

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Agriculture
National Agricultural Technology Program - Phase II Project (NATP-2)

A. Terms of Reference for Specialist Services:

Individual Specialist: Research-Extension Linkage Specialist
(Package No. SD/PMU-IC-05)

Assignment title	Research -Extension Linkage Specialist, PMU
Assignment duration Contract period	Duration: up to 30.09.2021 or upto the project period whichever is earlier, 1 (one) person
Primary assignment location	PMU Office, Dhaka
Funding source(s)	IDA & IFAD Credit
Contracting entity	Head of Procuring Entity (HOPE)

B. Context of the Assignment

Agriculture in Bangladesh comprises crops, livestock and fisheries. It provides food, feed, fiber and fuel to its citizens and animals, and plays a key role in economic development of Bangladesh. For achieving the set goal of SDG and turning Bangladesh into a middle income country by the 2021, the GDP has to grow by 7.4% per year. To attain the rate and to keep pace with the population growth, agriculture must grow at a constant rate of minimum 3-3.5% per year. Reaching technologies to the farmers requires technology generation and dissemination through the research and extension systems. National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is responsible for generating agricultural related technologies and Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Department of Fisheries (DOF), and Department of Livestock Services (DLS) are responsible for extension of generated technology to the farmers. Both research and extension have made an impressive contribution to food security in the country. In Bangladesh, private investment in research and extension is low. The NGOs, local government and community organizations are coming up but very slowly.

Bangladesh agriculture faces many challenges today. Major challenges are to raise productivity and profitability, reduce high production costs, increase price of products and resource-use efficiency, halt declining and degradation of soil resources and declining of animal and fisheries resources, adaptation to climate change vulnerability, providing consumers safe food, yield gap minimization, expansion of irrigation facilities & farm mechanization, production & distribution of quality seeds/varieties/ breeds/fingerlings, quality production of horticultural crop, popularization of good agricultural & IPM practices, weak linkage of farm-produces with market, low investment in agriculture and inadequate credit support to farmers. These challenges have stagnated the agricultural productivity and production. Further, nutrition outcomes and food safety have not kept pace with the progress achieved with most social and economic indicators. Thus, in order to produce more food for an ever increasing population, raw materials for agro-industries and higher income for farming communities from the decreasing resources (land, water, animal and fisheries), it is necessary to develop existing agricultural production system into a more dynamic, market oriented and sustainable commercial sector by higher productivity and profitability through

efficient natural resources management, irrigation expansion, agricultural intensification and diversification, mechanization, value addition and effective market linkages.

To that effect, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) gives top priority to the development of agriculture sector through its increased productivity, production, supply chains, value addition and market linkages. GoB sought the support of development partners such as the World Bank to provide technical and financial support to activities aimed at boosting agricultural production through productivity enhancement, and increasing smallholders' income. In order to improve agricultural productivity and farm income, on the request of the Government of Bangladesh, the World Bank agreed to support a long term agricultural development program over a period of 15 years to be implemented in three phases of five years each with the first phase beginning in July 2007. IFAD also agreed to co-finance the program with the World Bank. Accordingly, the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP): Phase-I (NATP-1) was designed with the development objective of improving the effectiveness of national agricultural technology system (including agricultural research, extension and development of supply chains) and increasing agricultural productivity and farm income in Bangladesh. NATP-1 was initiated in July 2007 and closed in December 2014. NATP-1 has significant achievements in generating technologies, increasing the effectiveness of extension and research systems, development of supply chains and broadening linkages between research-extension-farmers across the project areas. Based on the experience of NATP-1, the World Bank, jointly with IFAD and USAID, decided to provide financial support to GoB for National Agricultural Technology Program- Phase II Project (NATP-2).

C. Project Development Objective :

Project Development Objective (PDO) of National Agricultural Technology Program-Phase II Project (NATP-2) is to increase agricultural productivity of smallholder farms and improve smallholder farmers' access to markets in selected districts. PDO will be achieved through: a) strengthening the capacity of research, extension services and farmers to generate, diffuse and adopt agricultural technologies aimed at increasing farm productivity and reducing post-harvest losses; and b) promoting the sustainability of existing and newly created farmer groups and producer organizations by facilitating their stronger participation in commodity value chain, market-linkages, and improving their knowledge and skill base. Thus, the PDO will be achieved through the generation and release of more productive and locally adapted technologies, enhancing availability of quality seeds/breeds/fingerlings/ breeding materials at the small farm level and providing relevant production, value addition, food safety and marketing support.

D. Project Components:

NATP-2 project will have the following 5 components:

Component-1 (Enhancing Agricultural Technology Generation): To be implemented by the Project Implementing Unit of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (PIU-BARC), MOA;

Component-2 (Supporting Crop Development): To be implemented by the Project Implementing Unit of Department of Agricultural Extension (PIU-DAE), MOA;

Component-3 (Supporting Fisheries Development): To be Implemented by the Project Implementing Unit of Department of Fisheries (PIU-DOF), MOFL;

Component-4 (Supporting Livestock Development): To be implemented by the Project Implementing Unit of Department of Livestock Service (PIU-DLS), MOFL;

Component-5 (Project Management): To be implemented by the Project Management Unit (PMU), NATP-2, MOA.

E. Overall objectives of the Assignment:

Strong Research - Extension Linkage is a pre-requisite for successful technology generation and their adoption by the stakeholders. It is being felt that in Bangladesh linkage among research and extension providers are weak, and in some sub-sectors of agriculture it is very weak. It is therefore needed to strengthen the working relationship among the NARS institutes and the extension providers working under different sub sectors of agriculture under different ministries. Moreover, recent decades, for diversification and addressing needs of varied stakeholders involvement of private sector is important in research and development more particularly in input production and deliveries; improving market chain development, mechanization and post harvest activities. The position of Research-Extension linkage Expert position has been created to look after all those issues.

PMU has provision to hire one Research-Extension Linkage Specialist. He will be hired following procurement guide lines of the World Bank of 2014.

F. Scope of the Assignment :

Research-Extension Linkage Specialist, (PMU) will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- i. Responsible to the PD, PMU;
- ii. Work closely with PIUs and relevant research and extension organizations to facilitate research extension linkage;
- iii. Identify transferable new technologies for validation and popularization;
- iv. Develop plan of activities and facilitate collaborative implementation of research extension program;
- v. Support and coordinate farmer market linkage activities of DAE and Hortex;
- vi. Monitoring of research and extension activities and facilitate meeting like NECC, DECC and Joint review workshop of research and extension;
- vii. Preparation of Periodic and Annual Report and DPP revision;
- viii. Any other work as assigned by the PD.

G. Specialist's qualifications and expertise required:

a. Academic:

1. Minimum Master Degree in any discipline of agricultural science.
2. Candidates having PhD degree may have an added advantage

b. Experience

- i. Minimum 15 years work experience in Agricultural Research, Research Management and Agricultural Extension;
- ii. Work experience in coordinating research & extension activities;
- iii. Minimum 3 years work experience in donor/IDA funded/Development projects (crop, livestock, fisheries and supply chain);
- iv. Experience in managing on-farm research and extension activities is necessary;

- v. Publication of popular article on agriculture/scientific paper/technology handbook/training manual etc. are preferred;
- vi. High level of proficiency in written and spoken English and report writing ability;
- vii. Computer literacy skills (MS Word, Excel, Power Point etc.) is desirable

H. Reporting obligations:

The Specialist will report to the Project Director (PD), PMU, NATP - 2 and will be responsible to him (PD) for all activities. The Specialist will submit inception report. progress report to Project Director quarterly describing progress of implementation with constraints faced and recommendation for measures to be taken to address/ overcome them;. The Specialist shall submit annual report describing activities performed during the year. He will also submit Draft Final Report to Project Director one month before the completion of the assignment. PMU, if required, will provide the Specialist with comments to the draft report and the Specialist shall submit the final report within time frame specified by the Project Director of PMU, NATP-2.

I. Responsibilities of the contracting party:

PMU will provide the following inputs and facilities:

- i) Office space and other logistic support as per project provision;
- ii) All available documents, papers and information relevant to the assignment will be provided/made accessible to the Specialist;

J. Duration of the assignment:

Duration of the consultancy services will be up to 30.09.2021 or upto the project period whichever is earlier. It will be renewed in every year on satisfactory annual performance of the consultant.