitment of
Rural Finance Specialist (Category C)
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP)
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Livestock and Irrigation

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation and jointly financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Sri Lanka is for a period of 6 years (2021 to 2027). This Project (SARP), 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, which would be establish a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs for the implementation. Total project finance value is USD 59.57 Mn.

Applications are invited from qualified Sri Lanka Citizens to recruit Rural Finance Specialist (Category C) and as per Management Service Department (MSD) Circular Number 02/2026 and Government recruitment procedures for the IFAD funded Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP).

The applicant should possess the following qualification and experience given in the Management Service Department (MSD) Circular Number 02/2026 dated 28th March 2026.

1. Rural Finance Specialist (Category C) - Project Management Unit

Qualifications and experience:

Based on the Management Services Circular 02/2026

A Brief Job Description:

The Rural Finance Specialist will work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Project Director & Project Director and in close collaboration with staff in the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Rural Finance Specialist is responsible for the development of rural finance service strategy of the project. The incumbent will familiarize themselves with SARP's investments in agribusiness, production and other elements of the value chain, including any water management approaches, which are expected to be market driven (water user groups) etc. He/she will understand the cash flows of these businesses, and the financial service needs of the population (clients) who will be operating these businesses. IT will pay special attention to elements which restrict project client's access to traditional financial products, inclusive of the status of financial literacy.

General Conditions:

- Age Limit – Below Sixty-four (64) years on the closing date of application.
- All appointments will be initially for a period of one year and extension of services will be based on successful performance.
- Employees are required to travel to project sites depending on the need.
- Working experience in the foreign funded projects in Sri Lanka is preferable
- Proficiency in English, Computer Literacy and familiarity with government rules and regulations.
- Salary for each position will be based on the Management Services Circular No. 02/2026 dated 28th March 2026.
- Short listed applicants based on qualifications and experience will be called for the interview.

Location:

Project Management Unit is located in Battaramulla and the Hub offices are located in Nikawaratiya and Madawachchiya. However, traveling to project locations are involved frequently.

APPLICATIONS:

All applicants are requested to forward their applications together with Curriculum Vitae with two non-related referees and copies of all the certificates attached, under registered post to the address given below on or before **20th April 2026**.

- Applicants currently in government/ semi government services should forward their applications through their respective Head of Departments.
- Applied post should be clearly stated **on the top left – hand corner** of the envelope containing the application.
- The decision of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigations is final and conclusive on the above recruitments.

Address for Applications

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

For more information, please visit www.sarp.lk. (<https://sarp.lk/vacancies>)

**Project Director
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project
No. 2/2/1, Kandewaththa Road, Pelawaththa, Battaramulla.
email: procurementsarp@gmail.com Phone: 0112770998**

05th April 2026

Terms of Reference (TOR)



Rural Finance Specialist (Category C)

Background

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP) is co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Sri Lanka. It aims to contribute to reduce poverty among small-scale farmers and increase food security and nutrition in dry zones by building resilience and enabling rural households to access markets in geographies affected by climate change. The project is focused in select hotspots in Vauniya, Mannar, Puttlam, Kurunegala and Mathale districts aligned across the Deduru oya, Mee oya and Malwathu Oya river basins. The Total Project Finance Value is USD 59.57 Mn.

Scope of work:

1. Development of SARP's rural financial service strategy. Working closely with the agribusiness specialist colleague. The incumbent will familiarize themselves with SARP's investments in agribusiness, production and other elements of the value chain, including any water management approaches, which are expected to be market driven (water user groups) etc. He/she will understand the cash flows of these businesses, and the financial service needs of the population (clients) who will be operating these businesses. IT will pay special attention to elements which restrict project client's access to traditional financial products, inclusive of the status of financial literacy.
2. The incumbent based on the assessment of the demand for financial services, will assess the supply of financial services which will include the agrarian banks, but not exclusively. From this information and in conjunction with senior PMU staff and an external consultant resource, will develop a rural finance strategy for the project. The strategy should include:
 - a. Initial scoping and diagnostic of potential financial service partners including agrarian banks but not exclusively. This diagnostic will review outreach, liquidity, availability and structure and requirements of finance products (particularly credit) and lead to potentially working partnerships with the financial institutions.
 - b. The above noted assessment of market demand for financial services among project clients.
 - c. A review of the objectives of the SARP project in terms of access to finance, and the role of any matching grants in catalyzing access to finance to achieve these objectives.
 - d. Generation of a series of recommended activities towards achieving the objectives, including partnerships, technical assistance requirements, capacity building (for clients and financial institutions) product development, SARP project processes and guidelines, among other elements to ensure achievement of project interventions and integration with the annual workplan and budget.
 - e. The strategy will also include an assessment and recommendations on how matching grants may be administered and by whom, in order to catalyze lending and financial inclusions by the financial institution partners.
 - f. The rural finance strategy will be developed and approved by the PMU and reviewed by an ISM/Supervision mission for integration into future workplans and budgets.



The rural finance strategy will be expected to identify capacity building needs of the project's clients, as well as that of the partner financial institutions vis a vis the project's rural finance objectives. The incumbent, will identify the support required to deliver this capacity building and technical assistance and may therefore include but not be limited to (subject to the rural strategy finding/activities):

Work with financial institutions in accordance to their needs and diagnostic to develop appropriate financial products (primarily credit) that may or may not utilize the matching grants as a tool. This may include technical assistance, development of product pilots and establishment of links with other project activities etc. These products should attempt to address the needs of the market, and the barriers which potential borrowers have encountered to date.

- Train project staff on re financing model of SARP
- Set criteria to assess the performance of partner financial institutions, including quarterly reporting formats and coordinate the performance assessment in order to assess the capacity of the bank and their staff;
- Work with the partner financial institutions to develop, design and layout of all financial institution staff/product training materials related to designed products, and any related policies and procedures.
- If assessed, work with financial institutions to develop financial literacy activities inclusive of training materials. In the event of several partners FIs who are agrarian banks, this literacy may take advantage of standardization of materials and approaches.
- Participate in organizing workshop(s) related to the business symposia, agro-enterprise development forums etc
- Facilitate linkages between financial institutions and project clients, including partner financial institutions in farmer field school days, market days etc.
- Where there is an opportunity, consider the development of value chain financial products between financial institutions, and any lead or anchor firms involved in the project.
- Any other duties assigned by the Project Director and Deputy Project Director.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's degree in Banking, Rural Finance, Agriculture specialized in economics/extension or any other related field with 10 years of experience working with commercial/rural banks or registered finance/micro-finance institution under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka at managerial level.

And

A Post Graduate Degree (Masters) Qualification in the relevant fields/ An Associate Membership or similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional body in the relevant field.

With

At least Eight (08) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field at a Managerial Level.

Or

2. Class I officer of a government ALL-Island Services or a similar status in the relevant field.

And

A Postgraduate Degree (Masters) Qualification in the relevant field.

With

At least Two (02) years post qualifying experience in the Class I post or a similar status in the relevant field.

Other Required Qualifications and Experiences

- Extensive experience of agricultural finance, micro finance, group loan in Sri Lanka, at least 5 years of experience in Agri product design and pilots, the preparation of training materials and conducting training courses. Financial literacy design and implementation as well as digital finance experience will be considered desired;
- Excellent oral and written skills; excellent drafting, formulation, reporting skills. Solid overall computer literacy, including proficiency in various MS Office;
- Solid overall computer literacy, including proficiency in various MS Office applications (Excel, Word, etc.) and email/internet;
- Excellent interpersonal skills; culturally and socially sensitive; ability to work inclusively and collaboratively with a range of partners, including grassroots community members, and youth organizations, and authorities at different levels; familiarity with tools and approaches of communications for development;
- Fluency in Sinhala and English. Ability to communicate with Tamil will be distinct advantage
- Excellent oral and written skills; excellent drafting, formulation, reporting skills;
- Ability to work and adapt professionally and effectively in a challenging environment;
- Self-motivated, ability to work with minimum supervision; ability to work with tight deadlines;



Salary Scale:

Based on the Management Services Circular 02/2026.

Location and period of execution

The Rural Finance Specialist will be based in Project Management Unit at Colombo with field visits as may be required.

Duration of services

Duration of service is 1 (one) year subject to six (6) months' probation period and extension will be subjected successful performance evaluation according to the Management Service Circular 02/2026.