

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Natural Resource Management and Environmental Safeguards Specialist

Background

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP), a project jointly financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Sri Lanka, aims to build resilience and market participation of 40,000 rural households in the climate change affected districts of Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Matale, Mannar, Puttalam and Kurunegala. This is pursued through capacity building for climate resilience and inclusive value chains, combined with investments for climate resilience and inclusive value chains including last mile infrastructure. The lead programme agency is the Ministry of Agriculture, which would establish a dedicated project management unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs for the implementation of SARP.

Scope of Work

Under the overall guidance of the Project Director the Natural Resource Management and Environmental Safeguards Specialist will be responsible for co-ordinating and managing the social, environment, and climate change aspects of project implementation – including, watershed planning, soil and water conservation, climate-resilient agriculture, and community forestry. In particular the specialist will:

- Review the sources as background materials referred to in the Project Implementation Manual to plan and design natural resource measures suited to the arid and semi-arid conditions of the dry zone of Sri Lanka:
- Identify counterpart staff with requisite natural resource management background and train and mentor them throughout the duration of the assignment.
- Prepare Terms of Reference and select contracting institutions and monitor the preliminary surveys and modelling exercises of the cascade tank systems in the hot spot areas.
- Develop the community level watershed planning methodology to include technical guidelines for watershed development and the management of soil and water conservation measures in upstream areas
- Survey the project sites and identify potential areas for water resource development drawing on the technical assessment conducted during the project design process.
- Design measures, co-ordinate and manage technical aspects of water resources development, water harvesting, climate resilient agriculture, and other related topics. He/she, and the Project Engineer, will jointly review the designs of various interventions planned for water infrastructure development, and agriculture / irrigation management.
- He/ She will conceptualize studies for assessing the effectiveness of agricultural water management interventions aimed at water saving and crop productivity improvement and will undertake data collection required for the purpose.
- He/She, together with the Project Engineer, will support the district hubs and district technical staff to design the studies required for planning water related interventions in the project area.
- Prepare site specific Environmental & Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for SARP and ensure that such plans are approved by relevant authorities before implementation.
- Guide the Natural Resource Management team to select and design suitable technical measures, set work norms for the cash for assets activities, and prepare Terms of Partnership with the communities for agreed upon interventions

- Provide technical guidance and organize trainings for project staff – natural resource management officers, counterpart staff and community facilitators in all aspects of natural resource management planning, soil and water conservation and community forestry activities.
- Incorporate environmental concerns in the design, construction and operation of watershed management activities so as to minimize the negative impacts on environment.
- Guide the Monitoring and Evaluation team to ensure that social and environmental safeguards are met
- Conduct awareness and training programmes with project and government counterpart staff on social and environmental safeguards.
- Together with the Social Inclusion Expert Submit reports that address the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) issues to the Project Director.

Qualifications and experience:

Area of qualification / experience	Expected level of qualification / experience
Education:	
Postgraduate Education	She / He should have A successfully completed Master's Degree Water Resource Engineering / Management, Agricultural Engineering / Management, Natural Resource Management or equivalent.
Working experience:	
Experience related to Natural Resource Management and Environmental safeguard	At least 7 years of working experience related to water resource, climate change, and natural resource management projects/ or institutional level. Knowledge of social and environmental safeguards, and environmental and social management frameworks of IFAD or other international organizations Experience in coordinating climate risks and vulnerability analysis.
Other qualifications and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer literate • Strong inter-personal skills • Strong analytical skills • Fluency in English and Sinhala and preferably Tamil

Duty station and duration

Colombo with frequent travel to the project sites.

Duration of services – 24 person months. Initially, the contract will be assigned for a period of twelve (12) months and its extension will be based upon performance evaluation.