



**Republic of Liberia Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness
Revitalization Project (STAR-P)**

Ministry of Agriculture

Credit No: 160945



Consulting Services: RECRUITMENT OF A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT A CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT IDENTIFICATION FOR FARMER COOPERATIVES IN THE VALUE CHAINS OF OIL PALM, RICE AND HORTICULTURE IN LIBERIA FOR THE SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION AND AGRIBUSINESS REVITALIZATION PROJECT IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: LOFA, BOMI, CAPE MOUNT, NIMBA AND MARGIBI.

Request for Expression of Interest

1. The Government of Liberia has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Rehabilitation Project (STAR-P) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for **Recruiting the Services of a Consultant to conduct a capacity assessment and support identification for farmer Cooperatives in the Value Chains of Oil palm, Rice and Horticulture in Liberia for the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project within the following Counties: Bomi, Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba and Lofa.**

2. The study is intended/expected to identify and analyze the socio-economic impact of the cooperatives organizational form of enterprise on smallholders. It will bring out the role that cooperatives have on rural development and poverty alleviation respect to other forms of business organizations.

- At the minimum, the study is expected to map out existing farmers cooperatives in project counties and dive into its structure, pointing out the success stories and failures and make recommendations on the kind of support that will make these cooperatives very viable and sustainable.

- The study will profile the current programs and donor resources for supporting governments' commitment and capacity towards farmers' cooperatives in the project counties and districts and identify its comparative advantages for the agricultural sector.

- It is expected that the study will provide qualitative and quantitative (where necessary) information, sex-age disaggregated data for each cooperative considering its cash flow and internal control systems.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications, skills and experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: **description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate experience and qualification-** The consultant must hold a postgraduate or its equivalent with at least 5 years relevant work experience in development studies, social development, cooperatives operations or related field. He or She must have a minimum of seven year of experience in local development and cooperative operation, specific experience and expertise on Farmer's Cooperatives and its role to rural development. Must have extensive experience working on organized business models and rural structure, working in post war countries is essential, Organizational development & capacity building experience. The consultant should also have knowledge of internal/regional agreement and initiative on farmer cooperatives (World Bank, IFC, Un, IFAD, AfDB etc), he or she should demonstrate experience in managing a team of experts, up to date and comprehensive knowledge and experience of World Bank development, policies, instruments and facilities. He or she must be able to demonstrate experience in programmes related to the following sectors such as education, agriculture, climate change, women empowerment, health, environment among others. The consultant must be computer literate with (minimum MS word, Excel, MIS).

4. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers January 2011 and revised July 1, 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment: relationship with Borrower's staff: Consultants (including their experts and other personnel, and sub-consultants) that have close business or family relationship with a professional staff of the Borrower (or of the project implementing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the loan) who are directly or indirectly involved in any part of: (i) the preparation of the TOR for the assignment (ii) the selection process for the contract, or (iii) the supervision of such contract may not be awarded a contract, unless the conflict stemming from this relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the selection process and the execution of the contract.

5. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Individual Consultant Selection (ICS)** Method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

6. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **9:00 to 5:00**.

7. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or by email on Thursday, February 15, 2018 before the close of business.

Attention: Mr. J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr.
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