



**Consultant:** Agriculture Investment and Strategic Planning

**Duty Station:** Freetown, Sierra Leone

**Period:** 9 Months

### **Background and Objectives**

The Sierra Leonean Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) under its flagship programme - the Smallholder Commercialization Programme (SCP) has received funding from the Government of Australia to undertake a capacity development project on strategic planning for agricultural development. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the Technical Support Agency for the project. In light of the foregoing, FAO is looking for a competent consultant to spearhead the implementation of the project. The consultant is expected to play two key roles as part of the Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistic Department (PEMSD) and in collaboration with the SCP Secretariat. First is to provide strategic advice for the implementation of the SCP. This will include working with the district governments, PEMSD and SCP Coordination team to prepare district agriculture development strategies and investment plans. The second crucial role will be to build the capacity of MAFFS and district level planners to carry out strategic planning processes with the requisite analytical tools and methods. The incumbent will be based at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

### **Duties**

Under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative in Sierra Leone and Technical Supervision of the FAO Investment Centre (TCIA) and in close collaboration with the Director PEMSD and the SCP National Coordinator, national counterparts and SCP staff, the consultant's roles and responsibilities shall include the following:

1. Facilitate the process of preparing District Agriculture Investment Plans (DAIP) for at least two districts in the country through:
  - a. Collaborating in the design of district situation analyses by interacting at working level with government officials, development partners and beneficiaries to facilitate exchange of critical information for the preparation of the DAIP;
  - b. Contributing to the preparation of the DAIP document in a participatory process in collaboration with the District Councils, District Agricultural Offices, SCP Secretariat and other stakeholders;
  - c. Facilitate the presentation of the draft document to relevant stakeholders for the purpose of validation and adoption;

2. Support capacity development for strategic and investment planning to private and public stakeholders in agriculture through:
  - a. In collaboration with relevant technical personnel of MAAFS (at headquarters and district levels), supporting the process of development of training materials (manuals, modules, guidelines) for use in capacity building in district agriculture development strategy and investment plans;
  - b. Collaborating in the pre-testing of the training materials developed and in adjusting them accordingly;
  - c. Collaborating in the development of a training programme on preparing district agricultural strategic and investment plans targeted at district and national level agricultural staff;
  - d. Assisting in conducting training of trainers (ToT) for further replication of the training programme.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

*Candidates should meet the following:*

- Advanced university degree (Masters or higher) in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Business Administration, Strategic Planning or similar relevant educational background.
- At least 10 years of relevant work experience in strategic planning especially at decentralized level; institutional reform and decentralization; project implementation; team management and leadership.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

*Candidates will be assessed against the following:*

- Extent and relevance of experience in the formulation, management and implementation of investment projects and programmes.
- Extent and relevance of experience in strategic planning especially at decentralized level.
- Extent and relevance of experience in capacity development, including on-the-job and formal training.
- Proven experience in dealing at working level with government officials, development partners and beneficiaries.
- Strong analytical skills, very high proficiency in computer skills and use of relevant software for efficient implementation of the project.
- Good communication skills, both oral and written.
- Previous experience of working with UN or FAO would be an asset.
- Experience and knowledge of agricultural context of West Africa and of the Sierra Leonean context would be an added advantage.

## To Apply:

- Applicants must complete the FAO Personal History Form (PHF)
- Send your application including the completed PHF, Curriculum Vitae and cover letter to the email referenced in the vacancy posting.
- In Sierra Leone, applications can also be submitted to: **The FAO Representative in Sierra Leone, 11 Jalloh Terrace, Aberdeen, Freetown** or [FAO-SL@fao.org](mailto:FAO-SL@fao.org).

**Deadline:** April 1 2013. 1700hrs Sierra Leone Time