



The Green Climate Fund (GCF) project “Climate-resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia” (SAP020, approved March 2021) through the Department of Resources and Development (R&D), invites interested individuals or groups to submit written proposals to Support for the development of new markets and opportunities to increase the availability and affordability of local food, Enhanced food processing and preservation, and to Increased consumption of local produce and awareness of benefits of local food.

Interested individuals or groups with an interest in supporting Strengthening climate-resilient value chains and market linkages across the agriculture sector will submit the following:

1. A technical proposal detailing their interpretation of the TOR, proposed methodology including survey framework, work schedule, and proposed budget.
2. A capability statement demonstrating how they meet the required qualifications and competencies and examples of prior work performance as related to this TOR.

Details of the services required of the consultant can be found in the Terms of Reference. To obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference for the assignment, please access it [here](#).

Proposals should be submitted electronically to:

Mr. Mark Kostka.
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SAP020
FSM Department of Resources and Development
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Ms. Jo Lynne JG. Mori
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Submission Deadline: **May 30, 2023, at 11:55 PM**



TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY WORK TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD PROCESSING AND PRESERVATION TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE FSM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT GREEN CLIMATE FUND “CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD SECURITY FOR FARMING HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS THE FSM” PROJECT

Background

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) project “*Climate-resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia*” (SAP020, approved March 2021) is a five-year project and the first comprehensive national effort to focus on increasing the resilience of those FSM communities that are most vulnerable to food insecurity in the face of climate change. The project targets all households in the high islands of the FSM engaged in some form of agriculture, including fisheries and aquaculture (around 63% of households with approximately 68,250 direct beneficiaries). The project aims to improve technical capacity and coordination for Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) planning and policy, support informed and improved decision-making for agriculture through downscaled climate information, increase availability, stability, affordability, 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. These aims will be accomplished by implementing three interrelated components.

Component 1 – Establishing an enabling environment for adaptive action and investment

This includes institutional coordination; undertaking downscaled integrated vulnerability assessments to identify risks and threats from sea level rise, flooding, rising temperature, environmental changes, and storms; incorporating climate change into state and national planning and policy; developing a network of farmer associations; disseminating tailored communications for informed decision-making; implementing observational tools for introducing and maintaining environmental sustainability in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Specifically, these outputs will be used to identify and incorporate resilience strategies into national and local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Master Plans, and planned infrastructure projects, 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, Altogether, these will increase the adaptive capacity of FSM and lay the foundation for improved strategic planning for food security and climate resiliency.

Component 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; developing reserve capacity for climate disruption. This will increase the availability, stability, affordability, 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.

Component 3 – Strengthening climate-resilient value-chains and market linkages across the agriculture sector

This includes the development of new markets for local agriculture including aquaculture and fisheries; enhanced food processing and preservation; 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 robust 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. It is responsible for supervising the implementation, financial management, evaluation, reporting and closure, and 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 Management (DECEM), as well as the College of Micronesia FSM (COM-FSM), will serve as the Executing Entities (EEs). The FSM Government and COM-FSM have overall responsibility for the effective delivery of required inputs 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. The Project Management Unit of the project is based at the Department of R&D and is responsible for the implementation of the project.

About the Consultancy

There is currently little by way of established connectivity and opportunities for farmers to sell their food in local markets across the FSM. The FSM Integrated Agricultural Census (2020) reports that only 48% of households that have land for agriculture engage in markets for their produce, with only 30% of farm households living less than an hour from a market and 2.5% of households having no market access at all. In all states, between 8% and 11%

of households with land for agriculture reported participating in product organisations in the previous year. This situation presents a significant challenge given the increased productivity anticipated as a result of this project.

There is substantial market room for farmers to produce more vegetables and produce in Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Chuuk, while in Yap there is a need for better market coordination as the market for certain products is saturated, leading to suppressed sales and spoilage. In addition, the supply of local produce has been shown to be inconsistent and unreliable, which prevents market access to local restaurants and other businesses that rely on a consistent supply of goods.

Food programs such as the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP), have made significant progress in overcoming these issues, working to change attitudes towards local foods, raising awareness of the nutritional benefits of local foods such as taro, breadfruits, yams, and bananas, and encouraging consumption of these foods. Such programs have also increased the levels of local produce being sold to takeaway shops and restaurants.

Component 3 of the project seeks to address this aspect of the food landscape in the FSM by supporting the development of new markets and market opportunities to increase the availability and affordability of locally produced food, enhancing food processing and preservation skills within communities to enable the expansion of reliability of the locally produced foods market, and by promoting the benefits of local food production and consumption.

The FSM Department of R&D is seeking a consultancy service to undertake all activities within Component 3.

Sub-component 3.1. Support for the development of new markets and opportunities to increase the availability and affordability of local food.

Research and identify suitable streams of finance and appropriate strategies for the cost-effective delivery of staple crops to market, to support a steady supply of climate-resilient crops. Building on existing participatory guarantee schemes, and forging links between State-level farmer associations and existing initiatives, the demand for locally-produced staple foods can be increased.

Sub-component 3.2. Enhanced food processing and preservation.

Research and establish a program for the processing and preservation of locally grown, climate-resilient produce, including the development and delivery of training to support household-level food processing and preservation, and the building of networks to support the supply of produce between local farmers and existing food programs across the FSM. This will help to enable long-term adaptation to climate change, help communities and households to develop new income streams, and provide an additional measure of bridging resilience for climate disruptions to the food supply.

Sub-component 3.3. Increased consumption of local produce and awareness of the benefits of local food.

Develop a communications plan to support the demand for local climate-resilient foods, ensuring the inclusion of women's groups, participatory guarantee schemes,

and farmer associations in its development. This will be followed by training to implement the plan, as well as the hosting of workshops to highlight the value of locally produced food, to ensure ongoing awareness building of the benefits of consuming local food.

Scope of work

The consultancy service, in close collaboration with the Project Management Unit, is expected to undertake the following specific activities under each sub-component.

Where the activities and materials described below refer to locally produced foods these include, as a minimum:

- Banana
- Breadfruit
- Giant swamp taro
- Sweet taro
- Yam bean.

Sub-component 3.1. Support for the development of new markets and opportunities to increase the availability and affordability of local food.	
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research sustainable financing streams and strategies for low-cost delivery of key staple crops, and ways to link farmers with local businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This research should consider approaches that have been or are being used within the FSM, as well as approaches used in similar contexts outside of the FSM ● Develop a network connecting food producers with national food programs, including school feeding programs, that will ensure a consistent market for locally grown produce. This will be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connecting State-level farmer’s associations with current food programs such that State-level farmer’s associations will act as the liaison between the food programs across the FSM and the local farmers who will provide the supply of locally produced food
Duties and deliverables	<p>The consultancy service will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop a work plan to include all activities listed here B. Assess existing sustainable financing options and their levels of success, and identify new opportunities that may exist. Identify options for increasing connections between farmers and local businesses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A written report should be provided including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. An assessment of sustainable financing streams, both within and outside the FSM II. Recommendations about which financing streams are most suitable within the given context III. What options exist for connecting farmers with local businesses

	<p>IV. Recommendations for establishing such connections</p> <p>b. A draft agreement should be developed to be used between farmers and markets/businesses to deliver a consistent supply of local food</p> <p>C. Assess existing networks and linkages between State-level farmer's associations and national food programs and identify opportunities for network expansion and strengthening</p> <p>a. Develop a report providing an assessment of each State's existing network 'landscape'</p> <p>b. Develop an action plan for the necessary expansion and strengthening of these such that a network is established in each State that can enable the delivery of the project aims</p> <p>c. Develop accompanying materials, as required by the action plan</p>
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Sub-component 3.2. Enhanced food processing and preservation.	
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish key food processing techniques for local, climate-resilient produce. This will be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Researching and leveraging results from other projects to identify and establish small, household-scale techniques for food processing including but not limited to drying and grinding breadfruit and taro, etc. ● Deliver training programs for household-level food processing, packaging, and storage. This will be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing training programs, the identified food processing, preservation, packaging, and storage techniques and delivering these training programs through sessions at community demonstration gardens for women's groups and individual household farmers.
Duties and deliverables	<p>The consultancy service will be required to:</p> <p>A. Develop a work plan to include all activities listed here</p> <p>B. Undertake comprehensive research regarding the processing, preservation, and storage of locally produced foods. To avoid creating repetition within the project of existing activities, this should include research regarding prior and ongoing activities across the FSM in relation to these activities</p> <p>a. A written report should be provided highlighting each State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Existing activities and techniques for each food type ii. Opportunities for expanding activities across food types iii. Opportunities for incorporating new/different techniques. </p> <p>C. Develop a suite of training activities and accompanying materials designed to engage community women's groups and household farmers in the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The GCF project, and its intended impact and benefits to communities and households across the FSM b. The benefits of producing and consuming local produce in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Health and nutrition </p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Livelihoods iii. Climate resilience c. Understanding food processing d. Food processing, preservation and storage techniques e. Take-away pamphlets for locally grown foods including nutritional information, health benefits, simple recipes D. Liaise with appropriate partners in each State to develop a calendar of training events for each State for the lifespan of the project E. Work with partners in each State to deliver the training calendar
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Sub-component 3.3. Increased consumption of local produce and awareness of the benefits of local food.

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communications plan for promoting local climate-resilient products and driving demand for their consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with women’s groups, PGS groups, and farmer associations to develop a strategic communications plan for promoting local produce for individual consumption and to larger markets. This plan will potentially include activities like demonstrations, local forums, displays, events, school posters, campaigns, etc. • Deliver training to support the implementation of the communications plan and effectively build awareness of local consumption and nutrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training for community groups, particularly women’s groups, on implementing the communications plan and effectively building awareness of the benefits of local consumption and nutrition • Host community and school workshops at demonstration gardens highlighting the value of local food for families and youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community meetings will take place at elementary schools on the four main islands of FSM
Duties and deliverables	<p>The consultancy service will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop a work plan to include all activities listed here B. Engage with key stakeholders in all four FSM states to develop a comprehensive communication plan to raise awareness of the benefits of consuming local foods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The development process should engage the following groups, as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Women’s groups ii. Participatory guarantee schemes iii. State-level farmer associations b. The plan should promote local foods to individual households, local markets, and larger markets c. The plan should take into account State-specific contexts d. The plan may include activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Food preparation and cooking demonstrations ii. Local forums iii. Community displays iv. Events v. School displays

	<p>C. Develop a suite of training activities and accompanying materials designed to implement the communications plan</p> <p>D. Liaise with appropriate partners in each State to develop a calendar of training events for each State for the lifespan of the project</p> <p>E. Work with partners in each State to deliver the training calendar</p>
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For all sub-components, all written documents must be submitted in English using Microsoft Word or Microsoft PowerPoint (as appropriate) in both soft and hard copy. The main body of all reports should be written in non-technical language with technical materials, as applicable, presented in annexes. All materials will remain the property of the FSM National Government.

Duration

The consultancy will be for the duration of the project, with estimated timings as follows:

- Sub-component 3.1: 24 months
- Sub-component 3.2: 48 months
- Sub-component 3.3: 48 months.

Immediate availability to begin is required.

Requirements

The consultancy service must be able to demonstrate the following skills and experience:

- A thorough understanding of the situational landscape of the FSM with regard to climate change, food production and consumption, and societal influences on these
- Experience and ability to undertake comprehensive research activities, including a mix of desk research and practical research, analyse and present results in an effective and meaningful way, and develop appropriate recommendations from that research
- Experience in engaging multi-sectoral stakeholders in strategic planning activities
- Understanding of sustainable financing streams and how these can be utilized in contexts such as those seen within the FSM
- In-depth experience in the development and delivery of effective climate-focused educational and/or training activities with demonstrable positive outcomes for different audience types
- Experience in developing and implementing communications and awareness-raising campaigns
- Capability to deliver training across the FSM, with an awareness and sensitivity to the different social and cultural contexts, and different language requirements, which that entails.

Submission of Application

Interested consultants or firms are requested to submit:

1. A technical proposal detailing their interpretation of the TOR, proposed methodology including survey framework, work schedule, and proposed budget.
2. A capability statement demonstrating how they meet the required qualifications and competencies and examples of prior work performance as related to this TOR.

Please submit an application to: (preferably electronic submission)

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