



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Terms of Reference for Consultant X/PSA

Minimum number of years of relevant experience required: 1yr 5yrs 12+yrs

Job Title:	Climate Change and Social Protection Policy consultant		
Division/Department:	Agricultural Development Economics (ESA)/ Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division (ESP)		
Location:	Rome		
Expected Start Date of Assignment:	ASAP	Duration:	5 months
Reports to:	Name: Solomon Asfaw/ Natalia Winder Rossi	Title:	Economist, ESA /Senior Social Protection Officer, ESP

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

Climate change threatens the objective of sustainably eradicating poverty. Poor people in hazard prone countries are exposed climate-related shocks— natural disasters threatening assets and livelihoods; waterborne diseases and pests that become more prevalent during heat waves, floods, droughts; crop failure cause by reduced rainfall; and spikes in food prices that follow extreme weather events. Through its impacts on agriculture, in particular, climate change risks having severe negative implications for food security in all its dimensions: availability, access, utilization and stability. Climate change directly affects food **availability** through its implications on productivity. It may also worsen **access** to food due to possible negative impacts on rural incomes and livelihoods. If people get poorer because of climate change impacts, they will be able to purchase less food. Climate change can also have impacts on the **utilization** dimension of food security. For instance, some studies indicate possible impacts in terms of food quality, nutrition and food safety. Finally, increased climate variability affects the **stability** of food supplies and food prices through their impact on production. Climate related shocks also affect those who are not poor but remain vulnerable and can drag them into poverty—for example, when a flood destroys a microenterprise, a drought decimates a herd, or contaminated water makes a child sick. Such events can erase decades of hard work and asset accumulation and leave people with irreversible health effects.

In principle, households can use a range of private instruments to cope with the consequences of these shocks. They can draw on their savings, borrow from a bank or cooperative, rely on formal or informal community-based insurance, benefit from domestic or international remittances, and sometimes buy private insurance. However, there is only so much these instruments can achieve. For largescale events, such as a large scale flood or a high magnitude earthquake, entire communities are affected, making informal and community-based risk-sharing mechanisms less effective. Moreover, transaction costs and other limitations often prevent private insurance uptake among poor people, unless it is heavily subsidized. Thus, targeted actions aimed at lowering socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change impacts are of paramount important to reduce poverty and achieve food security. Some of these policy actions are pure households-level climate change adaptation measures whereas others have a much broader scope and can include transactional policies able to impact on all the disaster management cycles phases. The scale-up of national shock responsive social protection systems falls into this second category. Access to predictable, regular and scalable social protection systems is a crucial strategy to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate related shocks. In the short-term, social protection allows for the protection of poor households from the negative impacts of shocks, including erosion of productive assets, while minimizing the resort to negative coping practices. In the longer term, this can help to build capacity, smooth consumption, and allow for investments that contribute to building resilience of people to future threats and crisis.

This study focuses on potential actions that can be taken in two sectors where climate-related impacts on food security and poverty are especially important—agriculture and disaster risk management. Given the complexity of interactions among the different policy options, this study focus primarily on four policy options namely climate-smart agriculture (CSA) including natural resource management (NRM), social protection, early warning & forecast based financing (FBF) and weather index insurance, focusing on sub-Saharan Africa with the possibility of using key evidence from other regions (Asia and Latin America). The study will build upon the existing literature on adaptive, risk informed and shock responsive social protection that takes into account evidence from social protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in particular early warning /early action (EWEA) system in order to help governments, practitioners and development agencies improve poor people's resilience to climate change related shocks.

To this end and under the general supervision of Solomon Asfaw, Economist (ESA) and Natalia Winder Rossi, Senior Social protection Officer (ESP), the consultant will contribute to the work under Strategy Object 3 and 5 by undertaking a synthesis of the main evidence existing in the literature drawing key findings and a set of recommendations, and identifying evidence gaps for further research, while also defining an operational framework for action. *It will provide particular emphasis on social protection policies with the intention of identifying how social protection and other climate risk management policies may fulfil each other's objectives at household level.*The consultant will:

1. Review of the evidence to provide guidance on how to define a mix of interventions to enhance the resilience of communities in the face of negative impacts of climate
2. Address some of the key policy and operational questions including:
 - a. how these policy options may improve the resilience of farming systems in the face of climate shocks (*ex-ante* risk management strategies), and how these options might be designed to mitigate the effects of climate shocks after they have occurred (*ex-post* coping strategies);
 - b. assess potential responses at the household/farm level vs. responses at the system-wide/government level. Some of these policy options may, for example, affect farmers' willingness or ability to adopt management practices that promote income stability or other forms of resilience in the face of extreme weather events. On the other hand, these policy options may also be designed in ways that encourage the usage of drought-tolerant seeds or other system-wide changes that promote resilience;
 - c. shade light on the operational challenges of linking early warning systems with social protection MIS
 - d. promoting sustainable agriculture practices through public works or other social protection interventions; and finally
 - e. Synthesize the potential synergies and trade-off between these different policy levers and what need to be done to maximize the synergies and limit the trade-off.

Based on this study, FAO will be better positioned to technically advise policy-making processes, programme design, and participate in global discussions around policies for climate risk management.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
<p>Under the overall supervision of FAO staff, Solomon Asfaw, Economist (ESA), and Natalia Winder-Rossi, Senior Social Protection officer (ESP), the Consultant will be responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a detailed outline for discussion with FAO; • Undertake desk research to review existing literature and document the main policy levers in relation to climate risk management and extend the synthesis to understand the synergies and trade-off between the different options and assess how to maximize the synergies and potential options to address the trade-offs; • Develop a draft scoping paper (max 20 pages excluding annexes) detailing the findings of the review together with framework for action (policy and programmatic) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address FAO’s comments and suggestions and finalize the report; • Produce policy briefs based on the final report 	
<p>REQUIRED COMPETENCIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master’s or doctorate degree in environmental economics, public policy with a focus on climate change and social protection - Strong policy skills, particularly in terms of resource climate change adaptation - Solid familiarity with climate change adaptation/resilience literature including social protection instruments, resilience metrics and policy frameworks - Excellent writing skills and oral presentation in English - Demonstrated experience in producing high quality reports and policy papers <p>RENUMERATION:</p> <p>The remuneration will be established on the basis of the FAO’s Guidelines on The Employment of International Consultants under Ms 317 and Subscribers to Personal Services Agreements under 319 (November 2013).</p>	
<p>Deadline for submission of your application: 5 July 2016</p> <p>Please send you CV to ESP-Vacancies@fao.org</p> <p>Applications received after the closing date will not be given consideration. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.</p>	