

## **EVALUATION OF PROLI-FANS PROJECT**

### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM CONSULTANTS**

The Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP), the Ghanaian NGO that is coordinating the implementation of the project “Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security” (Proli-FaNS), is seeking the services of a consultant to conduct an end-of-project evaluation. The terms of reference, deadline and procedure for submission of expression of interest are indicated below.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### **1. INTRODUCTION**

“Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security” (Proli-FaNS) is a three-year project (1 August 2016 to 31 July 2019) being implemented in five African countries in the International ProInnova (Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) network, namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya. The project is supported by Misereor / Katholische Zentralstelle e.V. (Catholic Agency for Development Aid) (KZE, Germany) through a grant from the “One World No Hunger” Special Initiative (SEWOH) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP), a Ghanaian NGO that hosts the ProInnova Country Platform (CP) in Ghana, is the legal holder and coordinator of the project on behalf of the ProInnova international network. The International Support Team (IST) members in the International Secretariat hosted by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in the Philippines are backstopping the project. The project is implemented under the overall guidance of the ProInnova Oversight Group (POG), the governance body of the ProInnova international network.

ACDEP, as executing agency of the project, is seeking the services of a consultant to conduct an independent end-of-project evaluation of the Proli-FANS project during the period February to March 2019. These Terms of References (ToRs) are meant for soliciting expression of interest (EOI) from consultants to do the project evaluation.

##### **2. THE PROLI-FANS PROJECT**

###### **2.1. *Project Goal and Objectives***

The overall goal of the Proli-FaNS Project is to contribute to increased resilience of smallholder farmers in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.

Specifically the project is to achieve this by:

- I. Strengthening the innovation capacity of rural communities, particularly of women, to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity through**

communities' / small-scale farmers' experimentation, development and sharing of their own innovations to stimulate wider experimentation, adoption of innovations and upscaling.

- II. **Promote wider recognition of rural women as innovators and support them in further developing their innovations related to food and nutrition from which they control the benefits.** Under this specific objective, the project was expected to identify, develop, document and share women's innovations with others and to give official recognition to women innovators at governmental, local, regional and national level as may be appropriate in the context.
- III. **Establish and strengthen two sub-regional ProInnova platforms – in West & Central Africa and in Eastern & Southern Africa** – to support Country Platforms (CPs) in joint learning, mobilising resources and effective policy dialogue at national, sub-regional and regional (African) level to promote local innovation and research led by female and male small-scale farmers.

## **2.2. Project Implementation**

The project is coordinated and managed by ACDEP as legal holder with reporting responsibilities to Misereor, the POG and the CPs involved. Country-level project activities are implemented by the respective CPs, each hosted by a local NGO: ACDEP for Ghana, Diobass Association for Burkina Faso, Best Practice Association for Ethiopia, World Neighbors for Kenya and Association COSADER for Cameroon.

The farmer innovation and learning activities (Local Innovation – LI / Participatory Innovation Development – PID) were to be implemented with local partners at two (2) sites each in Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia and one (1) site each in Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Sub-regional activities are implemented by Sub-Regional Coordinators (SRCs) based in Ethiopia and Benin. The IST provides technical backstopping for all project activities.

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, which include monitoring project results, learning and sharing, were assigned to M&E officers for the CP-level activities and to the SRCs for the (sub)regional activities, and are reported at the overall project level by ACDEP.

The project started officially in August 2016. Effective implementation of the project on the ground started in January 2017 following preliminary consultations in each country and a project inception and stakeholder planning workshop in Ghana in November 2016.

## **3. THE EVALUATION**

### **3.1. Objectives of the Evaluation**

The evaluation is meant to assess the extent to which the planned project results have been achieved – goal, objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities and effects. It is also meant to examine the implementation processes at field and activity level. The evaluation will identify the challenges, success factors and lessons learned.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- a) Assess the achievements of the project with regards to its set objectives within the project implementation period. This includes the project's contribution towards improving capacities in local innovation and farmer-led research and to improving the beneficiaries' nutritional and food security and diversity;
- b) Assess the status in setting up Sub-Regional Platforms in Africa and the role of SRCs;
- c) Assess the gaps in achieving the objectives and targets and identify the main reasons including technical, organisational and natural causes;
- d) Assess project organisational-level implementation management and coordination, challenges, success factors and lessons learned;
- e) Capture feedback and key lessons learned by project beneficiaries, local stakeholders and implementing partners and make recommendations to help improve learning and capacities for the implementation and impact of future similar projects.

### **3.2. Main Evaluation Questions**

In relation to these objectives, the evaluation will seek to answer the following **main sets of questions**:

- i. Has the Proli-FaNS project been well implemented, given the initial project proposal and planning and taking into account the changing contexts in the countries of operation? What worked well and what did not? How can this be explained?
- ii. To what extent has the Proli-FaNS project contributed to reaching its main objectives? What have been main limiting and facilitating factors?
- iii. What are the lessons learned?

**Other evaluation issues and questions of interest** to implementing partners and Misereor include:

- iv. The extent to which women's innovation and experimentation skills for food and nutrition security and livelihood improvement have been identified, recognised and further developed through PID and local processes.
- v. The extent to which relationships and partnerships between farmers (men and women), formal researchers and extension workers have improved towards addressing food and nutrition security issues.
- vi. Progress towards creating or strengthening links and interactions between local adaptation and innovation efforts, on the one hand, and actors in formal agricultural research and development (ARD), on the other hand, for mutual benefit.
- vii. Which farmer-level practices, technologies and/or innovations have emerged from the project with a potential for out- and up-scaling?
- viii. Potential and sustainability of Country and Sub-Regional Platforms: what are the challenges and opportunities and recommendations for their sustainability?

**Effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability:**

- ix. Assess the project management and coordination by ACDEP: was the project implemented diligently, effectively and efficiently?
- x. How well did the project perform in the areas of management and administration systems, communication structures and appropriate M&E system at CP, project coordination (ACDEP) and sub-regional level?

- xi. How well does the project perform in terms of reporting requirements to Misereor, POG and CPs (frequency and quality)? What were the challenges and what are the lessons and recommendations?

**Crosscutting themes:**

- xii. To what extent have the project activities and interventions addressed or have the potential to address gender inequalities?
- xiii. To what extent were local innovations responsive to climate change and environmental challenges to food and nutrition security and nutritional diversity of rural communities?

**3.3. Geographical Scope**

The fieldwork will be conducted in two countries: one English-speaking and one French-speaking country. Other interviews are expected to be done via e-communication channels.

**3.4. Evaluation Approach and Methodology**

The consultant will be expected to adopt a participatory and learning approach in the execution of the assignment. This will include but not be limited to:

- Interaction with the project coordination team at ACDEP, members of the IST based in Europe, and the two SRCs, based in Ethiopia and Benin, mostly through Zoom, Skype or other forms of e-communication;
- Interviews with key resource persons such as representatives from the donor and from collaborators beyond the direct project partners (e.g. researchers, traditional leaders, development experts, government authorities) during the field visits and, where possible, by Zoom or Skype;
- A virtual debriefing meeting with coordinators of the five CPs, the SRCs, the IST members, ACDEP and POG co-chair in Africa to discuss draft findings for feedback.

ACDEP will make available to the consultant all relevant documents and data to enable the consultant to gain an overview of the project, its implementation and the results, as part of the execution of the assignment.

**3.5. Deliverables**

- (a) Submission of:
  - (i) A draft report to ACDEP (English and French versions) not later than two weeks after completion of the last country visit, for review and feedback from project partners – ACDEP, CPs, IST, SRCs and POG;
  - (ii) A final report to ACDEP (English and French versions), including an executive summary, to be sent two weeks after the evaluator has received consolidated feedback from ACDEP (Misereor’s evaluation report structure will be made available to the evaluator);
- (b) Presentation of final report at the 2019 Proli-FaNS Annual Partners Meeting and the Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW) in Senegal for learning within the wider network.

### **3.6. Management of the Consultancy Assignment**

The evaluation will be supervised by a supervisory team made up of ACDEP, two members of the IST and the POG co-chair from Africa through the Project Coordinator at ACDEP, who shall manage the assignment and have direct communication with the consultant on behalf of ACDEP and the supervisory team.

#### **4. TIME SCHEDULE**

- ❖ The evaluation is to take place in February–March 2019. The detailed time schedule will be prepared in consultation with the evaluator
- ❖ Zoom/Skype debriefing with project partners on preliminary findings for feedback, on 15 April 2019
- ❖ Submission of final report to ACDEP for sharing with Misereor, IST and POG by 30 April 2019
- ❖ Presentation and sharing of final report by the consultant at the project partners meeting / Prolinnova IPW in Senegal on 13–17 May 2019.

#### **5. REQUIRED EXPERTISE OF EVALUATOR**

The following background and areas of expertise are required of the evaluator:

- ❖ Good knowledge and experience in participatory approaches in ARD
- ❖ Knowledge and experience relevant for the key themes of the project including local/farmer innovation, interaction between local innovation and formal science, farmer-led participatory research, multi-stakeholder partnerships/networks, community resilience
- ❖ Experience and knowledge in gender issues related to food and nutrition security and livelihoods improvement
- ❖ Background in rural development with focus on food and nutrition security, sustainable agricultural development and/or natural resource management
- ❖ Extensive experience in undertaking external evaluations
- ❖ Excellent spoken, writing and reporting skills in both English and French

#### **6. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Interested consultants should submit by electronic means a technical and financial proposal of no more than 10 pages (excluding annexes) including:

- Understanding of the assignment
- Methodology and approach
- Relevant qualifications and experience, including CV of consultant
- Detailed costing including level of effort, fee rate and other anticipated expenses
- Three references for similar work conducted in the past three years

The EOI should be submitted to the Project Coordinator, Mr Joseph Nchor at [nchor@acdep.org](mailto:nchor@acdep.org) or [nchor@yahoo.com](mailto:nchor@yahoo.com) by 17.00 GMT on Friday, 11 January 2019.

A pre-award meeting may be held by Zoom or Skype with the preferred consultant or consultants prior to contracting in order to clarify their approach, tools, expectations and budget.