Consultancy Terms of Reference (TOR) for developing the guideline for the integration of agroecology in extension services in Uganda

BRIEF ABOUT ESAFF UGANDA

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers’ Forum (ESAFF) Uganda is part of a 16-country member regional small-scale farmers Forum (ESAFF) that started in 2002 during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The movement brings together small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fisher folks into a social movement to build common aspirations, learning, and linkages. The forum works to enhance farmers’ ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes through capacity building, advocacy, research, and institutional development. ESAFF Uganda operates in 54 districts with over 248,214 farmers in Uganda.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Agriculture remains a vital sector and the country’s largest employer (NDPIII and Vision 2030). More than 85% of the total population relies on the sector as their primary source of income, with the majority being women small-scale farmers. In the fiscal year 2020/21, the sector grew at a rate of 3.8 per cent, contributing 23.18 per cent to the national GDP. It accounted for 44 per cent of total exports, contributing to Uganda's reduction of negative trade balance by adding value to agricultural raw materials to promote the export expansion of high-value products while encouraging import substitution of agro-industrial products. However, because of COVID-19 on the sector, performance declined in 2020.

Agroecology has been progressively recognised as an appropriate solution especially for the sub-Saharan Africa region as it presents real potential for solving the multiple crises that our planet and humanity face. FAO defines agroecology as a scientific discipline, a set of practices and a social movement. As a science, it studies how different components of the agroecosystem interact; as a set of practices, it seeks sustainable farming systems that optimize and stabilize yields; and as a social movement, it pursues multi-functional roles for agriculture, promotes social justice, nurtures identity and culture, and strengthens the economic viability of rural areas. Thus, the United Nations Food Systems Summit which recently examined how production and consumption of food can deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” with systemic approaches that interconnect solutions and challenges in and beyond the agri-food system, recognised agroecology for having potential for offering more resilient and sustainable agricultural interventions.

Agroecology is increasingly gaining global attention with several debates and actions geared towards its scaling up due to its contributions to the attainment of most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2 on No Hunger, Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 13 Climate Action and Goal 15 Life on Land. The 2nd International Agroecology Symposium held by the FAO in April 2018 in Rome, Italy included the launch of the scaling up agroecology initiative, with a strong call from dialogue to action. The initiative acts as a countermeasure to conventional agriculture with its focus on high inputs and outputs, which has proven to be unsustainable and insufficient to eradicate hunger and poverty – especially in vulnerable parts of the world where there is most need.
Uganda has implemented several extension approaches from which valuable lessons have been gleaned to inform the development of the NAES. These approaches represent the evolutionary responses to the changing contexts and needs of stakeholders and beneficiaries. The approaches include: The Regulatory/and or Coercive Approaches, The model/progressive and or Demonstration Effect Approach, Educational and Methods approaches, Unified Training and Visit Extension Approaches, the National Agricultural Advisory Service Approach, the Operation Wealth Creation (OPWC) and recently the Single Spine Extension System.

Uganda is implementing reforms towards a Single Spine Extension System to improve service delivery and counter the shortfalls of previous agricultural extension approaches. To this effect, a National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP, 2016) and National Agricultural Extension Strategy (NAES) have been developed to realign, coordinate and harmonize pluralistic service providers. A Directorate of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) has been established at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). The Directorate is mandated to coordinate and collaborate with the District Local Governments to deliver Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) using an innovation systems perspective. However, both the agricultural extension policy and strategy have not been operationalised and translated into real practice.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT
The main objective of the assignment is

1. To conduct an in-depth assessment on how agroecology can be integrated in the extension services in Uganda and develop a guide for the integration.
2. To develop key policy recommendations for integrating agroecology in the extension services in Uganda.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS
The consultant or firm will present the following deliverables/outputs;

1. An Inception Report
2. A detailed study report
3. A 4-pager summary of the report

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT/FIRM
The consultant/firm shall perform the following roles/responsibilities;

1. Outline of the work plan for carrying out the assignment;
2. Produce the first draft and amended draft (incorporating comments from relevant reviewers) of the draft report;
3. Participate in a validation workshop of the information with selected stakeholders;
4. Produce the final deliverables according to the agreed timeframe;

REPORTING
The consultant/firm will be supervised by ESAFF Uganda staff managing the consultancy and Programs Manager. The National Coordinator will oversee the consultant, monitor the implementation of the process, and sign off on the final deliverables. The parties shall be responsible for commissioning and managing the consultant/s and contract and finalising details of the work schedule.

TIMEFRAME
ESAFF Uganda expects this assignment to be completed in 14 days.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A LEAD CONSULTANT

| Qualification | Minimum of a master’s degree in Agroecology, Public Policy, Agriculture or any other relevant field of study; |


### Professional experience

1. Knowledgeable about agroecology with practical experience in practice or policy influencing at local, national and regional level.
2. Demonstrable experience in assignments of similar nature, especially policy assessment;
3. Professional experience in conducting research (desk review of documents & analysis);
4. Good analytical skills;
5. Excellent documentation and writing skills, attested by past written papers;
6. Capacity to meet project deadlines.
7. **SAMPLES:** For the proposal to be considered, the service provider must submit two samples of study reports. Samples can be submitted as attached files or web links.

### Other competences

- Ability to work under pressure and in difficult situations.
- Enjoy working in a demand-driven environment, motivated by a willingness to respond rapidly and effectively to the needs of the clients.
- Ability to work in team spirit and have good communication skills.
- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

ESAFF Uganda invites technical and financial proposals from interested firms or individuals for the assignment. The technical proposal must include, among others, a clear concept and work plan. The consultant/firm should also submit detailed profiles/CVs listing the proposed experts' qualifications, experience, and references.

### BUDGET

The fee for the consultant will be negotiated and applied by ESAFF Uganda policies/regulations.

### SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Interested consultants/firms are expected to send their CV to coordinator@esaffuganda.org before 5:00 PM on 1st March 2023.

Only complete bids submitted by mail will be considered.