

Terms of Reference
PFPA - Stabilizing Afghanistan and Pakistan Bordering Areas

Farming Systems and Natural Resources Management Expert

Under the overall guidance of the FAO TC Departmental Support Group for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the technical supervision of the Plant Production and Protection Division, the Animal Production and Health Division and the Natural Resources Division, in close consultation with the country FAO Representatives of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in collaboration with relevant national and international partners, and under the direct supervision of the Mission Team Leader, the incumbent shall:

- Liaise and coordinate with other mission members on the analysis, proposals and field activities;
- Identify and summarize the major crop/livestock production and farming systems (including horticulture and agro-forestry, migratory 'Kuchi' systems and relevant aspects of aquaculture/inland fisheries) and assess their contribution to livelihoods and the local economy noting any important geographical and socio-economic/tribal differences.
- For the identified cropping systems, assess and summarize the current situation, constraints and potentials/needs of the agricultural sector and production systems in terms of good practices and sustainability and giving particular attention to seeds and irrigation, soil health, pest and nutrient management, crop-livestock integration, as well as inter alia to applied research, extension, fertilizer and other inputs/equipment, labour, harvesting, handling and storage, considering where appropriate geographical, systems related, and socio-economic/ethnic differentiations;
- For the identified livestock production systems, assess and summarize the current situation, constraints and potentials/needs giving attention to: the available animal resources (species, breeds, distribution); the available feed resource base noting important seasonal/ annual variation; good farming practices for sustainability; access to goods (inputs) and services (extension, veterinary); the animal health (esp. transboundary diseases) and nutrition situation; crop-livestock integration; consider related aspects of aquaculture/inland fisheries;
- Assess and summarize the main characteristics of the natural resources, *especially water*, and the degree and causes of environmental degradation; Assess and summarize the status and constraints of the forest resource base and its management;
- Assist the Institutions and the Marketing and Trade Expert to verify water related institutional and legislation issues also in the context of shared waters (including cross-border) utilization for agriculture;
- Assess and summarize the current status and rehabilitation needs of irrigation systems (including traditional systems), review types and scope of irrigation methods and water management to be recommended as suitable for the socio-economic setting and adapted to the natural resource base; and verify respective institutional and legislation issues;
- Assess and summarize the relevance of poppy/narcotics production and, together with the team, explore suitable alternative options for agricultural production;
- Verify the most appropriate methods for participatory learning and technology and knowledge transfer options (i.a. lead farmers, CBOs);
- Assist the marketing expert to review the local availability of agricultural inputs (and their sourcing - locally and internationally) including equipment necessary for the rehabilitation of farming systems – in the case of livestock, animals for restocking, drugs, vaccines, fodder seeds etc;
- Assist the Livelihoods expert to assess the relevance and impact on agricultural sector performance of specific aspects such as i.a. *climate change, environmental degradation, food aid, poppy/narcotics culture, land tenure*, conflict and security, physical accessibility, the border/regional nexus, migrants and refugees, female-headed households;

- Identify key local institutions as well as capacity-building and information needs; Review and summarize the status, constraints and needs of the crop, irrigation, and livestock specific regulatory and institutional setting, with the view to improving its capacity;
- Review and summarize related government policies/strategies, ongoing and planned sector programmes and projects of the government, UN agencies, bilateral aid agencies, NGOs and others; Review respective project implementation arrangements and security related issues of project execution;
- Assess the needs for *improving/extending ongoing/planned sub-sector projects/programmes* and build in *complementarity, synergy and conceptual/programmatic linkages* to new interventions recommended;
- On the basis of the assessment, formulate technical, programmatic and strategic benchmarks for the Priority Framework and Plan of Action including the identification of project/programme ideas (in the format to be provided), to address key constraints and increase contribution of agriculture and natural resources management to sustainable food security and increased standards of living;
- Verify respective requirements for local capacity building and for strengthening participation and local ownership of the Priority Framework/Plan of Action with focus on the succeeding phase of community based consultations and programme formulation;
- If appropriate, provide monitoring and evaluation indicators, recommend pragmatic and realistic coordination and implementation arrangements, provide rough cost estimates for the envisaged interventions;
- Assist the team leader in preparing the main report;
- Perform any other related duties upon instructions received from the team leader.

Reporting

- Observing the deadlines established and using report outlines and formats provided by the Team Leader, submit written inputs on request and a draft report including technical, programmatic and strategic benchmarks for the priority framework and plan of action, and operational components for the succeeding phase of people's centred consultation and programme formulation - incorporate changes and finalize after review by the Team Leader;
- Submit a final end-of-mission note summarising activities, findings, conclusions and proposals for follow-up action.

Qualifications

Advanced university degree in farming systems, with long international professional experience in crop/livestock production, irrigation and natural resources management, related damage and socio-economic assessment. Extensive experience in formulation of emergency, recovery and long term development projects/programmes in chronically conflict and post conflict affected territories with UN organizations and NGOs. The consultant should have excellent communication, analytical and writing skills - *capacity to write under time pressure concise, logically structured and to the point reports using an established outline and format* - and proven ability to logically conceptualize programmes and projects. A good sense of teamwork and human relations are required. Work experience in Afghanistan and/or Pakistan is very much desirable. *Excellent knowledge of English is essential - written and spoken.*

Duration

Total length of assignment is approximately 6 weeks.

Duty station

Kabul (Afghanistan) and Islamabad (Pakistan) with visits to bordering areas (security permitting).