25th January, 2023

TORs FOR: 1.8_AGRIBUSINESS RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

1.0 Background:

1.1 Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organization (SOCADIDO) has received funding from Sign of Hope (SoH) to implement a 39-months’ (01.12.2021 – 28.02.2025) Project titled Establishment and institutionalisation of a Multi-Actor Partnership platform to improve agribusiness for economic viability and improved living standards for smallholder farmers in Teso sub-region in Eastern Uganda.

The project targets 5 districts and 1 city covering 10 Sub-counties and 4 wards. These include: Magoro and Getom Sub-counties in Katakwi district, Alito and Akoromit Sub-counties in Kapelebyong district, Kobuin and Mukura Sub-counties in Ngora district, Ocokcan and Awaliwal Sub-counties in Soroti district, Alwa and Aperkira Sub-counties in Kaberamaido district, and Agama, Amen, Aloet and Opuyo wards in Soroti city.

The project targets 3,600 households and aims at the establishment and institutionalization of Agribusiness Prowess (MAP-SFAP) for sustainable economic viability and improved living standards of rural households in the target Sub-counties/wards by 2024. As such, in addition to the formal registration, signing of MoUs and having a MAP platform constitution, in close collaboration with academic institutions a series of knowledge transfer activities including 12 dialogue sessions with small-scale farmers - in form of brown-bag lunches, lectures and an annual conference. The local scientists will present their work in the field of Innovative Agriculture and Productivity at the different regular meetings and events including the ADEFO Governance Council meetings, ADEFO platform and D-TWGs, thus reaching the main development actors and government representatives in Teso. Through this channel, the research findings will be shared with the policymakers potentially geared towards influencing the agricultural policies positively. The project will also organise dialogue sessions with agribusiness professionals, business entities and smallholder farmers in the project area. The dialogues will also be used to tap on the expertise and knowledge of the professionals with representatives of the academia working on innovations and agriculture, and how the two sectors can be linked for better social economic outcome. The dialogues will be organised during meetings of the City/District Technical Working Groups (C/D-TWGs) and Teso Technical Working group (T-TWG) as a side event. The results will be used as input for the work of ADEFO partners.

1.2 SOCADIDO is seeking the expertise of professionals to conduct at least 23 research studies on new innovations, which will be disseminated during the dialogue sessions as a result of their innovations. The research findings will be shared with the policymakers to potentially influence agricultural policies. The research will clearly show how a smallholder farmer from the village will be able to benefit from this study and how these findings will be able to change and improve on the status and income levels of smallholder farmers.
2.0 Project Results:
2.1 Impact:
Contribution to improving the socio-economic situation of smallholder farmers through establishing and institutionalizing a multi-actor partnership and developing institutional capacities of key actors to sustainably maintain the established structure.

2.2 Overall Objective:
To establish and institutionalize a Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) platform in order to improve agribusiness for economic viability and living standards for smallholder farmers in Teso sub-region in Eastern Uganda.

2.3 The MAP-ADEFO project has three specific output areas directly contributing to the overall project objective. The specified output areas of the project are:

1. Ateker Development Foundation (ADEFO) is established as a multi-stakeholder collaboration platform, owned by local actors and mandated to actively contribute to and shape strategies in the agricultural sector.
2. The agricultural value chain production has improved through ADEFO establishing a joint platform for all agribusiness relevant actors and by doing so providing comprehensive support to the smallholder farmers.
3. The capacity of organisations directly involved in socio-economic development in the Teso sub-region, and its agricultural sector in particular, is strengthened, so that they can take over established ADEFO.

2.4 Project outcome and output indicators:
The indicators as per the respective project elements include but are not limited to:
The outcome indicator is; an established functional multi-actor partnership and its dialogue structures promote sustainable agricultural productivity and contribute to improving the socio-economic situation of smallholder farmers, and it encompass the following specific targets:

1. By the end of the project, a Multi Actor Partnership (MAP) platform is established, operationalized and is anchored in local structures. There is a unified strategy among the involved agricultural actors.
2. Through a survey at the end of the project, 80% of ADEFO members (19) will confirm improved cooperation among ADEFO stakeholders.
3. 70% of target smallholder farmers (2,520 farmers) report increased productivity from their pieces of land due to received knowledge, practical skills and improved agricultural inputs.
4. Post-harvest management techniques reduced the loss by 12.5% by the end of the project.
5. Income of 70% target households (2,520 households) has increased up to 100 EUR per month, by the end of the project.

Output Level Indicators would include:
Output 1: Ateker Development Foundation (ADEFO) is established as a multi-stakeholder collaboration platform, owned by local actors and mandated to actively contribute to and shape strategies in the agricultural sector.

1. An operational framework that includes a constitution, a governance structure and guidelines is developed and operationalized for ADEFO platform.
2. By the end of 2022, an integrated master development plan for the agricultural sector in Teso sub-region is developed and used within the target project area.
3. At the end of the project, 80% (19) of the ADEFO actors have signed the MoU and are official members of the platform. They regularly participate in ADEFO activities and actively shape ADEFO's work. The local development actors, the private sector, civil society organizers and government agencies are familiar with national and international networks and cooperation platforms.

4. By the end of the project, ADEFO is anchored in local structures (confirmed by the written agreement) and 3 financial sources are available

**Output 2:** *The agricultural value chain production has improved through ADEFO establishing a joint platform for all agribusiness relevant actors and by doing so providing comprehensive support to the smallholder farmers.*

1. Through received training on post-harvest management techniques and post-harvest management supplies. By the end of the project, 70% (2,520) of the target smallholders have the knowledge to store their crops without high losses.
2. 70% of the target smallholder farmers (2,520) have improved their profit due to proper financial planning and marketing of their produce after received training on business management, financial literacy and value chain addition process.
3. 100% (3,600) of the farmers in the target area are sensitized on and linked to agricultural financing services/microfinancing services with 70% of them (2,520) using received knowledge to improve their household income.
4. Until the project end the developed Master Plan for Teso sub-region consolidates information on the priorities, services and resources for smallholder farmers Smallholder farmers will be able to contribute directly to the Master Plan by having their representatives participate in the TWGs at the district level.

**Output 3:** *The capacity of organisations directly involved in socio-economic development in the Teso sub-region, and its agricultural sector in particular, is strengthened, so that they can take over established ADEFO.*

1. To enable complex and multi-level cooperative processes, the institutional capacities of the core group and the extended group are built up until the end of the project.
2. 65% (6) of the organizations of the core group have attained adequate capacity to sustainably and effectively manage ADEFO, as well as strategically position it to address further development sectors and actors in the Teso sub-region.

### 2.5 Key partners:

The key actors in this project include district and sub-county local governments, core group members of the civil society and non-governmental organizations, the traditional institution, religious institutions, research and academic institutions, private sector players, professionals, and media agencies.

### 3.0 The objectives of Agribusiness research and knowledge transfer:

1. This research will support in coming up with innovations in agribusiness.
2. Through this channel, the research findings will be shared with the policy makers potentially to influencing the agricultural policies positively.
3. The results will be used as input for the work of ADEFO partners.
4.0 The activity scope:
There will be close collaboration with academic institutions in coming up with innovations; by the final year of the project; 12 dialogue sessions with small-scale farmers, and an annual conference will be held for the local scientists to present their work in the field of Innovative agriculture and productivity; the local scientists will also present their work during the different regular meetings and events like annual agricultural expo, farmer exchange visits including the ADEFO Governance Council meetings. The research findings will be shared with the policymakers potentially to influence agricultural policies positively.

Based on the above objectives and in consultation with the project team, the Researcher will undertake to:
- Develop research findings based on the research undertaken, and provide a technical report for the process.
- Develop the design, methodology, planning, and quality control procedures, including a plan for delivering in the 12 dialogue sessions.

5.0 Methodology:
The assignment should be designed to capture and assess both the subjective and objective elements. It should provide a clear research findings/innovations that are clearly understood and can be used in a friendly manner. The researcher will provide a detailed methodology in the technical proposal.

6.0 Required of the Researcher

Documents: The Applicant shall, in particular ensure to attach the following:

6.1 Technical Proposal
   a) Profile of the researcher (max 1 page) explaining why they are the most suitable for the opportunity.
   b) Relevant research studies conducted (max 2 page).
   c) Recent Curriculum Vitae

Requirements
- A relevant academic qualification in the field of agriculture and agribusiness.
- Demonstrated experience conducting research studies in the following enterprises Cassava, Ground nuts, Sim-sim, Soya beans, Green gram, Bee keeping, Poultry keeping, Fish farming.
- Must be qualified researchers or persons undertaking research studies in the relevant agricultural enterprises

7.0 Duration:
The assignment is expected to be accomplished within 60 working days

8.0 Reporting:
A well-researched information should be developed and adopted by the whole ADEFO-MAP platform and smallholder farmers.
The research on agribusiness and knowledge transfer should be well structured and easy to understand and comprehend by the smallholder farmers and especially ADEFO_MAP members. It should minimize and eliminate barriers to its effective use.
10. **Submission of Bids:**
Interested persons (Researchers) are required to submit written applications to the Diocesan Development Coordinator SOCADIDO by **5:00 pm 8th February, 2023.**