

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 Consultant Services:

Individual Consultant: Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist, PIU-BARC
(Package No. SD/PMU/IC-01/ SD/PIU-BARC-9)

Assignment title	Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist, PIU-BARC
Assignment duration Contract period	36 Man Months within the project period, 1 (one) person
Primary assignment location	PIU-BARC Office, Dhaka
Funding source(s)	National Agricultural Technology Program- Phase II Project (NATP-2) (IDA & IFAD Credit)
Contracting entity	Head of Procuring Entity (HOPE) or per DoFP

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 MDG and turning Bangladesh into a middle income country by the 2021, the GDP has to grow by 7% per year. To attain the rate and to keep pace with the population growth, agriculture must grow at a constant rate of minimum 4-4.5% 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 the Bangladesh 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/fingerings/ breeding materials at the small farm level and providing relevant production, value addition, food safety and marketing support.

D. Project Components

NATP-2 project has 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

i) Social Safeguards

NATP-2 activities may have special impacts on women or can enhance benefits to them and other vulnerable groups. The Social Management Framework (SMF) of NATP-2 will include a Gender and Inclusion Framework (GIF) focused on participatory processes, social inclusion and accountability. All sub-projects will follow the guidelines provided in the GIF and maintain the requisite consultation processes and documentation. NATP-2 will design strategies under the GIF to enhance voice, participation and inclusion of women and vulnerable groups through information dissemination, and an on-going strategy for consultation and communication. The mobilization, consultation and communication strategy will be focused on the above. The project will actively seek the participation of marginal, small-scale, women (including female-only households), and near-landless farmers, and specifically address their agricultural technology needs for raising productivity and incomes. Since the geographic coverage of the current project NATP 2 has been extended, it is expected that the project will operate in areas where small ethnic and vulnerable communities live. The NATP-2 will SMF include a Tribal Peoples Development Framework (TPDF) and a screening template to determine if NATP-2 project activities (in particular areas where AIF sub projects will be implemented) include small ethnic and vulnerable communities - in which case the sub-project will be required to prepare and implement a Small Ethnic and Vulnerable Communities Management Framework in compliance with the SEVC Development Framework included in the SMF. The project will ensure consultation and communication with small ethnic and vulnerable communities in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner and seek to enhance their participation and voice in the design and implementation of AIF sub-projects that impact them. In addition to the SEVC Development Framework and the Gender and Inclusion Framework, the SMF will include a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for NATP-2 at the sub-project and the overall project level along with roles and responsibilities stated clearly. Third party monitoring and social accountability elements will be highlighted, and specific M&E indicators and criteria for social assessment performance will be identified. An accessible and usable grievance redress mechanism will be devised in close consultation with communities. The SMF will contain implementation arrangements, reporting and budget indication.

ii) Environment Safeguards

The environmental safeguard policies triggered in NATP-II are Environmental Assessment (OP4.01) and Pest Management (OP 4.09). NATP-II is designed to support sustainable production practices of crops, fisheries and livestock with environmentally-friendly and climate smart innovative technologies, and thus, it is not expected to have any major adverse impacts on the environment. Key environmental issues that will need to be addressed under NATP-II include: (i) potential soil degradation; (ii) potential pollution of the eco-system with agro-chemicals, particularly in ponds and water bodies; (iii) potential pesticide-related health

and safety issues; (iv) food safety issues; (v) possible depletion of groundwater due to irrigation; (vi) saline water intrusion in groundwater and surface water in select sites. Many of these are linked to a potential excessive use by farmers of chemical fertilizers and pesticides beyond recommended levels. However, the above issues are not considered to be critical in NATP-II; minor to moderate impacts that may occur can be avoided or minimized through an appropriate environmental management plan.

The Environmental Management Framework (EMF) will provide details on potential environmental risks in AIF sub-projects and other project activities, and outline procedures to mitigate any potentially adverse environmental impacts; the EMF further will provide guidance for setting up a mechanism for environmental monitoring as well as for capacity enhancement. The EMF will include relevant environmental codes of practices to avert negative impacts and strengthen positive outcomes expected to be generated from project interventions.

iii) A Pest Management Plan (PMP) to address pest infestation and pesticides related issues in NATP-II was developed and disclosed prior to Appraisal. The PMP focuses on the promotion of IPM technologies, judicious use of nationally approved pesticides, environmental code of practices for nutrient and pest management, and creation of awareness about soil and nutrient management.

F. Scope of the Assignment:

- i. Responsible to Director of respective PIU(s) and procuring entity;
- ii. Assure Social and Environmental safeguard measures in research sub-project proposals, technology demonstration and dissemination covering social, economic, demographic, cultural, ecological and other related Social and environmental aspects;
- iii. Prepare environmental and social safeguard plan for research, technology transfer and value chain activities and ensure its implementation;
- iv. Arrange training program/workshops/training events on social and environmental aspects;
- v. Promote and facilitate social and environmental friendly technology;
- vi. Implementation of pest management plan;
- vii. Monitoring and evaluation of safeguard issues based on set indicators;
- viii. Development of simple screening matrix to evaluate safeguard aspects;
- ix. Collect data on social and environmental aspects and maintain database;
- x. Work in close collaboration with social and environmental focal persons;
- xi. Any other tasks as assigned by the authority

G. Consultant qualifications and expertise required:

a. Academic:

1. Master Degree in Science/Agricultural Science/ Social Science (Sociology, Anthropology)/ Environmental Science.
2. Candidates having Ph.D degree in relevant subject may have an added advantage.

b. Experience:

1. Minimum 10 years work experience in social/ environmental related activities in donor/ GOB assisted agricultural Development projects;
2. Proven experience in working with safe food production/ environment related activities;
3. Minimum 3 years work experience in donor/IDA funded/ development projects;
4. High level of proficiency in written and spoken English and report writing;
5. Computer literacy and skills (MS Word, Excel, and Power Point etc.) is essential.

H. Reporting and supervision arrangements:

The Consultant will report to the respective Director of PIUs NATP-2 and will be responsible to them for all activities. The Consultant will submit 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 consultant shall submit Draft Final Report to Project Director one month before the completion of the assignment. PMU, if required, will provide the consultant with comments to the draft report and the consultant shall submit the final report within time frame specified by the respective Director.

I. Responsibilities of the contracting party:

PIUs 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 consultant;

J. Duration: 36 Man Months

Duration of the consultancy services will be 36 Man Months within the project period. It will be renewed in every year on satisfactory annual performance of the consultant.