

## Terms of Reference

### Evaluating the impact of the Development Fund's agrobiodiversity interventions in Ethiopia, Guatemala and Nepal.

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#### 1. Background

The Development Fund of Norway (DF) has in collaboration with local partners in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Malawi, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Somalia worked to strengthen farmers' access and knowledge of locally adapted agrobiodiversity, while at the same time strived to ensure that national institutions and civil society organizations integrate agrobiodiversity in their work.

The working methodologies have mainly revolved around:<sup>1</sup>

- Community seed banks where crop genetic resources identification, seed collection, selection and breeding, multiplication, storage exchange, and marketing is done by organized farmers to ensure access to diverse seeds and dynamic flow of genetic resources.
- Participatory plant breeding and plant selection, where farmers actively taken part in developing and selecting varieties that amongst other are better suited to local weather conditions, handle drought better and are more resistant towards diseases. The participatory plant breeding bring together farmers, plant breeders, extension agents and gene bank experts. Farmers are organized in seed grower associations / clubs.
- Rehabilitation of selected varieties to preserve germination quality and to maintain their distinctive positive traits.
- Strengthening the local seed system by raising awareness and mobilization of local groups, and thus increase the interest amongst local government, civil society organisations and other farmers.
- Empowering individual farmers, groups and their organization for promoting conservation and use of crop genetic resources.

Over 46 000 farmers got better access to quality seeds through a number of community seed banks established through the DF implemented agrobiodiversity program in Ethiopia, Nepal, Malawi, Somalia and Central-America from 2012 – 2016. Over the same time period 69 new plant varieties were developed through participatory plant breeding and 3 169 seed varieties have been rehabilitated and maintained their distinctive positive traits. 13 smallholder farmers' organizations were enabled to commercialize seeds due to revised seed regulations, and 62 new education institutions included participatory plant breeding in their curriculum. <sup>2</sup>

#### 2. Purpose and scope

The Development Fund seeks to conduct an impact study and sustainability of the community-based agrobiodiversity management programme implemented from 2009 to 2016 in Asia, Africa and Central America. The study will also look into relevance and effectiveness of the programme in the changing context such as climate change. The main users of the evaluation are the Development Fund and its implementing partners who will use the learnings from the evaluation to guide the

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<sup>1</sup> The methodologies vary from country to country, e.g. plant breeding which was not part of the programme in Ethiopia. The different stakeholders involved also vary from country to country.

<sup>2</sup> The results is for the whole programme, and there will therefore be different results for the three countries covered by the evaluation.

development of future projects and programs. The evaluation will be conducted in Ethiopia, Guatemala and Nepal.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the findings the consultant shall provide recommendations as to how the work on agrobiodiversity could be strengthened in DF's future programming. Recommending concrete and action-oriented measures to guide DF's work as to what needs to be done more of, less of or propose other changes to DF's work. Possible areas for learning that could be explored further in all DF's program countries shall also be suggested.

### **3. Evaluation Questions**

The questions below shall be answered through the evaluation:

#### **Relevance**

1. To what extent and how did the intervention address the actual needs or gaps in agrobiodiversity conservation and farmers' seed systems? Did it address real priorities of the target group, including both women and men?
2. To what extent are the objectives and results of the program still valid?
3. To what extent was the programme relevant to local community, national context or international policies dialogue on farmers' seed systems and agrobiodiversity?

#### **Impact**

4. What is the impact of the DF's agrobiodiversity programme on on-farm management of agricultural biodiversity?
5. What is the impact of the DF's agrobiodiversity programme on improving livelihoods (including food and nutrition security and income, among others) of local community?
6. What practices of agrobiodiversity management worked well and what lessons can be drawn for scaling out?
7. Has the programme contributed to empower local community/farmers' organizations for promoting conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity at community? How?
8. To what extent and how has the intervention directly or indirectly contributed to positive or negative effects on farmers' seed systems, knowledge and capacity and the policy environment?
9. Did the intervention lead to any unintended or unexpected impacts?
10. Have women and men benefitted equally from the intervention? Why/why not? In what ways?
11. Is there any evidence that the impacts of the program, such as dissemination of quality seeds, have spread beyond the target communities? What facilitated and/or limited this?
12. Is there any evidence that the programme has had an impact on the methodologies, plans or strategies of local or national government institutions, research institutions, or other national/international institutions and organisations?
13. Is there any evidence that the programme has had an impact on local, national or international policies farmers' seed systems and agrobiodiversity?

#### **Sustainability**

14. To what extent can the impacts of the intervention (identified above) be regarded as sustainable?

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<sup>3</sup> A separate evaluation has already been conducted on the agrobiopdiversity program in Malawi.

15. What are the opportunities or constraints for strengthening the sustainability of DF's agrobiodiversity interventions?

#### **4. Methodology**

The consultant will develop appropriate methodologies and data collection tools to address the above questions. The evaluation should employ participatory methods that give voice to the target group, including direct quotes and testimonials or case stories. The evaluation should also consult farmers' organisations, DF partners, research institutes, government institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

The areas and partners to be included in the study is to be decided by DF through consultations with the partners and the consultant.

#### **5. Desired competencies and skills of the consultant**

The evaluation team shall consist of one lead consultant, and a local consultant in each of the three countries the evaluation is to take place, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Nepal. The term consultant in this ToR applies to the evaluation team. The overall responsibility of the team towards DF lies with the lead consultant. The team will liaise closely with DF staff, relevant staff in DF partner and network organizations and staff of relevant ministries or other government and non government institutions in the countries where the evaluation will take place.

The members of the consultant team should hold the following competencies and skills:

- Advanced university degree in the field of biology or agriculture working particularly on agrobiodiversity methods, with good understanding of farmers' seed systems and policies on plant genetic resources.
- Experience in designing and conducting independent evaluations regarding agro biodiversity,
- Good understanding of gender, food security and community organisations
- Good communication, analytical, drafting and document presentation skills;
- Identify with DF's values and principles;
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines,

#### **6. Expected deliverables**

Main deliverable: A report on the main findings, suggesting appropriate options and recommendations. The report should be no longer than 50 pages, including the executive summary.

Upon the selection, the consultant is expected to submit an inception report. The inception report shall state the evaluation questions, methodologies and data collection tools to be used in carrying out the study, all responding to the TORs.

Within the agreed timeline, the consultant is also expected to submit the draft study report for comment and feedback from the respective staff at DF. The consultant is responsible to incorporate feedback provided and submit the final report. The consultant will present the findings to DF staff.

All data collected and the data collection tools for this study shall remain the property of the Development Fund of Norway as its custodian. Any work product resulting from this review must cite DF and/or the participating implementing partner staff as a primary or contributing author.

### 7. Timeline:

The duration of the study is estimated to a maximum of 75 calendar days. The study should commence as soon as possible, and no later than 1 September 2018.

Activities, dates (to be agreed) and deadlines (to be agreed) for the consultancy work are:

Tasks	Required amount of time	Completed by	Responsibility
Contextual Analysis and Literature Review; Initial meeting with DF, Literature review etc.			Consultant
Prepare inception report; including initial preparations of data collection methodologies and tools, as well as detailed work plan			Consultant
Submit draft inception report			Consultant
Meeting between DF and consultant regarding inception report			DF
Interception phase; Finalize interception report, completion of data collection methodologies and tools, training of research team or similar, logistics of fieldwork including appointments.			Consultant
Field work			Consultant
Data entry, data analysis and development of draft report			Consultant
Submission of draft report			Consultant
Receive comments from DF			DF
Submission of final report			Consultant

### 8. Roles and Responsibilities

The main responsibility for ensuring that all responsibilities are carried out lies with the lead consultant.

The **consultant** will undertake the following activities:

- Conduct review of data sources, reports and relevant literature.
- Develop appropriate study methodology, design and tools
- Submit an inception report and finalize evaluation plan
- Conduct field work
- Synthesize findings
- Organize validation workshops with beneficiaries and local partners

- Produce draft report
- Produce final report, including incorporating comments from DF and its implementing partners.
- Present findings to DF staff, and to partner staff as required by DF.

Other responsibilities of the consultant:

- Adhere to all terms/conditions stipulated in the contract
- Pay income tax or other taxes as required
- Obtain relevant insurance
- Adhere to DF's code of conduct while undertaking the assignment. Conducting him/her in a respectful manner, while undertaking assignment, which includes not making any commitments to communities and any other persons, on behalf of DF.
- Adhere to the agreed time-frames with regard to all activities outlined in the timeline
- Consultant's own laptops and phones to be used during the assignment
- Pay for own accommodation

**DF** will be responsible for the following:

- Provide consultant with all required documents
- Link consultants to partner organizations and other relevant stakeholders and set up meetings as required
- Plan (in collaboration with partners and the consultant) the field visits

**Implementing partners** will be responsible for the following:

- Avail themselves for the consultant during the field visits
- Arrange interviews, focus groups discussions, meetings, project site visits as requested
- Logistics in the field as agreed with DF (transportation, accommodation – only booking)

## **9. Contract and payments**

DF will sign a consultancy contract with the consultant.

Forty percent of the total amount will be paid upon signing the contract and the remaining amount upon submission and approval of the final report and all deliverables.

## **10. Presentation of proposals**

Technical and financial proposals for the evaluation shall be presented by **24 June 2018** to [elin@utviklingsfondet.no](mailto:elin@utviklingsfondet.no)

For any question regarding the consultancy, please contact Elin Cecilie Ranum, Head of Programme Department of the Development Fund [elin@utviklingsfondet.no](mailto:elin@utviklingsfondet.no)

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