**Terms of Reference**

**For Individual Consultant for development of Concept Note for**

**Resilience for most vulnerable and marginal regions Project in Egypt**

1. **Background**

In May 2022 Egypt adopted its National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050 to support a stronger, greener Egyptian economy that includes adaptation and mitigation programs in all sectors until 2050. To accelerate the national climate agenda from pledges to implementation, Egypt developed Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) Program that will be implemented through the design, structuring and preparation of concrete and implementable climate action projects in line with NCCS. The NWFE is a Multi-Stakeholder Platform developed with the support of Development Partners Groups that identified the list of priority projects covering the water-food-energy nexus, in light of Egypt’s COP27 presidency.

The IsDB has been requested by the Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC) Egypt, to lead the design of the “Resilience for most vulnerable and marginal regions Project” that was included into the priority list of projects under Food Security Pillar of the NWFE. The IsDB is expected to help the Government of Egypt (GOE) to develop the project, prepare the related studies including Concept Note and Feasibility Study and to support in mobilizing resources from other partners to implement the project.

This consultancy assignment is intended to undertake necessary study and consultations to develop comprehensive Project Concept Note (PCN) based on initial concept prepared by the GOE through its line ministries – Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MoALR) and Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWRI) and other stakeholders.

1. **Project Background:**

Marginal areas in Egypt are quite vulnerable to climate change as they mainly depend on rainfall for their rangeland activities and water harvesting for drinking water and for goat and sheep. There are severe negative effects of climate change on marginal areas and the most affected by the repercussions of climate change are the desert areas in the Western and Eastern Desert, Sinai, Oasis and others. Furthermore, societal conditions vary across marginal areas requiring different approaches for each location.

With the increase in climatic changes, decrease in rainfall amounts and the shortness of the rainy season, the need to store large quantities of rainwater to be used in dry periods increases, which necessitates working to raise the efficiency of rainwater harvesting and storage operations. The quality of life for communities living in marginal areas is critically vulnerable as they rely mainly on rainfall and pasture lands associated with rain. Therefore, the resilience of such climatically vulnerable areas needs to be strengthened.

The Project aims to increase the resilience of climatically vulnerable areas through specific interventions aiming to improve the livelihoods of the rural people, including Bedouins and marginal communities. This is proposed to be achieved through extension of rainwater collection, expanding agricultural areas and providing farmers with the necessary technical support to adopt modern irrigation, combatting desertification in rainy areas, valleys and ecosystem applications, and increase their productivity and quality, developing the fisheries sector in coastal areas, expanding and developing agricultural industrialization programs, and developing livestock in a sustainable way.

Project specific objectives as proposed by GOE include:

* Develop rainy areas and integrate them into comprehensive agricultural development system and social and economic focus,
* Develop valleys and ecosystem applications, and increase their productivity and quality,
* Provide farmers with the necessary technical support to adopt modern irrigation and crop management,
* Develop sheep and camel production in a sustainable way,
* Overcome local faults in managing, maintaining and rehabilitating pastures in a sustainable manner,
* Combat desertification in rainy areas,
* Expand and develop agricultural industrialization programs for figs, olives, dates and other crops for local marketing and export, developing environmental industries, developing packaging operations for medicinal and aromatic plants, whether they are cultivated or collected, establishing factories to extract their oils and pharmaceutical supplies, and improving and developing industries based on sheep’s wool,
* Develop the fisheries sector in coastal areas, raising awareness of the fishing process, and establishing factories for processing and preserving fish,
* Assist local communities in planning and implementing their developmental activities and enhancing their confidence in dealing with and attracting investors and businessmen to their areas,
* Follow-up and evaluate the developmental programs implementation, conservation and management of natural resources in rainy areas in a sustainable manner

The proposed project location is the desert and marginal regions of Egypt - Oasis, Moghra, Sinai, southern east part of the country. Exact project areas to be determined in the course of development of the Project Concept Note. The project area identification should consider the scope and nature of beneficiaries (Inclusivity).

From the initial review and assessment of the Concept provided by the GOE and expected areas of interventions as outlined above, the IsDB team at technical level perceived the project to be built around the following tentative clusters, which are subject to further assessment and verification on the ground through the targeted PCN:

* Cluster 1: Basic Infrastructure for Resilience (including water harvesting structures, access roads, social facilities - housing education, health, etc.) – 60% to 70% of the financing.
* Cluster 2: Agroforestry and rangeland development and management (land use planning/ management, plantation, agriculture inputs, etc.) - 15% to 20% of the financing.
* Cluster 3: Agriculture and livestock services (veterinary centers, extension services, marketing support, etc.) 15% -20%.

The clustering of activities is indicative, which will be linked to the outcome of the rapid analysis and assessments to be carried out under the present assignment.

1. **Description of the Assignment**

***Objectives***

The overarching objective of the consultancy service is to prepare the Concept of the Resilience for most vulnerable and marginal regions Project. The Project Concept Note (PCN) should assess the proposal of the Beneficiary developed by the concerned authorities in Egypt and formulate a sound and feasible Project Concept.

The PCN will serve as the basis for discussion with the GOE on the way forward with developing the related feasible study and assessments in future. The PCN will also serve to set the framework for determining the overall scope, needed budget and prioritization in order to guide the GOE and IsDB on required funding to be mobilized either through single project or in stages. The consultancy assignment requires an experienced Agriculture / Rural Development Specialist to prepare the PCN as per the scope of assignment outlined below.

***Scope of Assignment:***

* 1. Review and stocktaking of available analysis, studies, technical documents related to the Projects (where available) prepared by the Beneficiary, including assessing their quality, field visits and necessary consultations with beneficiaries.
  2. Collect/update information on the sector, key challenges and strategy in the country; general and socio-economic related data of the project areas.
  3. Undertaking brief agriculture and rural development analysis (ARD Analysis) in each of the project areas to identify main activities and actors in the project, their relationship, capacity and key gaps. This is to determine a sustainable strategy to bring added value through the proposed Project. This will bring forward the project relevance and rational and strategic alignment to the National priorities. This could be undertaken through a Participatory Rapid Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach to identify the needs of the target beneficiaries.
  4. Assess the possibility for improving on certain Crops (e.g. Figs, Olives, Dates) and Livestock through a Value Chain Approach based on competitive advantage of the specific region. The analysis should assess the possibilities of improving and expanding existing industrialization program of the selected crops/commodities.
  5. Assess the proposal of Government on extension of rainwater collection, expanding agricultural areas and providing farmers with the necessary technical support to adopt modern irrigation, and combatting desertification in rainy areas
  6. Match the proposed list of activities at each stage of identified gaps of AGR analysis to determine the optimal type of intervention. Describe the main alternative considerations and reasons for declining. The analysis should also assess the sustainability of interventions given the project locality and geographical situation in the area (e.g. Crop vs Livestock development)
  7. Formulate Project development objectives and expected results at high-level outcomes and outputs, to the extent possible with quantified indicators.
  8. Propose brief scope of work for the project with an underlining preliminary list of interventions/activities proposed for the project, including prioritizing them based on local needs and in line with government priorities. Specific attention should be given to ensure that proposed activities are climate adaptive, and in principle environmentally, and socially acceptable.
  9. Prepare preliminary, high level cost estimate of the proposed interventions to identify funding needs for the Project, which should be reasonable, supported with basic calculations based on prevailing rates.
  10. Prepare a brief cost-benefit analysis to justify the project need and developmental impacts the project will lead to.
  11. Identifies the potential risks (based on the available information) associated with the project and an approach to addressing those risks or mitigating them. Risks pertinent to agriculture/rural development could be proposed by consultant at inception reporting stage, to determine the key risks and have focused research/analysis.
  12. Provide recommendation on the required studies and assessments that needs to be undertaken in future during the F.S. stage based on the readiness of the project such activities as: Environment assessment, gender analysis, etc.
  13. Review and discuss with the Beneficiary and IsDB the overall institutional mechanism for implementing the project and results monitoring and evaluation framework.
  14. The concept proposal should take into consideration the Project Monitoring and Supervision Mechanisms in future in terms of accessibility to the locations. e.g. the project sites should be accessible through reasonable transport means and time.

1. **Deliverables and Schedule**

The present assignment is a mixed home-field base, whereby the individual consultant besides desk review of the relevant documents and meetings in Central Level (Cairo city), he/she is required to visit the selected project sites to assess the situation on the ground and carry out consultation with local stakeholders. In Cairo, the Consultant is required to undertake consultation with the key stakeholders including, but not limited to Government authorities, development partners (selected MDBs, UN Agencies, etc.) and other key stakeholders that will be discussed and agreed with the IsDB team during the inception stage. The consultant may propose to engage another expert to support him/her on specific tasks. However, this is to be handled within his/her contract terms and amount. In such case, the consultant will be responsible to consolidate the inputs and present it in single deliverables as outlined below.

***Deliverables:***

The Consultant is expected to produce following outputs which will be the basis for payment:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Deliverable** | **Due Date** |
| 1 | Inception Report detailing methodology and work plan | 2 weeks after signing the contract |
| 2 | Draft Concept Note | 3 months after signing the contract |
| 3 | Final Concept Note | 2 weeks after IsDB comments on Draft PCN |

The PCN is expected to cover key areas highlighted in the template provided in Annex of this TOR and delivered in English. The Consultant shall ensure professional editing of the final version of the final report and its submission to the Bank via email (soft copy in MS Words) before the end of the consultancy assignment. The draft PCN and final PCN is to be accompanied with Power Point Presentation on the key findings and salient feature of the project. Due dates for submission of deliverables may be modified by the IsDB in a reasonable manner.

***Time Frame for Assignment:***

The assignment shall be approximately 4 months (December 2022 to March 2022) but not exceeding 6 months, with a total duration of 50 working days, including 20 days for field visits, which will be finalized at the time of contract negotiations. All deliverables are expected to be finalized through rigorous consultative meetings and in-depth discussions with the MoALR, NoWRI and other key stakeholders, at the national and provincial levels.

1. **Consultant’s Qualification**

Agriculture Economist should have the following minimum qualifications and skills:

* Master’s Degree in Agriculture, Rural Development, or any relevant fields.
* Minimum 10 years of experience in the analysis of agriculture value chain, integrated rural development, irrigated agriculture development, etc. The ability to undertake cost-benefit analysis will be an advantage.
* Practical experience working with project preparation as per the Multilateral Development Bank procedures and standard project processing cycle.
* Strong communication, writing, and presentation skills. Fluency in English and Arabic is required.

1. **Evaluation Criteria:**

The consultant will be selected according to the individual consultant selection method. The Consultant who received the highest score in the technical evaluation (based on his/her qualification) and at a reasonable fee and in the budget acceptable to IsDB will be awarded the contract. The final decision on the evaluation and award of contract will be at the discretion of the IsDB. The following criteria will be used for evaluation of technical proposals:

* General Qualifications 20 points
* Specific experience relevant to TOR 50 points
* Experiences in the region and language 30 points

**Total 100 points**

1. **Terms of Payment**

The indicative schedule of payment is specified below, which will be finalized at the time of contract negotiations:

* 1. 20% of Contract Value upon receiving the Inception Report
  2. 50% of Contract Value upon the receipt of the draft PCN acceptable to IsDB; and
  3. 30% of Contract Value upon the receipt of the Final PCN, as per the format, the Consultants will submit a mission settlement form and expenses related to the mission.

1. **Contract Administration:**

Client's Input: The IsDB team will be available for meetings with consultant throughout the assignment. Consultant will be liaising with focal person from Regional Hub of Cairo for any technical discussions with the IsDB. The IsDB will also facilitate introducing the consultant to the line ministries in Egypt, and providing any official support, in case if it is required. However, it will be the responsibility to set individual appointments with the concerned authorities and stakeholders according to mutually acceptable schedule.

Logistics: The Consultant will coordinate with the concerned ministries to make necessary arrangements for the logistics of the field visit. The visit’s related expenses shall be borne by the Consultant and covered under the contract cost.

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**Annex-1: Draft Template for Concept Note**

*(to be modified as deemed appropriate by the Consultant)*

1. **Project Relevance:**

This section includes a narrative in the following sub-sections that will describe the rationale for the Development Partner (DP) to provide its financing to the Beneficiary Country for the proposed project/ intervention.

**Project Context:**

1. Provide the country and sectoral context of the project.

**Problem Statement:**

1. Explain: What is the problem(s) the project is going to address?” while referring to relevant country, sectoral and thematic issues.

**Project Development Objective:**

1. It should state both the PDO as well as clearly highlight how the project intends to resolve the problem indicated.

**Strategic Alignment of Project:**

1. State the project linkages with the Country’s National and Sector Strategy and priorities.
2. **Project Readiness:**
3. This section summarizes the state of readiness of projects at the level of Beneficiary Country.

**Availability and Quality of project documents:**

1. Mention relevant project documents received from the Beneficiary Country, and additional information about project, such as availability of Feasibility Study, and provide information on whether climate, environmental, gender and social assessments are undertaken or need to be undertaken etc. Moreover, provide summary of assessment of the quality of these documents.

**Project Current Status:**

1. Provide a summary of the current status of the project whether any activities started through different programs, initiatives in the country (by Beneficiary or other external financiers)

**Country Ownership:**

1. Describe the measures taken by Beneficiary Country to ensure counterpart funding, such as reflecting the project within the country’s development plan / priorities and alignment with the country’s budget cycle.
2. **The Project:**
3. This section includes information on project scope, design and financing plan.

**Project Design and Scope:**

1. Provide a summary of what the project entails, including its location, scope, and the different components of the project. The brief on the technical feasibility of the project design is to be provided in an Annex (If Applicable).

**Thematic Scope:**

1. Provide a summary of project expected impact on gender, youth development and climate change.

**Estimated Cost and Financing Plan:**

1. Provide indicative cost of the project and financing plan based on discussions with the Beneficiary, IsDB and other development partners
2. **Project Risks:**
3. This section identifies the potential risks (based on the available information) associated with the project, its brief description and proposal to addressing and/or mitigating those risks.
4. **Project Results:**
5. This section outlines major development results (including beneficiaries) that the project will deliver in line with its objectives with clearly result chain from inputs to outcomes with applicable National and SDGs, results indicators, and targets.

* Include an assessment of the tools and mechanisms in place to eventually assess the impact and performance of the project, and the attainment of goals and objectives. This implies identifying the existence of SMART indicators, base lines and target values, mechanisms and capacity for collecting, analyzing and reporting performance information.
* Highlight the potential financial sustainability, technical sustainability, and institutional sustainability assessments.

1. **Issues and Challenges:**
2. This section includes issues and challenges that are foreseen in processing of the proposed project and an approach to address those challenges. The issues may include implications i.e. operational, country, sector, thematic, technical, legal, etc.