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TORS FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE STUMBLING BLOCKS AND ENABLERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN IN UGANDA.

1.0 Background

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a legally registered ¹ national network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which work with Smallholder farmers and Promote Sustainable Agriculture, Agricultural market development, Environmental conservation, research and advocacy. This work is aimed at increasing farmer's understanding of policy issues affecting small holder farmers in Uganda. ACSA's mandate is "Advocating for the agrarian policy environment for small holder farmers in Uganda". Currently, ACSA has membership of 29 CSOs (9 Faith Based Organizations, 3 Networks, 4 Farmers' Associations and 13 NGOs) spread country wide of Central, East Central, Lango, South Western, Western, Teso, West Nile Regions in 46 districts. ACSA's Mission is "to Empower civil society organizations working with small holder farmers to advocate for favourable agrarian Policy environment for sustainable communities" and the Vision of "Smallholder farmers living in a Sustainable Environment", all of which contribute the overall Goal of: **"Relevant agriculture policies and services for Small Holder Farmers (SHFs) are implemented to foster profitable sustainable agriculture enterprises"**. ACSA's key focus areas are; Advocacy and Lobbying, Research and documentation, Capacity building of member Organisations, Capacity building of ACSA secretariat, Networking and partnership Building.

2.0 Rationale

The Government approved the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) and its corresponding Implementation Plan to address the challenges affecting the Organic Agriculture subsector. The overall goal of the National Organic Agriculture Policy 2019 is to harness Uganda's Organic agricultural potential by ensuring a well-regulated and coordinated sub-sector that contributes to National Development. The NOAP is well aligned to the National and International Agricultural Development frameworks and protocols such as the Vision 2040, the National Development Plan III, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among others.

Uganda's agriculture is generally described as organic by default with majority of farmers still rely on nature and chance to produce crops. With the lowest inorganic fertilizer application in the World currently estimated at only 2kg per hectare per year, most of the Ugandan farmers particularly the smallholder farmers are subconsciously practicing organic farming. Our grandparents practiced successful natural seed and livestock breed selections, crop rotations, integrated farming, identification and use of peat soils and forest litter to

¹ Legally registered under the laws of Government of Uganda (GOU) by URSB as Company limited by guarantee and an NGO under NGO bureau

improve crop yields. These are all elements of organic farming techniques traditionally practiced in Uganda that unfortunately lack the scientific merits and standards to qualify them as organic, according to the FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission standards. The slow growth of the organic agriculture system in Uganda is largely attributed to failure to develop the organic subsector value chain, accompanied by lack of coordinated efforts and a regulatory framework to guide and control the production system.

3.0 Purpose of the Consultancy

Following the Launch of the NOAP by government, a number of follow up activities were to be undertaken as part of the operationalization of the policy and informing the NOAP Bill development process, these include: **documentation and publicizing the stumbling blocks and enablers in the implementation of the Organic Agriculture value chains**. Based on that, ACSA is calling for a technical person to undertake the above exercise.

3.1 Specific Objective

1. To conduct a desk review that will analyze the stumbling blocks and enablers, and their implication to the implementation of the Organic Agriculture value.
2. Highlight the existing policy and regulatory frameworks in place and extent to which they address the stumbling blocks in the implementation of the Organic Agriculture value chain for replication.
3. Generate good practices in addressing stumbling blocks in the Organic Agriculture value chain.
4. Provide recommendations to various stakeholders, clearly indicating the enablers for effective the implementation of the organic agriculture value chains at all levels in Uganda with emphasis on consumption habits.

4.0 Tasks to the consultant

The consultant will be required to lead on all the tasks below, in consultation with ACSA.

1. To conduct a desk review and generate the stumbling blocks and enablers in the implementation of the Organic Agriculture value chain including the existing policy and regulatory frameworks in place.
2. Catalogue good practices in addressing stumbling blocks in the Organic Agriculture value chain.
3. Provide recommendations to various stakeholders, and the best way of implementation of the organic agriculture value chains in Uganda with emphasis on consumption habits.

5.0 Deliverables

- Technical proposal indicating the interpretation of the assignment.
- A draft report about the stumbling blocks in the implementation of the Organic Agriculture value chain **for review**
- A FINAL report and updated documents to ACSA.

Notable: The report shall be submitted in softcopy in an editable format.

6.0 Timeframe

The time frame of the assignment should be accomplished within one and a half (1.5) months from the commencement as follows:

1. Issuance of TORs and Inception Meeting - 18th July, 2024
2. Submit the technical proposal by 26th July, 2024

3. Submit to ACSA the draft report for review and comments by 27th August, 2024.
4. Submit a by 15th September, 2024.

7.0 Contract and Conditions of Payment

The selected consultant will enter into an agreement with ACSA before the assignment commences, where all terms and conditions for the consultancy will be agreed upon. The consultant will be paid professional fees as compensation for his/her technical/professional expertise and time invested in the delivery of the expected outputs. This will be discussed and agreed amicably for a win-win for both the consultant and ACSA.

8.0 Qualifications and required competencies for the Consultant

ACSA is looking for a competent consultant or consultants with the following qualifications and competencies:

- a. Relevant academic background with a minimum qualification of a' Bachelor's degree in an appropriate discipline including: Economic Policy, Agriculture Economics and Policy Analysis, Policy and Advocacy, and related fields;*
- b. A master's degree in the related fields is an added advantage;*
- c. Demonstrate experience (at least 3 years) in carrying out similar assignments*
- d. Strong research, analytical, facilitation and communication skills;*
- e. Good understanding of Uganda's agriculture sector and budget formulation processes;*
- f. Ability to work efficiently and deliver on committed outputs under the assignment within agreed timelines and deadline.*

9.0 Submission of expressions of interest

The consultant is expected to interpret these ToRs and submit an expression of interest with a technical and financial proposal for delivery of the expected outputs and the cost implications in terms of professional fees respectively. This should be submitted together with the CV.

Interested person should send the credentials to the ACSA Coordinator

Email address: acsa.ug@gmail.com with a copy to the National Coordinator; henakasi@acsa-ug.org