REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM INTERESTED ENVIRONMENT SPECIALIST

Terms of Reference for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along Vegetable Value Chains in Buuri Sub-county, Meru county, Kenya.

1. Introduction

Traidcraft Exchange (TX) in partnership with Farm Concern International is implementing a three-year project titled, Sustainable Agriculture & Women’s Advancement: Improving Livelihoods and Establishing Women led Enterprises with Smallholder Farmers in Meru County Kenya (SAWA).

The project is in the second year and Traidcraft Exchange plans to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along the target vegetable value chains in Buuri sub-county in Meru County. The project is promoting adoption of various sustainable agricultural practices among target beneficiaries who are mainly smallholder vegetable farmers and therefore the project seeks to understand how these practices impact the environment within the target project area. This Terms of References is intended to guide the consultant and all who will be involved in the assessment.

2. The Organizations

Traidcraft Exchange is the UK’s only development charity specializing in making trade work for the poor by working to enable poor producers in Africa and Asia to grow their businesses, find markets, and engage effectively in trade. Traidcraft’s mission is to fight poverty through trade, practicing and promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries transform their lives. Established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, we combine a trading company and a development charity – Traidcraft Exchange. We build lasting relationships with producers, support people to trade out of poverty and work to bring about trade justice.

Farm Concern International, FCI is a Regional Market Development Agency, developing pro-poor market development models and strategic alliances to enhance economic growth among smallholder poor communities in various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. FCI Commercialization and market development initiatives are benchmarked to private sector market development approaches with an aim of enhancing the competitiveness of the smallholder in the marketplace. The pro-poor business models are geared towards enhancing sustainability and profitability amongst smallholder farming communities in Africa. The organization vision is to have commercialized smallholder communities with increased incomes for improved, stabilized & sustainable livelihoods in Africa and beyond.

3. The Project

Sustainable Agriculture & Women’s Advancement (SAWA) Project is a three-year project (September 2018- August 2021) being implemented by Traidcraft Exchange in partnership with Farm Concern International in Meru county, Kenya with funding from UK government, as well as donations from individuals in UK. The project aims to improve the sustainable livelihoods of 2120 smallholder farmers in Meru, Kenya. SAWA project will economically empower and improve the sustainable livelihoods of 1590 women and 530 men smallholder vegetable farmers in Buuri sub-county, Meru, Kenya. There will be a 50% increase in annual net income from sales of targeted crops (Red bulb onions, Irish potatoes, carrots and Traditional African Vegetables -TAVs). SAWA will adapt the Commercial Village
Model to promote women’s entrepreneurship through collective organization, improved business skills and links with private sector and government stakeholders. SAWA is focusing on four value chains with proven market opportunities: potato, bulb onion, carrot and Traditional African Vegetables (TAV). Promotion of target vegetables for domestic markets is expected to reduce overreliance on export markets, thereby providing a cushion from inequitable trading practices and volatility in export markets.

The project is expected to deliver the following:

- **Impact**: Reduced household poverty and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder horticulture farmers, particularly women in Meru County, Kenya.
- **Outcome**: Improved economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods of 1,590 women (30% from Female Headed Households and 70% from Male Headed Households) and 530 men smallholder vegetable farmers in Timau, Kisima, Kirua and Ruiri wards of Buuri sub-county, Meru County, Kenya.

The project expected outputs include:

- **Output 1**: 2120 smallholder vegetable farmers are better organized and work collectively to access markets efficiently.
- **Output 2**: 2120 smallholder vegetable farmers demonstrate improved production through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Output 3**: 1,590 women smallholders participating in vegetable value chains have increased influence in decision-making through participation, engagement and leadership.
- **Output 4**: 2120 smallholder vegetable farmers have improved access to markets and better terms of trade through partnerships with government and private sector.

At its heart, SAWA project seeks to increase the visibility, voice, choice and control of women in the vegetable value chain. Women’s economic empowerment will be achieved by organizing and building the capacity of farmers (especially women) to enabling efficient market access, improved production and better terms of trade.

The project key activities include:

- Equipping smallholder farmers with skills and knowledge to improve production practices;
- Creating an enabling environment for women to have a voice, gain confidence and become actively engaged in decision making and leadership;
- Organization of farmers into producer commercial groups using Commercial Village Model to improve collectivize action and inclusivity;
- Establishing partnership with private sector and government stakeholders in the vegetable sector to improve market efficiency, with a specific focus on benefiting women;
- Facilitate access to business development services, finance and markets.
4. Purpose of The Consultancy Assignment
The purpose of this consultancy assignment is to:

- Identify and analyze environmental impacts of agricultural practices along the target value chains during and after the project closure in Buuri sub-county.
- Recommend measures and strategies to address and mitigate adverse environmental impacts different ecological zones.
- Develop Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which describes how the identified impacts are dealt with and parameters to be monitored.

In order to attain a better grasp on the ill effects of climate change on farmers, the project needs to undertake a very focused but comprehensive study. The purpose of this research would be to collect information about the current agricultural practices of the farmers, understand the coping mechanisms they use to tackle the effects of climate change, assess each of the alternative strategies they use and test their suitability to a specific region and to analyse the environmental impacts of current agricultural practices. Based on the information gathered, Traidcraft Exchange will adapt the project implementation plan for the remainder of the project.

The study should endeavour to:

- Gather more in-depth information about the diverse climactic features of the various ecological zones in the target wards within Buuri sub-county (such as drought, erratic rainfall).
- Assess the current livelihood conditions of poor and marginal farmers in the proposed areas.
- Understand how and to what extent the environment and climate change affects the lives of poor and marginal farmers in these specific ecological zones in terms of basic livelihood factors such as water and sanitation, food consumption.
- Undertake soil analysis to understand the types of soil, fertility levels and proposed measures for enhancing soil health and organic farming.
- To understand how and to what extent the environmental conditions (including soil health) and climate change specifically affects farming practices such as cropping pattern, cultivation practices, productivity, production cost particularly with reference to the target crops.
- To gain better insight about the various measures that farmers use to cope with changes in climactic conditions such as serious drought, flash floods, erratic rainfall patterns.
- To evaluate the extent to which the coping mechanisms used by farmers are suitable to a particular ecological zone.
- To identify alternative, feasible strategies which may be more appropriate and effective in terms of improving their lives and livelihoods.
- Seek out the most effective (technology and costs) mitigation and adaptation practices based on agro ecological characteristics for farmers so that they can successfully tackle climate change.
- Identify ways and means to help farmers access domestic supply chains which will enable them to benefit more from the mitigation and adaptation practices that they have implemented.
- Identify ways to ensure that women benefit as much or more from the technologies being suggested.

5. Expected deliverables
- Inception report
• Questionnaires
• Environmental Impact Assessment Report in MS Word
• Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
• Summary of the report in MS PowerPoint
• Presentation of the EIA findings to project team

6. Project documentation

Traidcraft will make available a range of relevant project documents that the consultant should refer to primarily the approved project proposal document, the project monitoring and progress reports.

7. Timeframe

This assignment is expected to last not more than 16 days and shall commence on or about 30\textsuperscript{th} January 2020 and shall be completed on or before 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2020. It is however appreciated that the actual consultancy period will be determined by such developments as responsiveness of stakeholders’ and this will be communicated as the case may be.

8. Selection criteria

To carry out the above detailed task Traidcraft is looking for a consultant who will be responsible for initiating and undertaking the entire study. He/she will be recruited based on:

• Qualification, skills and experience of the consultant
• Experience and practical knowledge of the sector
• Experience being engaged in organizations or projects involved in environment and climate related initiatives
• Experience doing secondary and primary research in general and specifically in issues associated with climate change
• Knowledge to help design the entire study, including guiding the development of questionnaires, outline for focus group discussions and key informant interviews and conduct primary and secondary data collection.
• Quality and relevance of methodology proposed
• Clarity of understanding of the task at hand as described in consultants’ own words in the proposal.
• Value for money including comparison of proposed costs and methodology.
• Flexibility in terms of schedule and availability

9. Submission guidelines

Interested parties should submit their technical proposal by 3.00 pm Thursday 16\textsuperscript{th} January 2020.

Proposals from interested consultant should include the following details:

• Profile of the consultant who will undertake the tasks
• Understanding of the task
• The approach/methodology which will be used to undertake the assignment (include an example of the report outline).
• Detailed EIA activity plan for undertaking the assignment
• Budget (Daily fee rates and projected field expenses)
• A list of previously similar assignments conducted
• Referees

Questions or proposal should be addressed to Janet Ruminju, Programme Manager; Email: Janet.Ruminju@traidcraft.org; Tel: +254722386335.