

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Agriculture and Livestock Officer (PS6)

Background

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP), a project jointly financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Sri Lanka, aims to build resilience and market participation of 40,000 rural households in the climate change affected districts of Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Matale, Mannar, Puttalam and Kurunegala. This is pursued through capacity building for climate resilience and inclusive value chains, combined with investments for climate resilience and inclusive value chains including last mile infrastructure. The lead programme agency is the Ministry of Agriculture, which would be establish a dedicated project management unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs the implementation of SARP.

Scope of work

The agriculture officer will be required to support activities and assist the Agriculture and Livestock Specialist of the project. S/he will provide assistance with the implementation of project activities, including, but not limited to:

- Participate in community planning processes using participatory appraisal techniques.
- Preparing guidelines for the implementation of agriculture related activities for implementation.
- Provide technical guidance to the farmer in agriculture sector activities including soil and water conservation, design and implementation of on-farm trials; facilitating the setting up of demonstration sites on farmer's land; and disseminating improved/ tested technologies.
- Conduct demonstrations and design technical packages for implementation.
- Prepare and disseminate extension materials (IEC) in selected subject areas
- Assess immediate and future training and extension needs of the farming community for agricultural based activities.
- Identify contact farmers in project villages to work as technical facilitators in the Farmer Field Schools
- Guide the development and implementation of agricultural training and technical activities for Farmers and Farmer Groups/Associations through provision of agronomic advice to support extension programs for farmers, including women and youth;
- Conduct farmer level training and transfer of technologies to project beneficiaries.
- Conduct training courses for implementing aspects of agriculture and livestock development.
- Provide technical guidance and organise trainings for AIs ARPAs and farmers in all aspects of agriculture and livestock development.
- In consultation with District technical staff, IAs and ARPAs to prepare extension materials (IEC) in selected subject areas.

- In collaboration with Extension Workers, oversee the development of Demonstration Plots, researching, developing, and promoting farming practices or products that enhance farm productivity;
- Visit farms to collect seed, plant, and soil samples and testing samples for nutritional deficiencies, diseases, or other changes;
- Identify, procure and distribute input supplies and locally available equipment for agricultural related activities.
- Monitor the procurement/ distribution of inputs, materials and equipment required for the establishment of natural resource management based activities.
- Assist beneficiaries, groups and communities in the identification and preparation of micro-projects proposals and draw contracts based upon agreements concerning the target beneficiaries, type of activities, mode of operation (schedule, inputs, incentives, payment calendar, etc.) and quality standards.
- Prepare workplans, periodic progress reports as and when required.
- Undertake any other duties assigned by the Agriculture and Livestock Specialist / Project Director.

Qualifications and experience:

Area of qualification / experience	Expected level of qualification / experience
Education Qualification	She / He should have a completed a minimum of bachelor's degree in Agriculture/Agriculture Technology and Management/Animal Science or a closely related field
Working experience:	<p>at least three years field experience, with proven skills appropriate technical skills and experience in the field of agriculture and livestock</p> <p>He/ she should have should also have a proven background in training and skills transfer preferably within a rural development context.</p> <p>He/ she must be keen to work in a multi sectoral team and be committed to the project's poverty alleviation Goals and its demand driven approaches.</p>

	She / He needs to have a provable experience in implementing the Farmer Field School methodology, climate smart technology and good agricultural practices
Other qualifications and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer literate • Strong inter-personal skills • Strong analytical skills • Fluency in English and Sinhala and preferably in Tamil

Duty station and location

Assigned District Offices (Mannar/ Vavniya/ Anuradhapura / Mathale/ Kurunegala/Puttalam) with frequent travel to the project sites. Having a valid motorcycle riding license is added advantage.

Duration of services – 24 person months. Initially, the contract will be assigned for a period of twelve (12) months and its extension will be based upon performance evaluation.