CALL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Consultancy to Profile, Document, and Validate Best Practices from Financial Initiatives and Models Supporting the Scaling of Regenerative Agriculture and Productive Use of Renewable Energy (RA-PURE) Enterprises under the Power for Food Partnership (PFP) Programme

1.0 Background

The Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA) is a legally registered national network of civil society organisations (CSOs) working with smallholder farmers to promote sustainable agriculture, agricultural market development, environmental conservation, research and policy advocacy in Uganda. Through its network of member organisations, ACSA implements programmes that strengthen evidence generation, policy engagement, institutional capacity and multi-stakeholder collaboration to improve agricultural livelihoods and promote sustainable farming systems.

ACSA is implementing activities under the Power for Food Partnership (PFP) Programme, convened by SNV and funded by the IKEA Foundation. The programme promotes the integration of Regenerative Agriculture (RA) and the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) to strengthen resilient, inclusive and climate-smart agri-food systems in Uganda. As part of the programme, ACSA seeks to document and promote effective financial initiatives and models that have enabled farmers and agricultural enterprises to access finance for the adoption and scaling of RA-PURE technologies and practices. The assignment will be undertaken in the districts of Mpigi, Kayunga, Masaka, Kabarole, Kasese and Mubende through consultations with financial institutions, SACCOs, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), relevant government programmes, farmers, district and sub-county local government technical staff, private sector providers of PURE solutions, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

2.0 Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to profile, document, and validate best practices from financial initiatives and models that have successfully supported the scaling of Regenerative Agriculture (RA) and the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) enterprises among Power for Food Partnership (PFP) partners and other stakeholders. The assignment will assess the effectiveness, accessibility, sustainability and scalability of financing mechanisms, including Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP), the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UGiFT), and Agriculture Credit Facility (ACF) in Commercial banks other relevant financing initiatives that facilitate investment in renewable energy technologies across agricultural production processes and agribusiness, including post-harvest handling, value addition, processing and market access.

The consultancy will generate evidence on successful financing approaches, governance practices and institutional arrangements that have enabled smallholder farmers and rural enterprises to access finance for regenerative agriculture and productive use of renewable energy technologies. The findings will be synthesised into practical knowledge products, including case studies and a toolkit, validated through stakeholder engagement, and disseminated to promote learning, replication and scaling of effective financial models across the programme implementation areas and beyond.

3.0 Scope of the Consultancy

The consultancy will involve profiling, assessing, documenting and validating effective financial initiatives and models that have supported the scaling of Regenerative Agriculture (RA) and Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) enterprises in the Power for Food Partnership (PFP) implementation areas. The assignment will cover the six districts of **Mpigi, Kayunga, Masaka, Kabarole, Kasese and Mubende,** and it will engage diverse stakeholders involved in agricultural financing, production, value addition, processing, market access and renewable energy solutions.

The consultant will assess a range of financing mechanisms and products offered by community-based financial groups, government-supported financing initiatives and formal financial institutions. These will include Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations (SACCOs), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP), Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UGiFT), commercial banks, microfinance institutions and other relevant financial service providers. The assessment will examine agricultural financing products such as agricultural production loans, agribusiness loans, equipment and asset financing, renewable energy financing, post-harvest handling and value addition financing, market access financing, and other investment products that support farmers and enterprises to adopt and scale regenerative agriculture and productive use of renewable energy technologies. The assessment will further consider governance structures, accessibility, affordability, sustainability, investment approaches, inclusion of women and youth, risk management practices and suitability of financing products to agricultural production cycles and enterprise development.

The consultancy will involve consultations with key stakeholders, including financial service providers, farmers and farmer organisations, PFP partners, Bank Agents, RA-PURE champions, Learning Centres, relevant local government technical staff at district, sub-county and parish levels, private-sector actors providing renewable energy solutions, agricultural value chain actors and other relevant stakeholders. The consultant will document successful approaches, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for replication and scaling of effective financing models.

The assignment will include the preparation of structured case studies and practical knowledge products, including a financing models toolkit, presenting successful approaches, governance arrangements and design features that support access to finance for RA-PURE enterprises. The draft findings and knowledge products will be subjected to a stakeholder validation process involving relevant actors to ensure accuracy, relevance and applicability before finalisation.

4.0 Key Tasks of the Consultant

The selected consultant or consulting firm will be responsible for undertaking the following key tasks:

1. **Develop an inception plan and methodology**: Develop an appropriate approach, work plan and data-collection framework for profiling, assessing and documenting financial initiatives and models supporting RA-PURE enterprises.
2. **Conduct a desk review and stakeholder mapping**: Review relevant documents on agricultural finance, renewable energy financing, government financing programmes, financial institutions and existing models supporting smallholder farmers and agribusiness enterprises. The consultant will also identify key stakeholders and institutions to be engaged during the assignment.
3. **Undertake field assessments in the selected districts**: Conduct assessments in Mpigi, Kayunga, Masaka, Kabarole, Kasese and Mubende to collect information from financial institutions, farmers, farmer organisations, government technical staff, private-sector actors, PFP partners and other relevant stakeholders.
4. **Assess financing initiatives, products and models**: Analyse the effectiveness, accessibility, sustainability and scalability of different financing approaches, including SACCOs, VSLAs, government financing initiatives, commercial bank agricultural loan products, equipment financing, agribusiness financing, renewable energy financing and other relevant financial solutions supporting agricultural enterprises.
5. **Document successful practices and lessons learned**: Develop case studies capturing successful financing models, governance arrangements, operational approaches, challenges, lessons learned and opportunities for replication in supporting regenerative agriculture and productive use of renewable energy enterprises.
6. **Develop knowledge products**: Prepare structured documentation, including case studies and a practical toolkit outlining financing approaches, design features and recommendations for improving access to finance for RA-PURE enterprises.
7. **Facilitate stakeholder validation**: Organise and facilitate a validation process with relevant stakeholders to review the findings, verify the documented practices, obtain feedback and refine the final knowledge products before submission to ACSA.

8. **Submit final consultancy outputs**: Incorporate feedback from the validation process and submit final approved reports, case studies and toolkit materials to ACSA in accordance with the agreed consultancy schedule.

5.0 Expected Deliverables

The selected consultant or consulting firm will be expected to deliver the following outputs:

1. **Inception Report**: A report outlining the consultant's understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology, stakeholder engagement approach, assessment framework, data-collection tools, work plan and timelines.
2. **Stakeholder Mapping and Assessment Framework**: A document identifying key stakeholders, including financial institutions, farmers, farmer organisations, government technical staff, private-sector actors providing PURE solutions, PFP partners and other relevant actors, together with the framework for assessing financing initiatives and models.
3. **Field Assessment Report**: A comprehensive report presenting findings from assessments conducted in the six districts of Mpigi, Kayunga, Masaka, Kabarole, Kasese and Mubende, covering financing models, products, accessibility, sustainability, governance arrangements, inclusion aspects and opportunities for scaling.
4. **Documented Case Studies of Successful Financing Models**: Structured case studies describing effective financing initiatives and products that have supported agricultural enterprises, including lessons from SACCOs, VSLAs, government financing programmes, commercial financial institutions and private-sector financing arrangements.
5. **RA-PURE Financing Models Toolkit**: A practical toolkit presenting financing approaches, successful practices, governance arrangements, design features and recommendations for improving access to finance for regenerative agriculture and productive use of renewable energy enterprises.
6. **Stakeholder Validation Report**: A report documenting the validation process, stakeholder feedback, key recommendations and revisions made to the assessment findings, case studies and toolkit.
7. **Final Consultancy Report and Knowledge Products**: Final approved versions of all consultancy outputs incorporating feedback from ACSA and stakeholders, submitted in editable and PDF formats.

6.0 Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant/Consulting Firm

ACSA invites applications from suitably qualified individual consultants or consulting firms with demonstrated experience in agricultural finance, rural financial systems, enterprise development, renewable energy financing and research documentation.

The consultant or consulting firm should meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Academic Qualifications

- A postgraduate qualification in agricultural economics, economics, finance, business administration, development studies, rural development, cooperative management, renewable energy or a related discipline.
- Additional qualifications or professional certifications in research, monitoring and evaluation, financial inclusion, project management or related fields will be an added advantage.

2. Relevant Professional Experience

- Demonstrated experience in assessing, designing or documenting agricultural finance and inclusive financial models.
- Proven experience working with financial institutions, SACCOs, VSLAs, government financing programmes, commercial banks, microfinance institutions or other rural financing mechanisms.
- Experience in analysing agricultural loan products, equipment financing, agribusiness financing, value addition financing or renewable energy financing solutions.
- Experience conducting field-based assessments involving farmers, private-sector actors, government institutions and other relevant stakeholders.
- Experience developing case studies, toolkits, learning documents or similar knowledge products.

3. Technical Knowledge and Understanding

- Good understanding of Uganda’s agricultural sector, smallholder farming systems and agricultural value chains.
- Knowledge of financing challenges affecting smallholder farmers, agribusiness enterprises and the adoption of productive use of renewable energy technologies.
- Understanding of regenerative agriculture, renewable energy applications in agriculture and climate-resilient food systems will be an added advantage.
- Ability to integrate gender, youth inclusion and accessibility considerations into financial assessments.

4. Research and Facilitation Skills

- Demonstrated capacity to design and apply qualitative and quantitative data-collection approaches.
- Strong stakeholder engagement, consultation and facilitation skills.
- Ability to synthesise evidence into practical recommendations and user-friendly knowledge products.
- Excellent analytical, communication and report-writing skills.

5. Experience of the Consulting Firm (where applicable)

- The firm should demonstrate relevant experience in similar assignments involving agricultural finance, financial inclusion, enterprise development, research, documentation or learning processes.
- The firm should provide evidence of successfully completed similar assignments, including client references and examples of previous work.

Consultants or firms with experience working with smallholder farmers, civil society organisations, development programmes and multi-stakeholder partnerships in Uganda will be given preference.

7.0 Application Requirements and Submission Procedure

Interested individual consultants or consulting firms should submit a complete application package demonstrating their suitability and capacity to undertake the assignment. Applications should include the following:

- **Technical Proposal:** A technical proposal demonstrating the applicant's understanding of the assignment, proposed approach, methodology for undertaking the consultancy, stakeholder engagement strategy, and a clear work plan with estimated timelines for completing the assignment. The proposal should also include a description of the proposed team composition, roles and responsibilities of team members, where applicable, including the qualifications and relevant experience of each proposed expert.
- **Financial Proposal:** A detailed financial proposal indicating professional fees, consultancy-related costs, field assessment expenses and any other associated costs required to successfully complete the assignment. The financial proposal should clearly indicate applicable taxes and any other statutory charges or relevant costs.
- **Consultant or Firm Profile:** An updated curriculum vitae (CV) for individual consultants or profiles of proposed team members for consulting firms, including academic qualifications, professional experience and relevant technical competencies. Applicants should also provide evidence of relevant academic and professional qualifications, as well as a description of previous related assignments undertaken, including experience in agricultural finance, financial inclusion, enterprise development, renewable energy financing, research, documentation and development of knowledge products.
- **Evidence of Similar Assignments:** Examples of previous consultancy assignments related to agricultural financing models, financial institutions, value chain financing, agricultural loan products, renewable energy financing, financial inclusion, research documentation or similar areas. Applicants should provide references from previous clients, including names, organisations and contact details where applicable.
- **Legal and Registration Documents (for Consulting Firms):** Certificate of registration or incorporation, valid company registration documents and any other documents confirming the legal establishment of the consulting firm. Applicants should also provide a valid trading licence or other relevant operating permits where applicable, Tax Identification Number (TIN), evidence of tax registration, valid tax clearance certificate and any other statutory compliance documents required under applicable laws and regulations.

8.0 Submission Deadline and Address

- Interested consultants or consulting firms should submit their complete applications in **Microsoft Word or PDF format** electronically to the National Coordinator at **info@acsa-ug.org** not later than **10th September, 2026**.
- The email subject line should clearly indicate the title of the consultancy: **"Consultancy to Profile, Document and Validate Best Practices from Financial Initiatives and Models Supporting the Scaling of Regenerative Agriculture and Productive Use of Renewable Energy (RA-PURE) Enterprises under the Power for Food Partnership (PFP) Programme."**
- Applications received after the submission deadline will not be considered. Only shortlisted consultants or consulting firms will be contacted.

9.0 ACSA's Rights and Disclaimer

ACSA reserves the right to accept or reject any application, request clarification or additional information from applicants during the review process, and contact only shortlisted consultants or consulting firms.