



## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

### Terms of Reference for Consultant

<b>Job Title:</b> Senior Consultant, Regional collaborative strategy on sustainable agricultural water management in the Near East	
<b>Division/Department:</b> Regional office for the Near East (RNE)/Land and Water Division (NRL)	
<b>Programme/Project Number:</b> FAO regional initiative for water scarcity in the Near East	
<b>Location:</b> Cairo, Rome or home, with frequent missions to Near East Countries	
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b> As soon as possible	<b>Duration:</b> 4 months, when actually employed
<b>Reports to: Name:</b> Abdessalam Ould Ahmed	<b>Title:</b> Assistant Director General, RNE

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

##### Background and justification

The Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity in the Near East has been launched in response to the first challenge identified at the 31<sup>st</sup> FAO Regional Conference for the Near East in 2012, linking food security in the region with increasing scarcity of water resources. The overall goal of the initiative is to support member countries in identifying and streamlining policies and best practices, in agriculture water management and beyond, that can significantly contribute to boosting agriculture productivity, improving food security and sustaining water resources. The initiative will identify critical areas that require action, assist in the formulation of a regional collaborative strategy and build broad partnerships to support its implementation.

The initiative will inject fresh thinking into the process of finding sustainable solutions to water scarcity and food security problems through facilitating the implementation of cost-effective water investments and management practices, and, beyond water, through addressing issues of national food security and trade, and reduction of food losses. It will enhance cooperation between member countries and between countries and international and regional partners. It will focus on the policies, investments, approaches and practices that are necessary to ensure sustainable intensification of agricultural production under water scarcity conditions and utilize innovative assessment methodologies in the accounting of the availability and use of fresh water resources, and to analyse the costs associated with options to ensure national food supply.

The initiative will have two major outcomes: (i) a Regional Collaborative Strategy on sustainable agriculture water management for increasing the level of food security, and (ii) a Regional Partnership to support countries in the implementation of the collaborative strategy. The findings and recommendations will be presented to the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for the Near East in February 2014. The initiative is being implemented jointly by FAO's Regional Office for the Near East, based in Cairo, and by FAO's Land and Water Division, based in Headquarters in Rome.

##### Elements of the initiative

A Regional Review has first assessed the state of the art and knowledge gaps on water management for agriculture, placing it in the broader context of food security, water governance and major milestones in policies over the past 10-15 years in the countries of the region. It has identified major constraints and challenges, their causes, and possible remedial actions, and will be used to guide gap analysis at national levels.

A series of National Assessments will be performed in 5 to 6 'pilot' countries, based on three main pillars:

- A water accounting/water auditing that will review the country's water resources, their use and the potential for improvement in its efficient use for agriculture; combined with a review of the policy and institutional environment that sustain water resources management;
- The development of a water and food supply cost curve that will review and compare agricultural water management and food supply options in terms of costs and expected benefits;
- A knowledge gap analysis, focusing on evidence-based findings, of the causes of successes or failures of past policies, strategies and programmes dealing with water management for agriculture. Benchmarking will be used extensively to assess performance gaps and the potential for improvement.

The "Land and Water Days", a knowledge sharing fair, will take place in Egypt, from 16 to 19 September 2013 and offer a space for knowledge sharing of relevant country or regional case studies and feed into the strategy.

The regional Review and the National Assessment will be the basis for the development of a draft Regional Collaborative Strategy on sustainable agriculture water management for increasing the level of food security in the countries of the Region. The draft strategy will build upon the findings of the country assessments to: i) define the most efficient instruments for food supply increase and sustainable food security improvement in relation to water scarcity; ii) identify priority areas for action by countries to unlock the potential of food supply and production increase as well as food security improvement; iii) highlights the areas requiring technical support by partners.

##### Implementation modalities

The Initiative is a joint effort by FAO, member countries and their partners in the region. National multidisciplinary teams (NMDT) are being established in each country to support and implement the initiative. The National Assessments will be performed through a series of national level studies, combined with national and regional workshops for the exchange of experience and findings among the countries of the region. FAO will encourage the establishment of a network of focal points for exchange of experiences throughout the project implementation and the workshop will offer the opportunity for a first contact and extensive exchange.

Throughout 2013, the initiative will facilitate the development of a Regional Partnership to support countries in the implementation of the collaborative strategy. The Partnership will gather representatives from member countries and international and willing regional partners associated

with the initiative (FAO Regional Partnership on Water Scarcity) who will meet at key stages of implementation of the initiative. A launching workshop took place on 2-4 June in Cairo and gathered representatives from the countries. It introduced the initiative to countries and served as a validation process and as a first partnership building initiative.

At FAO, the Initiative is being implemented by a team of professionals from the Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) and the Land and Water Division (NRL), sub-regional Officers for North Africa and the Gulf Countries, and supported by a multidisciplinary team from relevant technical units.

### **Purpose of the consultancy and specific tasks**

The consultant will be part of the team in charge of the Water scarcity initiative both in RNE and NRL in order to deliver a draft strategy by November 2013. In particular, s/he will ensure smooth implementation of the national assessments in the 5-6 selected countries, and compile regional and national findings into a draft strategy document.

More specifically, the tasks will include:

- Assist countries in the establishment of national multi-disciplinary teams (NMDT) in each of the 5-6 pilot countries and the development and implementation of their work programme; ensure that the teams are operational and that they have the support they need to perform the country assessment smoothly and swiftly;
- Help NMDTs to draft TORs for the national consultants who will be involved in the initiative if any;
- Assist NMDTs in the preparation of national workshops to be held in the framework of the initiative;
- Ensure monitoring of national assessments and their technical support, in particular in relation with the gap analysis;
- Undertake missions in the pilot countries as needed and prepare necessary technical working documents to meetings and contacts with national counterparts and potential partners to involve them in the initiative;
- Work with other team members to prepare the necessary inputs for training tools and documents to be used for implementing the methodological approach;
- Coordinate, monitor and follow-up on the knowledge gap assessment, food supply cost curve analyses, and rapid water audits in the pilot countries;
- Review, comment and finalise the national assessments in consultation with the NMDTs
- Participate in regional events (training workshop, Land and Water Days) as requested;
- Prepare a draft of the *Regional Collaborative Strategy* on the basis of the inputs obtained from the studies at regional and national levels;
- Assist in the building and strengthening of the *Regional Partnership* to support countries in the implementation of the collaborative strategy.
- Finalise the *Regional Collaborative Strategy* and the *Regional Partnership*.

### **Missions**

The consultant will be based in Cairo, Rome or at home, with frequent travels to the NENA region as follows (indicative):

- At least 3 weeks in Rome
- At least 3 weeks in Cairo,
- 1 week mission each to Yemen, Jordan, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia
- Other missions as needed.

### **Profile:**

- Advanced university degree in water resources management, hydraulic engineering, agricultural economics or related fields;
- At least 15 years of experience in agricultural water issues, among which at least 10 years at international level in the region;
- Experience with and knowledge of the working methods of the UN system;
- Good writing skills;
- Proven proficiency in management of programmes and projects, leading teams, building partnerships;
- Working knowledge of English; knowledge of French and/or Arabic would be an asset.

### **Duration:**

"when actually employed", 4 months over the period July-December 2013

### **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
1. National multidisciplinary teams established in pilot countries and operational	15 July 2013
2. National plan of work established in pilot countries	15 July 2013
3. Support for national assessment secured in pilot countries (consultants)	15 July 2013
4. National workshops held in pilot countries	15 September 2013
5. Draft National assessments available in pilot countries	15 October 2013
6. Draft regional strategy available for discussion	30 October 2013
7. Final regional strategy available	15 December 2013

**HOW TO APPLY**

Please send your application to [NRL-director@fao.org](mailto:NRL-director@fao.org).

Applications will be considered only if accompanied by an updated FAO Personal History Form (available at <http://www.fao.org/employment/current-vacancies/consultants/en/>).

Application Deadline: 30 June 2013.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.