

Terms of Reference: Communications Officer

Overview

Position: Communications Officer “Climate-resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia”

Location: Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Background

The GCF project “Climate-resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia” ([SAP020](#), approved March 2021) is a multi-year project starting in January 2022 and is the **first comprehensive national effort** to focus on increasing the resilience of FSM’s most vulnerable communities to food insecurity in the face of climate change. The project targets all households in the FSM high islands undertaking some form of farming approximately 68,250 direct beneficiaries (across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with 63% of HHs conducting some form of agriculture and forestry). The project specifically works to improve technical capacity and coordination for CSA planning and policy, support improved decision-making for agriculture through downscaled climate information, increase availability, stability, and accessibility of locally grown food for food security, improve nutritional outcomes for vulnerable households, develop new opportunities for income and household productivity, and strengthen climate resilient value chains across the agriculture sector by implementing three interrelated components:

1. **Establishing an enabling environment for adaptive action and investment:** This includes institutional coordination, undertaking downscaled integrated vulnerability assessments, incorporation of climate change into State and national planning and policy, developing a network of farmer associations, and disseminating tailored communications for informed decision-making. These outputs will specifically help to better target adaptation investments based on community-level vulnerabilities, improve technical capacity for climate smart planning and policy, cement political commitment and accountability for CSA, and drive informed decision-making for farmers, all of which will increase the adaptive and anticipatory capacity of FSM and lay the foundation for improved strategic planning for food security and climate resiliency.
2. **Enhancing the food security of vulnerable households by introducing CSA practices:** This includes establishing agroforestry systems, capacity building for extension agents, awareness building and training for FSM households, and developing reserve capacity for climate disruption. This will increase availability, stability, and accessibility of locally grown food for food security, improve nutritional outcomes for vulnerable households, develop new opportunities for income and household productivity, and drive a national change in awareness and utilization of CSA for improved resiliency.
3. **Strengthening climate-resilient value-chains and market linkages across the agriculture sector:** This includes the development of new markets for local agriculture, enhanced food processing and preservation, and increasing awareness and consumption of local food). This will strengthen climate resilient value chains across the agriculture sector, improve food security gaps through storage and processing, significantly transform opportunities for improved livelihoods thereby driving increased adaptive capacity, and create a strong incentive framework for local

farmers to leverage CSA packages beyond the life of the project to secure a long-term shift towards improved climate resiliency with regards to food security.

Implementing Organization

The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) is the Accredited Entity (AE) for the project and is responsible for supervising the implementation, financial management, evaluation, reporting and closure of the project, as well as having overall fiduciary responsibility for the project. The FSM national government, acting through the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) and the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency (DECEM), as well as the College of Micronesia (COM-FSM) will serve as the Executing Entities (EE). The FSM government and COM-FSM have overall responsibility for the effective delivery of required inputs in order to achieve the expected project outputs. The FSM government is responsible for Component 1 and COM-FSM will be responsible for Components 2 and 3.

Overview of the Role

The Communications Officer will report directly to the Project Manager within the Project Management Unit (PMU). The Communications Officer will play a central role, leading all communications-related activities of the project. Specific areas will include: development of an overarching project communications plan, development of project knowledge products, preparation and finalization of reports, among others. Under the specific project outputs, the Communications Officers will provide direct support for the following outputs/activities:

- For output 1.5 *Improved climate communications on agriculture*, lead the improvement of the existing climate information processes to better support tailored communication for climate smart agriculture interventions. Currently this information is not always presented in a way that is useful to local farmers in making specific decisions for agriculture. This output will include:
 - Utilize the integrated vulnerability assessments from Output 1.2 and existing weather/climate information streams currently relayed to DECEM to inform development of targeted communications materials (newsletters, SMS texts, Whatsapp, radio broadcasts) for climate smart agriculture including parameters like seasonal rainfall, drought events, etc. tailored to the needs and priorities of local farmers
 - Develop a strategy to ensure the developed communications will be shared through existing dissemination channels and build opportunities to support last-mile communications through the establishment of formal/informal networks for dissemination
 - Build the capacity for developing the above mentioned tailored communications within DECEM.
- For Output 3.3 *Increased consumption of local produce and awareness of benefits of local food* support the development of a communications plan for promoting local products (demonstrations, local forums, displays, events, school posters and campaigns).
 - Activities under this output include the provision of trainings to implement the communications plan and effectively build awareness of local consumption and nutrition. The Center for Entrepreneurship of the College of Micronesia-FSM will operationalize the communications plan developed under this output by providing trainings for community groups particularly women's groups on implementing the communications

plan and effectively building awareness of the benefits of local consumption and nutrition.

Desired Qualifications

Education: Bachelor's Degree in communications, journalism, public relations or a related field.

Experience: At least five years of similar work experience is required. Candidate should be able to work independently – with minimum supervision and guidance from supervisors. Demonstrated and extensive social media experience is an added advantage.

Skills: Excellent written and oral English communication skills is required. Knowledge of other local languages is an asset. S/he should have advanced working knowledge of MS Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher). Candidates with basic design and layout skills and adept in using Adobe Photoshop and Page maker are an added advantage. Demonstrated and extensive social media experience is an added advantage.

Salary

Negotiable and commensurate with experience

Application

To apply please submit a cover letter and CV to personnel@personnel.gov.fm with the subject line “[Last Name], [First Name] – Communications Consultant GCF SAP020”.

The Office of Personnel will be accepting applications/resumes from October 5, 2021 until filled.