



Kingdom of the Netherlands



SEED SYSTEM FOR SOUTHERN SUDAN (SS4SS)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BASELINE STUDY IN SOUTH SUDAN

1.0 Introduction:

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) was established in 2006 with funding from The Rockefeller Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Both BMGF and Rockefeller Foundation have continued to provide financial support to AGRA, alongside other donors such as the Swedish Government, USAID, Howard Buffet, the Dutch Government, DANIDA, among other donors. AGRA's mission is to trigger a uniquely Green Revolution in sub-Saharan Africa that transforms agriculture into a highly productive, efficient, competitive and sustainable system to assure food security and lift millions out of poverty.

AGRA supports the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and has an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to help countries implement their CAADP Compacts. As AGRA works to support countries National Poverty Eradication Strategies within the framework of Ministries, Departments & Agencies of food and agriculture, AGRA's investments are therefore aligned with the Netherlands Government's policy of support to country poverty reduction efforts.

AGRA works with African governments, other donors, NGOs, research institutions, the private sector and African farmers to significantly and sustainably improve the productivity and incomes of resource poor farmers in Africa. AGRA is registered as a not-for-profit organization in the US to provide policy advocacy, resource mobilization functions and programmatic operations. AGRA is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya and has a West Africa regional office in Accra, Ghana.

The vision of AGRA is a food secure and prosperous Africa achieved through rapid, sustainable agricultural growth based on smallholder farmers who are primarily engaged in the production of staple food crops in Africa. AGRA's main goals by 2020 are to: a) Reduce food insecurity by 50 percent in at least 20 countries, b) Double the incomes of 20 million smallholder families and c) Put at least 15 countries on track for attaining and sustaining a uniquely African Green Revolution.

2.0 Background

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) through its Program for Seed System (PASS) received funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) Southern Sudan to develop and implement a program that promotes improved and sustainable seed systems in South Sudan. This initiative seeks to:

- (i) To develop capacity for research, seed production and certification through short and long term training of crop and seed technical specialists;
- (ii) To support MAFTAFCRD crop improvement research, seed production and certification activities, and improve seed testing laboratory infrastructure;
- (iii) To develop the seed sector in the production and dissemination of high quality seed of the new, improved crop varieties;
- (iv) To organize, train and support farmer groups to produce seed as out-growers for seed companies and for local distribution;
- (v) To create awareness of the developed crop varieties among farmers and other stakeholders through awareness raising activities including on-farm demonstration plots.

AGRA has developed a set of key performance indicators for the EKN intervention in South Sudan against which progress will be assessed. AGRA is looking to procure a firm ('the consultant') to conduct a baseline study in South Sudan.

2.0. Objective of the study:

The aim of the study is to provide a status analysis of the target indicators prior to EKN intervention, against which progress will be assessed. This will enable AGRA and EKN evaluate the extent to which its objectives have been achieved. The baseline study will primarily focus on the developed set of outcome and output indicators. Most of these are quantitative while others relate to the more qualitative aims of **SS4SS** with respect to behavioral change, youth and gender related issues that should take into account factors such as differences in status, roles,

constraints, opportunities, access to and control over resources of women and men, as farmers. The baseline study therefore will provide benchmark data against which achievements can be evaluated especially in respect to the set indicators while identifying the role of other players in the sector in South Sudan.

3.0. Scope of work:

The Consultant will design and conduct a gender sensitive multi-dimensional baseline study. The study will include qualitative and quantitative approaches with a variety of primary and secondary data sources including participatory methods. The data sources could include monitoring and evaluation reports, primary household interviews, focus groups, key informant interviews, desk-top analysis, historical data and trends to cover all the different dimensions of the intended benefits of SS4SS and how it affect the different constituencies of the target beneficiary population.

The Consultant will be expected to work closely with the PASS M&E Officer who has oversight responsibilities for South Sudan. The EKN Independent Expert and the PASS M&E Program Officer will provide inputs into the TOR; approve the study proposal, methodologies and instruments. The Consultant will also be expected to liaise with Government information systems and other development partners in obtaining some of the already available data.

The study proposal should elaborate the methodology or combination of methodologies to be used, and ensure that sample sizes and the structure for quantitative surveys will generate statistically acceptable information. The overall sample size calculation and sample selection should follow acceptable statistical procedures to help achieve the objectives of the study. Qualitative information should be accorded equal importance. It is important that the study is designed taking into account SS4SS objectives, strategy, activities, outputs and outcomes as spelled out in the project document. The study will cover the project intervention zone, the Green Belt area spanning the Greater Equatoria states (Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states) and Western Bar el Ghazal States.

The consultant will collect information on national institutions (MAFCRD), private sector, farmer organizations and households in the area of research in crop improvement, seed production and certification, seed distribution and the use of improved seed by smallholder farmers. The area of focus will include (but not limited to):

A. MAFTAFCRD

- Institutional capacity
- Human capacity
- The status of the infrastructure

B. Private seed companies and agro-dealers

- Supply
- Buyers
- Marketing arrangement
- Participation in subsidy schemes
- Relationship with government institutions
- Access to credit
- Cost, sales and profit

C. Farmers organizations

- Organization capacity
- Access to input and structured output market
- Gender composition and membership dynamic

D. Farmer household

- Structure, activities and sources of income of households
- Use and tenure of agricultural land
- Knowledge (on), attitude (towards) and use of agricultural inputs (improved seed, fertilizer, herbicides/pesticides, etc.)
- Agricultural productivity and production of key crops
- Output markets and access to credit

4.0. Key Milestones, Deliverables, and Time Frame

The Consultant will meet with the AGRA Monitoring and Evaluation team to clarify the study objectives, design and approach for the baseline study. The Consultant (firm) shall submit an inception report containing the agreed study points, the approach and plan to cover the Study within a 14- day period after signing the contract.

4.1 Deliverables

- a) Inception Report should be delivered not later than 14 days from the date of signing the contract
- b) Draft report (a draft report will be required for comment by the M&E team prior to finalization);
- c) Final report
- d) Oral presentation to the M&E and PASS teams in Nairobi, Kenya may be required;
- e) A master copy of the final report suitable for reproduction
- f) Soft copies of the final report

4.2 Time Frame

The study is expected to be completed within a 45 - day period.

5.0 Budget and Proposed Payment Schedule:

The Consultant will submit a budget breakdown in US Dollars. The budget presented should include fees, travel and subsistence, reproduction charges, courier costs (if applicable) and taxes. Unit costs should be calculated as a per day tariff (e.g. fees).

6.0. Management Arrangement

The Consultant will report to the Director Monitoring & Evaluation through the PASS M&E Program Officer based in Nairobi.

7.0. Submission of proposal

The proposals shall be submitted in two parts, i.e. Technical and Financial. The technical proposal should include the firm's profile detailing the experience, CVs of the proposed team members and the methodology to be used. The financial proposal should indicate a detailed budget in US Dollars and the total cost of the study including taxes.

Interested consultants or consulting firms are requested to submit proposals by email to mande@agra.org by **January 20th 2014**.

8.0 Specifications of the Consultant Team

The consultant will be selected on the basis of their proven experience, qualifications and ability to deliver a quality product in a timely and efficient manner in South Sudan. Minimum qualifications and experience of the team members will include:

- MSc in Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences, or related field and at least 5 years of relevant experience (leader);
- 5 years' experience in survey fieldwork (data collection, validation, entry and analysis)
- Proven track record in conducting agriculture related studies including the capacity assessment of capacity of agricultural organizations;
- Experience in leading teams in field (training, field logistics, human relations, teamwork)
- Demonstrable ability, experience and the capacity to undertake the study in South Sudan;
- Excellent writing skills, with publication record in one discipline related to assignment
- Demonstrable analytical skills; and
- Excellent English communication skills.