Terms of References

M&E consultancy for the SIKIA project in Mbeya, Tanzania

1 The SIKIA project

About SIKIA
SAGCOT Integrated Knowledge and Information for Agriculture (SIKIA) is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) focused on providing Knowledge and Information for Tanzania’s rice value chain. SIKIA provides actionable information, which enables farmers to make better decisions on enhancing their productivity and provides them with better access to relevant markets (agro-dealers, offtakers and processors). SIKIA is implemented in two phases: Phase 1 (set up of information services, piloting and prepare for scale up) and Phase 2 (scale-up). The project is jointly financed by Netherlands Space Office (NSO) and AGRA.

SIKIA for Agri-businesses
Agri-businesses such as rice millers, traders, input distributors, agents and financial service providers can all benefit from SIKIA’s information services. SIKIA offers insights of what is actually happening in the field, for example: where are rice farmers located, what are the exact growth stages, when is harvest expected? The unique aspect of SIKIA is that we can provide near real-time information on plot level, which allows for direct communication with a specific farmer. Agri-businesses can promote their products directly to farmers, based on the actual status and reach larger number of farmers in a more efficient way.

SIKIA for Farmers
Smallholder farmers in the rice value chain in Tanzania are in need of reliable and effective information services. SIKIA offers much needed information, such as:

- Information on the actual plot size and the growth conditions on a farmer specific plot.
- Relevant information tailored on the specific growth stage, such as are weather insights, forecasts and alerts, good agricultural practices and possible diseases.
- Direct access to agri-businesses that offer products and services relevant to the farmer for improving their yields.

Farmers receive such information through different channels: radio, extension officers and, increasingly, via mobile phones.

More information on SIKIA can be found here: https://sikia.techforce.nl/
2 Scope of work

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is important for project management, transparency and accountability, showcasing of the project performance of key performance indicators against targets and learning. It requires a continuous process of learning and practicing by project management and staff themselves, creating ‘best practices’ on the way, specifically tuned for the project and local situation.

The SIKIA project team is therefore planning to contract an external evaluator (hereinafter: the consultant) for an independent evaluation on the delivery of the project’s main outcomes:

- 50,000 farmers registered to SIKIA information services
- 400 agribusinesses registered to SIKIA information service
- 15% Improvement in food production (% yield or production increase)
- 45% improvement of income of farmers (higher margin)
- Total number of farmers trained: target 6,250

The main outcomes have been further detailed into sub-outcomes which can be shared with the consultant at the start of the assignment.

The assignment is to be completed during the months of July and August 2020 and exist of the following main items:

1. **Plan of approach.** The consultant is requested to draft a plan of approach aimed at end-of-project evaluation. The plan of approach is expected to be geared towards measuring both quantitively and qualitatively the contribution of the project to the M&E indicators as set by the SIKIA project. The evaluation will also review project assumptions, project relevance and efficiency in the delivery of the target outcomes and the associated long term benefits to the project beneficiaries.

2. **Final end-of-project M&E reporting.** An independent monitoring and evaluation report on the project’s M&E indicators, both quantitively and qualitatively. The report should include visualization of data (data tables, charts and graphs) and of field impressions (pictures, video).

3. **Management and Oversight.**
   a. Ensure consistent research and reporting methods (randomization, sample sizes, data verification from multiple sources, externalities, etc.) where necessary.
   b. Develop interview guides, focus group questionnaires and other tools where necessary.
   c. Optional: lead a team of surveyors in collecting quantitative and qualitative data.
3 Qualifications and requirements

Among others, the consultant should have the following qualifications:

- Advanced in English and Swahili (spoken and written);
- Bachelor's Degree in statistics, business, or relevant social science required. A Master's Degree is considered an added advantage;
- Minimum 5-7 years of relevant professional experience in research methods, program evaluation, statistical analysis, program design, process/impact analysis, performing M&E for aid agencies / donor organizations;
- Ability to independently conduct focus group discussions, surveys, engaging with and interviewing smallholder rice farmers;
- Advanced skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint;
- Advanced skills in data collection tools and analysis;
- Strong ability in providing a narrative behind the data (contextual analysis);
- Willing to lead group of surveyors hired separately by the project;
- Be familiar with both the Tanzanian rice sector and digital tools for agriculture;
- Have a great attention to detail.

Further, the team of the consultant ideally consist of both male and female members in order to cultivate a gender sensitive setting when engaging with stakeholders.

4 Competencies

- Integrity: candidate must have a proven record of honesty and ethical behavior. Clear understanding of research process and scientific methods.
- Initiative: candidate must be willing to spend significant time in the field, responding to surveyor questions and concerns.
- Autonomy: candidate must be proactive and will be expected to be constantly identifying ways to add value rather than waiting for and directions.

5 Process and planning

Candidates are requested to submit a technical and financial proposal including resume and references to relevant working experience to:

TechForce Innovations B.V.
Mr. Steven Gajadin
Project Manager SIKIA
s.gajadin@techforce.nl

Deadline of submission of proposals is 30 June 2020.