

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AGRIBUSINESS SPECIALIST UNDER IRRIGATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECT (ICRP)

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Uganda (GOU) represented by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the implementation of the Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project (ICRP). The project development objective (PDO) is to provide farmers in the project areas with access to irrigation and other agricultural services, and to establish Operation and Maintenance arrangements for irrigation service delivery. The 6-year project will be implemented by MWE.

The Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project (ICRP) aims to support the Government of Uganda (GoU) in the shift towards more resilient agriculture through the development of sustainable irrigation services. The project intends to address Uganda's climate change vulnerabilities by: (i) promoting adoption of irrigation by small farmers, in synergy with other agriculture inputs and technologies; (ii) increasing water storage capacity; (iii) promoting drainage; and (iv) promoting sustainable catchment management. Through the introduction of irrigation services, combined to the provision of extension services and facilitated access to agri-inputs, farmers are expected to record more stable and higher yields, increase intensification (by cropping also during the dry season), and diversification (by introducing higher value crops). This change will be pulled by the market, with irrigation becoming the anchor for stronger producer organizations and development of value chains. The project recognizes the need to explore a range of irrigation models adapted to local needs.

The ICRP Project Implementation arrangements require a Project Support Team (PST) to be established under Component 3 to augment the MWE Staff capacity for the smooth implementation of the Project. One of the staff required under the PST is the **Agri-Business Specialist**.

MWE now invites suitably qualified individuals, with qualifications and experience as detailed below to apply for the position of **Agri-Business Specialist**. The successful candidate will be required to commence work as soon as possible. The assignment shall be for a period of two years subject to probation period of six months, and renewable subject to satisfactory performance.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Agribusiness Specialist will lead Strengthening of Farmer Groups for Value Addition and Market Linkages. This will include building the capacity of value chain actors for improved post-harvest handling, agro-processing and enhanced market access. The Agribusiness Specialist will collaborate with relevant departments, institutions, and service providers in the development and execution of agribusiness interventions.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

- i. Provide technical support on planning, implementation and monitoring of agribusiness activities in the schemes

- ii. Build capacity of MAAIF, Local Governments, farmers and private sector players on implementation of agribusiness interventions in value addition and market access
- iii. Guide and promote market linkages between farmers and off-takers in each of the target value chains
- iv. Support linkages between farmers and financial institutions to increase access to financial services
- v. Provide specific Technical inputs in reviewing business plans submitted to the project, make recommendations that will enhance the quality and sustainability of the funded agribusinesses
- vi. Identify market opportunities and build the capacity of farmers in meeting grades and standards to sustainably exploit them
- vii. Support increased access to and use of market information
- viii. Oversee project activities on increasing access to and use of financial services
- ix. Guide the formation of a market platform to bring together all the key actors in the selected value chain
- x. Ensure gender and environmental considerations and issues are streamlined in the agribusiness activities
- xi. Provide technical assistance in development of higher level farmers organizations
- xii. Work closely with financial institutions to identify relevant financial services products for program beneficiaries and identify constraints to access;
- xiii. Document best practices and lessons learnt of the project and support to replicate it
- xiv. Review consultants reports and make summaries of key issues and reports to the relevant stakeholders for action

4. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- i. Annual and Quarterly progress reports
- ii. Quarterly capacity building of MAAIF, Local Governments, farmers and private sector players on implementation of agribusiness interventions in value addition and market access conducted.
- iii. Capacity building of farmers conducted as well as market opportunities identified.
- iv. Timely provision of technical assistance in development of higher-level farmers organizations
- v. Acceptable Record Keeping system in place
- vi. Timely Review of consultants' reports and issues identified for action.

5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The desired candidate shall have the following:

- i. Master's degree Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management, Agricultural marketing, Rural Development, or any agricultural related degree obtained from a reputable Institution

- ii. At least five (5) years' experience working with rural micro-to-small scale businesses providing either business development services, training and/or technical assistance
- iii. At least ten (10) years' experience in managing market-led value chain development projects and market systems development
- iv. Experience working in the agricultural sector in Uganda developing value chains preferably on Rice, Coffee, Banana, Vegetables, Irish potatoes, and maize value chains;
- v. At least five (5) years project management and budgeting experience, preferably in projects financed by the World Bank or bilateral or multi-lateral donors;
- vi. Working knowledge of identifying opportunities for value addition and market access at the processor and household level
- vii. Experience in working with financial institutions to improve farmers' access to financial services
- viii. A good knowledge of the local and international marketing issues
- ix. Demonstrated experience in nurturing public-private partnerships
- x. Excellent interpersonal, communication, negotiation, organizational management, and writing skills in English
- xi. Ability to use the latest ICT technology and computer software programs

6. REPORTING

The position holder will work as Agribusiness Specialist for the Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project (ICRP) reporting to the Project Coordinator.

7. DUTY STATION

The Project Support Officer will be stationed at the Kampala and Entebbe, Uganda

8. TIMELINES

The assignment shall be for a period of two years subject to a probation period of six months, and renewable upon satisfactory performance.