

Terms of Reference
International Consultant of Irrigation Design
Package No. MAF/IC-30

Position: International Consultant of Irrigation Design.
Contracting Authority: MAF- DoPF
Location: Based in Vientiane at the Department of Planning and Finance with extensive travel in the 5 project provinces.

1. Introduction

The ACP comprises the following four components: (a) Improved Agricultural Efficiency and Sustainability, (b) Enhanced Agricultural Commercialization, (c) Project Management, and (d) Contingent Emergency Response.

Component A - Improved Agricultural Efficiency and Sustainability (est. US\$ 18.2 million, of which International Development Association (IDA) would finance around US\$ 16.3 million). This component will support: (a) the increased adoption of improved varieties and high-quality seeds, (b) the increased application of good agricultural practices, (c) the provision of critical productive infrastructure, and (d) the strengthening of public services delivery.

Subcomponent A1: Promoting Adoption of Good Varieties and Quality Seeds (estimated US\$2.5 million, of which IDA would finance around US\$2.3 million)

This subcomponent will support activities to promote the adoption of good varieties and quality seeds, including the provision of (a) technical assistance (TA) for the establishment of seed multiplication groups (SMGs) and building their capacity to adopt good varieties and quality seeds (including ones resistant to climate variability such as floods and drought) ; (b) Matching Grants to selected SMGs to carry out Sub-projects (i.e., small works, goods, equipment, and so on) for improving the production and postharvest handling, packaging, and storage of quality seeds; (c) technical and material assistance (i.e., small works, goods, equipment, training, and so on) to build the capacity of Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Offices (PAFOs), District Agricultural and Forestry Offices (DAFOs), MAF technical departments, and research institutions to conduct training for SMGs and to carry out seed quality monitoring and certification; and (d) TA to link SMGs with Farmer Production Groups (FPGs) and agribusinesses in marketing certified seeds.

Subcomponent A2: Promoting Good Agricultural Practices (estimated US\$7.4 million, of which IDA would finance around US\$6.2 million)

This subcomponent will support activities to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) , including the provision of (a) TA for the establishment of FPGs and building their capacity to adopt GAP; (b) Matching Grants to selected FPGs to carry out Sub-projects that implement GAP; (c) TA and material assistance (i.e., small works, goods, equipment, training, and so on) to build the capacity of PAFOs, DAFOs, and MAF technical departments to conduct training for FPGs on

GAP and to carry out related extension and certification activities including soil analysis, organic fertilizer production, and organic farming; and (d) TA to link FPGs with agribusinesses in marketing farm produce.

Subcomponent A3: Providing Critical Productive Infrastructure (estimated US\$6.2 million, of which IDA would finance around US\$5.7 million)

This subcomponent will support activities to improve critical irrigation infrastructure and water use practices, including (a) rehabilitation of selected irrigation schemes and (b) provision of TA to establish water user groups and to build their capacity to adopt improved water use models. Through improving water use, management, and productivity of existing irrigation schemes, it is expected to enhance their resilience to impacts of climate change.

Subcomponent A4: Strengthening Public Services Delivery (estimated US\$2.1 million, of which IDA would finance US\$2.1 million)

This subcomponent supports activities to strengthen agricultural and nutrition service delivery, including the provision of technical and material assistance (i.e., small works, goods, equipment, training, and so on) to (a) improve the overall extension service capacity of the PAFOs, DAFOs, and MAF technical departments to deliver better quality services to farmers to promote GAP adoption and enhance resilience to climate change; (b) develop and implement mapping and demarcation pilots for agricultural land in irrigated areas; and (c) conduct studies on integrated farming systems and diversification for nutrition, and carry out social behavioral change communication (SBCC) activities related to dietary diversity, adequate care practices, and processing and cooking for improved nutrition

Component B - Enhanced Agricultural Commercialization (est. US\$ 7.2 million, of which IDA would finance around US\$ 4.8 million). The project will support: (a) establishing an Agriculture Value Chain Facility (AVCF), (b) measures to better link farmers to markets, and (c) studies to improve the enabling environment for agro-enterprise and value chain development.

Subcomponent B1: Establishing an Agricultural Value Chain Facility (estimated US\$5.3 million, of which IDA would finance around US\$2.9 million)

This subcomponent will support the establishment and operation of an AVCF for the purpose of extending technical and financial services to agribusinesses, including the provision of (a) TA to establish and operate the facility and provide advisory and Subproject implementation support to agribusinesses; and (b) Matching Grants to selected agribusinesses to carry out Subprojects for upgrading their processing and postharvest handling facilities and their management capacities to improve product quality, increase operational efficiency (including improved energy efficiency), reduce physical losses, and link with FPGs to improve marketing of the farm produce.

Subcomponent B2: Linking Farmers to Markets (estimated US\$1.4 million, of which IDA would finance US\$1.4 million)

This subcomponent will support activities designed to link farmers to markets, including the provision of TA to (a) strengthen the horizontal links of farmers within FPGs for implementing procurement, marketing, and other collective actions, and the vertical links of FPGs and agribusinesses in productive partnerships to undertake further processing and marketing of the produce; and (b) develop an improved agriculture market information system to provide reliable market information for productive partnerships. Through strengthening the market linkages, it is expected to make farmers more resilient to climate change.

Subcomponent B3: Improving the Enabling Environment (estimated US\$0.5 million, of which IDA would finance US\$0.5 million)

This subcomponent will support activities by MAF technical departments, MOIC and other relevant agencies to improve the enabling legal, policy and institutional environment for supporting agribusiness investment and agricultural trade policies, including the development of improved sanitary and phytosanitary standards, rice standards and rice export policies, and improved import and export legislation focusing on agriculture inputs and farm machinery

Component C - Project Management (est. US\$ 2.9 million, of which IDA would finance US\$ 2.9 million). The component will support (a) project management; and (b) monitoring and evaluation.

Subcomponent C1: Project Management (estimated US\$2.4 million, of which IDA would finance US\$2.4 million)

This subcomponent will support the day-to-day implementation, coordination, and management of project activities including planning and execution, financial management (FM), procurement, internal and external audits, and environmental and social safeguards management.

Subcomponent C2: Monitoring and Evaluation (estimated US\$0.5 million, of which IDA would finance US\$0.5 million)

This subcomponent will support the day-to-day monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of project activities.

Component D: Contingent Emergency Response (US\$0 million)

This component with a provisional allocation of zero dollars is included under the project in accordance with OP10.00, paragraphs 12 and 13, for projects in situations of urgent need of assistance or capacity constraints. This will allow for rapid allocation of project proceeds in the event of the Government declaring that a crisis or emergency has occurred and the World Bank Group agreeing with such determination. This component would finance public and private sector expenditures on a positive list of goods and/or specific works, goods, services, and emergency operation costs required for emergency recovery. An Emergency Response Manual (ERM) will apply to this component, detailing FM, procurement, safeguards, and any other necessary implementation arrangements.

The project's implementing agency is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, with its Department of Planning and Finance (DPF) as the main implementing agency. Other implementation partners include technical departments in MAF and Ministry of Industry and Commerce. At provincial level, the department of Agriculture and Forestry (PAFO) will implement project activities in the five following provinces: Khammouane, Bolikhamxay, Xayabury, Vientiane province, and Vientiane Capital. PAFO will also coordinate with the provincial department of industry and commerce (PICO) as well as district offices. The project implementation timeframe is tentatively from June 2018 to 2024.

The DPF will select a qualified national consultant to provide technical support in managing and implementing Subcomponent A1-Promoting Adoption of Good Varieties and Quality Seeds and A2-Promoting Good Agriculture Practices under Component A-Improved Agricultural Efficiency and Sustainability and in close coordination with project activities under Component B- Enhanced Agricultural Commercialization. The consultant(s) will be recruited through a competitive selection process in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in Investment Project Financing dated July 1, 2016, revised November 2017.

2. The Objectives of the Assignment

The consultant will work to expedite implementation of Subcomponent A3 (Upgrading of critical productive infrastructure) of the LACP by (a) providing technical guidance to the National Project Management Office (NPMO) and Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFO and DAFO); (b) strengthening quality control, oversight and finalization of Technical Assessments Reports, Feasibility Studies and Detailed Designs; and (c) provide on-the-job training.

3. Scope of the assignment

The Consultant will carry out the tasks as below:

Batch 1A

- Review Batch 1A feasibility studies and detail designs.
- Provide guidance on technical surveys and design work.
- Follow-up with PAFO, DAFO and local consultants on progress and technical challenges in carrying out technical studies and propose remedial measures.
- Review draft feasibility studies and detail designs prepared by PAFO/DAFO with the support of local irrigation consultants.
- Support the NPMO with quality control and guide finalization of documents.
- Support preparation of bidding documents, as required.

Batch 1B

- Review TARs for Batch 1B and recommend required technical analysis as part of the preparation of Feasibility Studies and Detailed Designs.
- Follow-up with PAFO, DAFO and local consultants on progress and technical challenges in carrying out technical studies and propose remedial measures.
- Support the NPMO with quality control and guide finalization of documents
- Support the incorporation of comments/recommendations received from the Department of Irrigation and the Worldbank
- Prepare an action plan for the conduct of Batch 1B feasibility studies and detailed designs, with clear milestones and deliverables by PAFO/DAFO and the NPMO.

Other tasks

- Consult stakeholders at district, provincial and national level to identify capacity constraints and implementation bottlenecks that impact expedient project implementation.
- Review, update and/or prepare templates, checklists and technical guidance required to efficiently carry out the preparation of works under Subcomponent A3.
- Assess current capacity constraints at the district, provincial and national level to (a) propose adjusted staffing requirements and (b) a programme of training to strengthen the capacity in irrigation system rehabilitation and modernization.
- Develop a roadmap for more expedient implementation of technical studies for Batch 2.

Inputs

The required input of the assignment is 65 working days until 31 December 2020 and may be extended based on performance and needs. The consultant is expected to conduct two 2-week missions to Lao PDR (as current conditions permit) to work closely with project counterparts, while the remainder of the services will be provided remotely.

4. Reporting

The consultant will report to the Project Coordinator NPMO and actively work with the local irrigation consultant engaged by the NPMO, and counterparts at PAFO and DAFO.

5. Duration of the National Consultant Assignment

This assignment will be intermittent with a split mobilization schedule for a total not exceeding 3-man months over a year.

6. Experience and qualifications of the International Consultant

- At least Master Degree in irrigation engineering, rural development or a discipline related to irrigation development.
- At least 10 years' experience in irrigation survey and design, irrigation standards and good practices in irrigation system rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of gravity and pump irrigation in Southeast Asia.
- Demonstrated experiences in conducting field and desk work for pre-feasibility, feasibility studies, technical assessments, detailed design, procurement and implementation supervision.
- Experience in a similar role in at least one irrigation project funded by international/bilateral agencies is considered an advantage.
- Experience in a similar role in Lao PDR is a plus.
- Good English writing skills are considered essential.

7. Source of information

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