



Announcement No: POC-015-22
Opening Date: 4/20/2022
Closing Date: 6/30/2022

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Project Title: (TOR) FSM International Consultancy for Agriculture Policy

Consultancy to update the National Agriculture Policy (2022-2032), develop a 20-year National Agriculture Master Plan and State Action Plans (SAPs) for the Federated States of Micronesia.

Background:

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is unique in the Pacific, being a federation comprised of four semi-autonomous States – Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. The nation is in free association with the United States, and the capital is Palikir, Pohnpei. The FSM National government holds the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) responsible for national coordination with the four State governments and their respective Agriculture agencies which are primarily responsible for on-the ground activities.

The identified consultant will work in partnership with National R&D, Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division to provide support for the development of a FSM National Agriculture Master Plan, State Action Plans for Agriculture and update the FSM National Agriculture Policies.

Project Description:

The FSM Agriculture Policy 2012-2016 covers the agriculture sector and includes subsistence forestry, agriculture, commercial farming, agri-business enterprises, agri-industries, food processing, livestock, quarantine, biosecurity and plant protection. Agriculture has been identified as one of the priority areas for economic development in FSM, however the sector has been underproductive and growth has been sluggish over the last 20 years. Historically, the lack of a coherent policy, legal and regulatory framework has inhibited strategic action and dissipated the already limited human and financial resources. As a result, the FSM Strategic Development Plan (2004-2023) called for an agreed vision and adherence to a National Agriculture Policy framework. In response, the FSM Agriculture Policy 2012-2016 was developed as the conclusion of a participatory consultation process among a wide range of stakeholders across the four States and intended to provide the basis for action by both public and private sectors to invigorate sustainable agriculture growth in the Federated States of Micronesia. An express goal of the Agriculture Policy is to strengthen socio-cultural safety nets through invigorating traditional agriculture.

Development of agricultural policies and action plans at the State level has varied by State. Pohnpei has recently drafted a new Food Security Policy (2022-2026). Yap historically had a 5-year Action Plan (2009-2014) developed. Chuuk and Kosrae currently use the FSM SDP prior to the National Agriculture Policy.

Informal review and consultations undertaken by the FSM National government, including the FSM Food Systems Dialogues, in-person State-level consultations, the National summary level Food Systems Dialogue Conference held in 2021, and the recent R&D Conference held in Chuuk at the start of 2022, have led to FSM seeking support from SPC in developing an updated National Agriculture Policy, a new National Agriculture Masterplan, and four State SAPs that are reflective of national and state level policies, real needs and considerations including climate change impacts, It is expected that once in place,

the updated National Agriculture Policy, the National Agriculture Masterplan and the SAPS will be used to direct strategic level engagement in the sector for national and state stakeholders and development partners.

SPC LRD will work with the National R&D, Agriculture Division, State Agriculture agencies, and local consultants to carry out community consultations in relevant municipalities and with farmers associations, women's interest groups and relevant line Government departments using participatory approaches and focus group discussions ensuring that their views are reflected in updating the National Agriculture Policy (2022-2032), and the development of a 20-year National Agriculture Master Plan and State Action Plans (SAPs) for the Federated States of Micronesia. These community consultation results will be utilized by the international consultant to inform the development of the new National Agriculture Policy, the National Masterplan, and the State Action Plans. Furthermore, the SPC LRD staff will be at the same time linking the implementation of 2 specific POET Com projects namely the DFAT funded Building Prosperity for Women Producers, Processors, and Women Owned Business through Organic Value Chains and the EU Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat funded Building Capacity for Non-State Actors to Led Sustainable Agriculture Policy Development.

This is a desk-based consultancy with guidance from FSM R&D, Agriculture Division in FSM. Phase 1 will focus on the update the National Agriculture Policy. Under Phase 1, the Consultant will provide recommendations for and outline and develop a twenty-year National Agriculture Masterplan and the develop four twenty-year State Action Plans (SAPs), one for each for the States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap in the FSM – with the aim to increase focus on and drive development of the sector by each State. Phase 2 will entail the full development of the 20-year National Agriculture Masterplan and the 20-year State Action Plans for each State – Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. This will be accomplished through a series of consultations in partnership with National R&D, State Agriculture Agencies, SPC LRD, and stakeholders.

Under this consultancy (Phases 1 & 2), the National Agriculture Masterplan and the State level SAPs to be outlined need to clearly outline how the directives outlined in the new FSM National Agriculture Policy 2022-2032 will be implemented and should include 5-10 simple indicators that can be used to measure results. The drafting of the SAPs is to be based on the last FSM Agriculture Policy (2012-2016) and previous State level policies and action plans, as well as incorporating any new or additional issues of relevance to the nation, such as climate change, where applicable.

The consultant may seek guidance or clarification from the FSM R&D Agriculture Division, and/or SPC LRD where necessary. The consultant will also produce a document that outlines key common issues across the four States (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), which may also apply to the other States, and identifies 5-7 possible national actions, based on documents analyzed, virtual consultations with the FSM R&D Agriculture Division, virtual consultation with the State and National and the consultant's own knowledge and experience. This may help inform priorities between FSM and SPC under a reshaped MOU over the next years.

After Phase 1 is complete, and pending funding availability, Phase 2 will entail full development of the National Agriculture Masterplan and all four SAPs. The outline for the National Masterplan and the four SAPs produced under Phase 1 of this consultancy will be taken out for wider community and stakeholder consultation.

The consultant may be engaged for Phase 2 work to develop and finalize the National Agriculture Masterplan and four SAPs based on outcomes from these consultations. The SAPs may provide guidance for the coordination of investments from national and State budget revenue together with other sources of public funds for development of the sector. Including, but not limited to, US Compact Funds and Federal Programs and Grants; and may be used as a basis for provision of technical assistance and sector development by partners including SPC and the FSM Government.

Scope of Work:

For Phase 1, key activities to be undertaken by the consultant will include:

- Produce a work plan with timelines
- Provide technical support on stakeholder consultations at the national level and in all four States
- Review outcomes of States consultations and other relevant secondary information/data and produce proposed structure for the State Action Plans for Agriculture (SAPs)
- Produce a synthesis report that outlines key common issues across the four States (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei & Yap) and identifies 5-7 possible national actions and feed into national policy revision. This may help inform priorities between FSM and SPC under a reshaped MOU over the next years
- Based on the review, develop an outline for the four SAPs (one for each State - Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap) and update the FSM National Agriculture Policy
- Facilitate consultations with national, State agriculture, partners (FSM R&D, Agriculture Division) and other stakeholders for the finalization of the national and State plans.
- Develop a result framework for the national and State plans that incorporate streamlining planning, programming and implementation

Expected Outputs:

The consultant in Phase 1 is expected to produce:

- A synthesis report outlining key common issues across the States Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap, and identifies 5-7 possible national actions that guides national policy revision and development of implementation plans
- A National Agriculture Policy 2022-2026
- An outline for a twenty (20) year National Agriculture Master Plan
- An outline for four twenty (20) year State Action Plans for Agriculture that will align with the National Agriculture Policy including 5-10 simple indicators to measure results

Institutional Arrangement:

The consultant will liaise regularly with Ms. Marlyter Silba, Assistant Secretary, FSM National Department of Resources & Development, Agriculture Division, Ms. Lara Studzinski, Director, SPC Micronesia Regional Office, in FSM, and Mr. Stephen Hazelman, SPC Suva, and will be ultimately responsible to the SPC Team Leader, SPC. The consultant will also be expected to regularly liaise with the FSM Taskforce formed to guide this work. The consultant will be expected to provide their own laptop and other professional support as necessary.

Duration of the Work:

Phase 1 is expected to be completed within a total of up to 30 working days. Expected date of commencement as soon as possible and expected completion date is no later than **30 June 2022**. This is a desk-based consultancy. Travel is not anticipated due to ongoing FSM Covid travel restrictions.

Qualification of the Successful Contractor:

The consultancy requires the following skills and experience:

Qualities	Ranking
Graduate or post-graduate qualification in agriculture science, agriculture rural development, agricultural economics or related field	20%
Minimum 5-7 years professional working, or academic experience in the field of agriculture sector, including review and design of policies and State action plans, project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and an understanding of agricultural value chains	25%

Demonstrate experience in Policy development involving wide range of stakeholders	20%
Excellent communication and written skills and ability to meet due deadline and produce quality report and plans are required	20%
Proven working experience in the Pacific Island region. Experience in Micronesia highly desirable, but not essential	15%

Scheduled of Payments:

Milestones/Outputs	Verification	% Payment
Acceptance of a work plan with timelines	Upon written agreement by SPC and FSM R&D	10%
Proposed structure for the FSM National Agriculture Policy, National Agriculture Masterplan and State Action Plans and acceptance by the FSM National R&D Agriculture Division	Upon written agreement by SPC and FSM R&D	10%
Desktop analysis of State level stakeholder consultation common issues of Strengthens, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) document accepted	Upon written agreement by SPC and FSM R&D	20%
New FSM Agriculture Policy 2022-2032 Document	Upon written agreement by SPC and FSM R&D	30%
Outline for the National Agriculture Masterplan and State Acton Plans and common issues document finalized based on feedback	Upon written agreement by SPC and FSM R&D	30%

Payment will be made on submission of invoice by the Consultant, upon acceptance of related milestone deliverable consultant.

Deliverables for Phase 1 will be:

- Updated FSM National Agriculture Policy
- Outline for the FSM National Agriculture Master Plan (20-year duration)
- Outline for four (4) State Action Plans (20-year duration)(Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei & Yap)

The Office of Personnel will be accepting application/resume from April 20, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

THE FSM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER