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**Consultancy Terms of Reference (TOR) to Conduct a citizen Review of the Performance of NDP III on Land Governance Targets and Develop Brief Notes Highlighting the Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits of Prioritizing Land Governance Within NDP IV & NLP.**

**Brief about ESAFF Uganda**

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers’ Forum (ESAFF) was formed in an effort to create a Forum to bring together small-scale farmers into a social movement to influence favorable agriculture policies and practices at global, continental, regional, national and local levels. ESAFF Uganda is the largest small-scale farmer-led advocacy movement in Uganda. ESAFF Uganda works to enhance the SSFs ability to make informed decisions and participate meaningfully in development processes. ESAFF Uganda currently has a membership of 12,543 farmer groups with 384,056 individual small-scale farmers of which 67 per cent are women in 54 districts. ESAFF Uganda is also part of a bigger network of small-scale farmers in 15 other countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

**Introduction.**

The National Land Policy (NLP) 2013 and the National Development Plan III (NDP III) are critical frameworks that guide land governance and agricultural development in Uganda. As the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development (MoLHUD) embarks on a review of the National Land Policy and simultaneously implements the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV), it is essential to assess the current progress made under NDP III and evaluate how land governance objectives are being integrated into the new NDP IV. This consultancy seeks to provide a citizen-centered review of land governance within these frameworks, ensuring that small-scale farmers, particularly those represented by ESAFF Uganda, are fully informed and actively engaged in the review process.

**Importance of Land Governance in Agricultural Development.**

Land governance plays a crucial role in the agricultural development of Uganda, as it directly impacts the livelihoods of small-scale farmers, who make up the backbone of Uganda’s agricultural sector. Effective land governance ensures secure land tenure, equitable access to land, and efficient use of land resources. Small-scale farmers, particularly women and marginalized groups, depend on secure land rights to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, improve food security, and generate income. As such, land governance directly influences economic, social, and environmental outcomes for farmers and rural communities.

The National Land Policy (NLP), which was introduced in 2013, aimed to address the historical injustices in land tenure systems and promote sustainable land management. However, its implementation has been fraught with challenges, including weak enforcement of land rights, limited awareness of land policies among farmers, and insufficient integration of land governance into broader development frameworks. Given the transformative role that land governance plays in agricultural development, it is crucial to ensure that land-related targets are prioritized within both the NDP IV and the upcoming NLP, aligning these with the goals of the International responsible land governance frameworks.

**Context of NDP III and NDP IV.**

The National Development Plan III (NDP III), which covers the period from 2020 to 2025, outlines a comprehensive approach to achieving Uganda’s Vision 2040 goals. Among its targets are those related to land governance, which focus on enhancing land administration, improving land security, and promoting sustainable land use practices. However, despite these targets, the land governance performance under NDP III has faced challenges, particularly in terms of policy implementation, access to land services, and the integration of small-scale farmers into decision-making processes.

With the recent passing of the NDP IV, which is set to guide the country’s development from 2025 onwards, it is essential to ensure that the land governance indicators in NDP IV are coherent with the National Land Policy and that they are effectively tailored to address the needs of small-scale farmers. NDP IV provides an opportunity to correct the gaps identified in NDP III, ensuring that land governance becomes a key enabler of sustainable agricultural development.

**Rationale for the Review**.

Given the critical role of land governance in shaping the livelihoods of small-scale farmers, this consultancy is necessary to evaluate the performance of land governance under NDP III and to propose actions for improved integration of land governance indicators into NDP IV. This review will provide ESAFF Uganda and other stakeholders with critical insights into the challenges and opportunities in land governance and offer a roadmap for ensuring that land governance is prioritized within the NDP IV framework.

**Objectives of the Consultancy**.

The primary objectives of this consultancy are to:

* Identify the achievements, gaps, and challenges in the implementation of land governance targets under NDP III.
* Analyze the proposed land governance actions in NDP IV, ensuring coherence with the National Land Policy and assessing their potential for improving land service delivery to small-scale farmers.
* Provide critical information to small-scale farmers to enable them to meaningfully participate in the review process of the National Land Policy.
* Suggest actions to ensure that NDP IV aligns with the National Land Policy, addressing the challenges faced by small-scale farmers and promoting sustainable land governance.

**Expected Outcomes and Benefits.**

This consultancy will deliver key insights into the land governance performance in Uganda, particularly in relation to NDP III vs NDP IV to inform NLP. The key outcomes include:

* Understanding the coherence of land governance actions within NDP III and NDP IV.
* Suggestions on how to strengthen the land governance indicators in NDP IV, and alignment with the National Land Policy.
* By involving small-scale farmers in the review process, this consultancy will equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively in policy discussions and advocate for their rights within the on-going NLP review process.
* The review will help harmonize the objectives of NDP IV with the National Land Policy, ensuring that the land governance framework is comprehensive and effective in promoting equitable and sustainable land use.

**Justification for the Consultancy.**

This consultancy is timely given the ongoing review of the National Land Policy and the conclusion of NDP III, followed by the development of NDP IV. It is essential that land governance becomes a core component of the new development plan, ensuring that small-scale farmers’ needs and perspectives are addressed. By conducting this review, ESAFF Uganda will be able to contribute directly to shaping policy that can improve land tenure security, facilitate access to land services, and promote sustainable land use practices, which are vital for the agricultural and economic development of Uganda.

The findings from this consultancy will serve as an important resource for ESAFF Uganda, government agencies, and other stakeholders involved in land governance, ultimately leading to better policy and more inclusive land governance mechanisms that benefit small-scale farmers across Uganda.

**Geographical scope.**

The review will cover all districts in Uganda where ESAFF Uganda operates, including the 54 districts that are part of the organization’s membership base. The focus will be on gathering feedback from local communities and small-scale farmers in these districts.

**Specific Tasks of the Assignment.**

The consultant will undertake the following tasks:

* Conduct a comprehensive desk review of NDP III’s land governance targets, assessing progress and identifying shortcomings.
* Engage with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local authorities, farmer groups, civil society organizations, and experts in land governance.
* Gather citizen perspectives through surveys, interviews, or focus group discussions, particularly focusing on small-scale farmers and their experiences with land governance.
* Assess the economic, social, and environmental impacts of land governance policies on small-scale farmers and local communities.
* Develop a report that analyzes the findings and provides concrete recommendations for improving land governance in NDP IV.
* Provide a summary of the economic, social, and environmental benefits of prioritizing land governance in NDP IV.

**Study Methodology.**

The consultant is expected to use a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods to gather data. These may include:

* Desk reviews of existing reports and documents related to NDP III and land governance.
* Stakeholder interviews with government officials, land experts, and civil society organizations.
* Surveys or questionnaires targeting small-scale farmers and other community members.
* Focus group discussions with affected communities.
* Data analysis and synthesis to identify key trends, gaps, and recommendations.

The consultant should outline a detailed methodology in the inception report, which will be subject to ESAFF Uganda’s approval.

**Outputs/Deliverables:**

The consultant will be required to provide the following deliverables:

1. **Inception Report:** The report must outline the study methodology, the implementation plan, and the consulting team’s profile. The inception report must be submitted within 5 days of contract signing.
2. **Data Collection Tools:** Develop and submit tools for data collection, such as survey questionnaires or interview guides, which will be approved by ESAFF Uganda.
3. **End of Assignment Report:** A comprehensive final report detailing the findings of the citizen review, including an analysis of the performance of NDP III in land governance, challenges, impacts, and recommendations for NDP IV.
4. **Brief Notes:** Develop a separate set of brief notes that highlight the economic, social, and environmental benefits of prioritizing land governance within NDP IV.

**Duration**

The assignment will take a period of one month (March to April 2025) after the signing of the contract and the approval of the methodology.

**Reporting**

The consultant will report directly to the Program Manager. The final approvals will be done by the National Coordinator.

**Requirements**

The consultant/ service provider appointed will have the following skills, attributes and experience:

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| Qualification | At least a bachelor’s degree in social science, journalism, law, land governance, mass communication or any other relevant discipline. |
| Professional experience | * Minimum 3 years of hands-on experience in documentation of experiences, project outcomes in the area of agriculture, Land and Human rights. * A sound and comprehensive understanding of the agriculture and land sectors. * Evidence of availability of appropriate qualifications, work force and skills among other key staff earmarked for deployment on the assignment. * Creative communication skills. * Excellent analytical and evaluation report writing skills. * Understand the role of communication in development and ensuring transparency. |
| Other competences | * For the proposal to be considered, the consultant must submit 2 samples of analytical work of the kind in the agriculture or land field. * 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 produce high quality, creative communications materials and proven track record of previous communications achievements |

**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 with the proposal detailed profiles/CVs listing the qualifications, experience and references of the proposed experts.

**Submission of Technical and financial proposals**

A technical and financial proposal detailing the methodology and implementation plan for the assignment shall be submitted in softcopy to coordinator@esaffuganda.org by 12:00 PM, 17th March 2025.