

# CONSULTANCY position

# meta-evaluation of Action Against Hunger

# agroecology and agricultural value chains projects

December 2020

## BACKGROUND

In recent years, Action Against Hunger (AAH) developed a strategy on sustainable agriculture and a position paper on agroecology. The position paper lays out AAH motives and support for the promotion of agroecology as stated in the strategy document for agricultural interventions. This strategy is built around four objectives:

* Ensuring agriculture rehabilitation after acute crises;
* Increasing the resilience of small producers and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems;
* Allowing access to a diversified diet;
* Developing advocacy in favour of family farming

The strategy has been implemented through trainings and a number of projects in several countries. Along with the implementation of projects related to agroecology, some activities related to agricultural value chains have recently been initiated in few countries. Action Against Hunger Food Security and Livelihoods Department (FSL) sector is now preparing its next 5 year plan. In this view, there is a need to reflect on the performance of agroecology and value chains projects and learn lessons from these initiatives. An external meta-evaluation will support this analysis.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

The main objective of the consultancy is to conduct a meta-evaluation of Action Against Hunger agroecology and agricultural value chains projects to reflect on the performance of these projects and learn lessons from these initiatives. The objective of the meta-evaluation is to document the diversity of agroecology and agricultural value chain approaches and solutions and their performance (output, outcome), and to produce a set of recommendations, both operational and strategic. The lessons drawn from the meta-evaluation will be used to inform future designs of similar projects in the framework of 2021-2025 AAH FSL action plan.

## METHODOLOGY

The meta-evaluation will take stock of recent and on-going activities related to sustainable agriculture and agricultural value chains, and select a number of countries with good bodies of evidences. Significant agro-ecology programs took place in Bangladesh, Uganda, Niger, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, CAR and Chad, while activities about agricultural value-chains were undertaken in Cameroon, CAR, Iraq, Chad, and DRC. The meta-evaluation will consist in desk and field works. The evaluation team will be reviewing the grey literature and interviewing projects’ stakeholders through on-line surveys and skype calls. A mapping of agro-ecology and agricultural value chains projects will be conducted beforehand and handed to the evaluation team. The mapping will document a set of essential information and support shortlisting of field visits and key interviews.

A couple of field visits, selected by AAH will be conducted to get an in-depth understanding of the project performance and quality. Semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions and other participatory approaches and quantitative analyses shall be used to collect the perspectives of beneficiaries, partners and ACF teams. The evaluation will consider all programs included in the mapping.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

* An inception document detailing the methodology, schedule of activities and tools for data collection
* A draft evaluation report with evidence-based findings, conclusions, lessons and recommendations. The report should not exceed 30 pages. The report will consider all agro-ecology and value chain programs included in the mapping.
* Three capitalization documents, including two on agricultural value chains good practices and success stories, and Power points presentations of the key findings and collective debriefings
* A final end-of-project evaluation report, to be submitted to the sustainable agriculture senior advisor for validation. Annexes to the report should include: ToRs for the meta-evaluation, list of stakeholders interviewed by the evaluation team, etc.

## TIMEFRAME OF THE CONSULTANCY

The assignment will commence in February and should not go beyond April 2020, for a total of 60 days.

## GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATiONS

The consultant team will be supervised by the Sustainable Agriculture Senior Advisor and will work closely with the FSL Technical Advisers and project staffs at Headquarters and in the fields. All necessary logistical arrangements to the field visits including transportation, accommodation and recruitment of data collectors shall be facilitated by the concerned FSL HOD in the field.

* Location: flexible: Home-based or based in Paris HQ. In case of homebased, a mobility is required for participating in Face-to-Face meetings in Paris.
* Flexible timetable to adapt to the time zone and availability of the contributors (based elsewhere in Europe, Africa and Asia).
* All costs related to travels and/or accommodations for the face-to-face meetings will be covered by the consultant
* The consultant should have his/her own computer.

## CONSULTANT selection criteria

The evaluation team will have the following expertise and skills:

* Master in agronomy, agricultural economics, environmental science, development or social sciences
* Knowledgeable about agroecology and sustainable agriculture
* Demonstrated knowledge and hands-on experience in meta-evaluation
* At least 5 years of experience in evaluating agricultural and value chain projects in developing countries
* Good analytical and report writing skills
* Fluent command of English and/or French
* Excellent writing and communication skills in English and/or French

## SELECTION PROCESS

The Consultant is required to respond to the TOR with both technical and financial proposal of not more than six (6) pages detailing how he/she will carry out the activity. The schedule of the activities should also be outlined in the technical proposal. Consultant CV, motivation letter, proof of past experiences on agricultural project evaluation and consultant proposal on how he/she will fulfil the above consultancy tasks should be submitted by email to:

Bader Mahaman Dioula (bmahaman@actioncontrelafaim.org) with copy to Cyril Lekiefs (clekiefs@actioncontrelafaim.org) not later than 20 January, 2020.