Consultancy Terms of Reference

Developing a Guide for Community Engagement on Large Scale Land Based Investment in Agriculture in Africa

1. BACKGROUND TO THE ASSIGNMENT

The Oxfam Pan Africa Programme (PAP) works with African citizens through their civil society formations so as to achieve their aspirations for justice, equality, sustainable development and stability through improving the implementation of continental mechanisms and commitments. We work to strengthen civil society capacity and voices on land governance, engage governments, Africa Union bodies, private sector and other stakeholders through in-country and regional programmes, and engage in public advocacy toward influencing at regional and international level. Through participatory, gender and human rights approaches, our key programme strategies include civil society capacity strengthening; advocacy, research and evidence based policy recommendations addressing various land governance and policies issues while maximizing critical engagement with stakeholders including the CSOs, private sector and development agencies.

Land governance is continuously gaining traction as a development priority for Head of States and Governments in Africa. This is evident by the endorsement of Frameworks and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa by the Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock held in 2009; and followed by the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa in 2009 and the adoption of Guiding Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investment in Africa in 2014 by Heads of State and Governments. Increasing interest in large scale land based investment in agriculture continue to raise concerns among rural women and their communities over their rights to land and related resource rights as they are often left out of decision making on such investments. The complexity of land tenure regimes and poor land governance systems exacerbates this fear and leave women and communities a worrying lot. CSOs have also increasingly raised concerns over increased interest in LSLBI in agricultural from local and international investors in the expense of small holder farmers, majority of whom are women; community and indigenous peoples land rights. Oxfam Pan African Programme has continued to contribute to monitoring the implementation of AU own legal instruments, guidelines and policy standards while undertaking influencing policy advocacy through CSOs platform at AU-LPI, working with CSOs allies and supporting partners’ initiatives towards strengthening the Pan African Parliament capacity towards making agricultural investment work for Africa.

2. PURPOSE

The adoption of the Guiding Principles on LSLBI in Africa in 2014 was a major step towards ensuring social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of LSLBI in Agriculture benefit national economy of host countries, improve livelihood of local communities and promote women empowerment; in line with principles of good governance including transparency; subsidiarity; inclusiveness; Free, Prior and Informed Consent (PFIC) and social acceptance by the local community. However, the LSLBI is yet to be fully operationalized and localised to strengthen communities especially women’s capacity to understand, engage and support its implementation at the local and national levels. This year being the the African Union “Year of Women Empowerment Towards Africa Agenda 2063,” Oxfam Pan Africa Programme seek to contribute to the vision of inclusivity and shared prosperity by making agriculture investment work for women and communities in Africa. This study is therefore purposed to develop and present a best practice step by step
gendered tool on meaningful community engagement with info graphics in a sample of 5 countries in Africa – Kenya, Zambia, Tunisia, Senegal and Cameroon. The tool will be used to guide local communities, civil society organizations, businesses and governments to help ensure that women in particular and communities in general, are directly involved in decision-making regarding large-scale land-based investments in agriculture that affect them.

Through this consultancy, Oxfam Pan Africa Program seeks to:
- define ‘meaningful community engagement’ in LSLBI in Agriculture from a community perspective,
- examine the benefits of women and their communities participation in decision making over LSLBI in agriculture as key stakeholders and not as recipient of development projects,
- underscore women and their community rights and responsibilities; and that of investors in LSLBI in Agriculture,
- present a step by step engagement processes (with info graphics) for women and their communities with and investor(s) in LSLBI in Agriculture and
- Demonstrate a win-win scenario for women and their communities; and investors in LSLBI in Agriculture

3. DETAILED ACTIVITIES

- Define and design a research methodology and approach for the development of the gendered tool,
- Undertake literature review on LSLBI at country, regional and international level
- Define and propose a sample framework that would include a sample of data collection sites and potential respondents for the study in the respective countries,
- Develop data collection tools taking into account respondents profiles, and a data analysis approach,
- Develop mechanisms to ensure data quality is secured throughout the study,
- Working with Oxfam staff and partners to mobilize and secure the participation of respondents,
- Undertake field visits and collect data from the respondents,
- Carry out data analysis
- Develop a step by step guide on community engagement with info graphics for Oxfam and stakeholders’ feedback,
- Document at least two community cases on LSLBI in Agriculture per country featuring the role of women in decision making,
- Produce a gendered tool on meaningful community engagement in cooperating feedback received on the draft document. The tool must be written in accessible language.
- Develop an overall study report in cooperating feedback received on the draft report.

4. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expression of interest need to include the following:
- Study methodology and approach for implementation in the five selected countries. This should include sample sizes, categories of respondents and data quality assurance measures,
- Data collection, analysis and presentation framework,
- A proposed work plan that includes proposed dates and intended period covering the in-country data collection,
- A proposed budget that reflects cost and time including daily rate for the consultant. Travel costs should be presented separately from the main consultancy budget.
5. DELIVERABLES

- Study tools for data collection available in French and English languages
- Facilitate data collection process at country level
- Two case studies on LSLBI in Agriculture featuring women’s participation in decision making
- A step by step gendered tool for meaningful community engagement on LSLBI in with info graphics prepared in English
- An overall study report

6. TIMELINE

The consultancy tasks are expected to be completed within 25 working days spread over a maximum period of 2 months. The consultancy is expected to be finalized by October, 30th 2015.

7. CONSULTANT PROFILE

- Masters’ Degree in Social Science or related field,
- At least 7 years relevant experience in carrying out land and agriculture research and policy analysis, data collection and analysis. Experience of using info graphics in developing and presenting community and business models is a plus,
- Relevant experience in LSLBI agricultural projects, studies and or strategy development of multi-country nature,
- Experience in working with civil society and with Government representatives or African intergovernmental organisations,
- Experience in engagement with the African Union Land Policy Initiative or the Regional Economic Communities (RECs),
- Experience in conducting interactive rural community meetings in diverse cultures;
- Excellent oral and report writing skills, including a proven track record in writing succinct, analytical publications and reports;
- Fluency in spoken and written English; knowledge of French language is a plus;

8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested consultants are expected to send an expression of interest (Maximum 5 pages) demonstrating their suitability for the tasks, composition of the proposed consultancy team, past experience of conducting similar tasks, a summary of the study methodology and sample data collection tool(s). The consultants should also send a semi-detailed financial proposal, including a breakdown of consultants’ daily rates.

The application should be sent to HecaConsultancy@oxfam.org.uk by September, 3rd 2015.