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Agriculture Modernization Project



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Ministry of Agriculture
கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு



The World Bank

DEMOCRITIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MOA)
AGRICULTURE SECTOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT (ASMP)
FUNDED BY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION - CREDIT NO. CR 5873 LK / PROJECT ID
NO: P156019

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Hiring Research Teams for Policy Research Studies

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Credit from International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank towards the cost of the ASMP and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Credit to eligible payments to hire multi- and inter-disciplinary research teams from the National Agriculture Research System of Sri Lanka, including qualified universities, other public and private sector organizations and registered professional associations of Sri Lanka to undertake Agriculture Policy Research Studies on one or more of the following research themes.

1. **Agricultural Land**, covering a review of acts and regulations related to agricultural lands in Sri Lanka; a quantitative analysis of the relationship between land and farm productivity vs fragmentation and property rights to land, and an assessment of effects of various land regulations and policies on land use pattern using a multi-sector equilibrium model.
2. **Agriculture Productivity**, covering an estimation of partial and total factor productivities of key agricultural sub-sectors in Sri Lanka (rice, selected fruits, vegetables, dairy etc.), and an assessment of the effects of public investments, such as research, extension, rural roads, irrigation, insurance, finance etc. on productivity of selected agricultural sub-sectors.
3. **Agricultural Production Relationships**, covering a meta-analysis and estimation of production relationships to identify technical and resource-allocation efficiency in agricultural production in Sri Lanka with special emphasis on seed policy, mechanization policy, agricultural input policy, an evaluation of the economic effects of cash subsidy program for fertilizer; and an evaluation of alternative policy options to increase efficiency of allocation of irrigation water.
4. **Technology Adoption**, covering a review of the regulatory framework in Sri Lanka with respect to technology adoption, scale up and spill-ins with special emphasis on the agricultural research-extension-education system, private sector participation in R&D and extension, policies governing innovations and intellectual property rights.
5. **Food Safety**, covering an assessment of the degree of adoption of cultivation and food processing practices to improve food safety along the value chain with special emphasis on and institutional arrangements to enhance food safety.
6. **Crop Insurance**, covering an assessment of the effectiveness of different agricultural insurance schemes vis-à-vis alternative risk management schemes focusing on climate change, natural disasters, and pest damages.

7. **Innovative Marketing Strategies**, covering a review of key features of businesses models adopted in Sri Lanka and other developing countries in sustainably connecting small farmers to global value chains; an analysis of conduciveness of policy framework to promote agricultural exports; an evaluation of economic impacts of tariff, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers, and trade agreements; and examination of potential market failures with special emphasis on lobbying power.
8. **Food Consumption, Nutrition and Health**, covering an analysis of structural change in food consumption pattern across sectors and income classes in Sri Lanka, and assessment of the effects of agricultural and food price and tax policies to safeguard farm producers and urban consumers on the status of food security and food industry performances; and an assessment of the economic potential of domestic production to meet priority food needs.
9. **Agricultural Labor Markets**, covering an assessment of labor productivity in major agricultural sub-sectors with special emphasis of feminization, ageing, out-migration, part-time farming etc. and policy measures to improve agriculture's competitiveness through women and youth participation.
10. **Agriculture-Environment Trade-offs**, covering an assessment of financial, economic and environmental sustainability of alternative farming systems and identification of policies to speed up adaptation mechanisms to climate change shocks; and an evaluation of the ecological consequences of various agricultural practices with special focus on conventional agriculture and ecological agriculture.

The selected research teams are expected to design research projects covering one or more of the research topics listed under each of above theme separately, conduct researches, and present the results at a policy conference that is due to be organized by the ASMP at the end of 2018.

(Please visit <http://www.agrimin.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/project/12-project/841-agriculture-sector-modernization-project> for the research topics and more details).

The ASMP Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture now invites qualified research teams to indicate their interests in providing the service. Interested research teams must produce their Expression of Interest (EOI), indicating that they are qualified to perform the service and the experiences of research teams in research project management and similar assignments in the recent past. Partnerships with international research agencies are encouraged.

The template for the EOI can be obtained by visiting the Website of the MOA or e-mailing to the following e-mail address of the ASMP.

The EOIs will be evaluated by a technical committee appointed by the MOA and the shortlisted research teams will be requested to submit full technical proposals and financial proposals to be considered for funding. The selected research teams will be invited to make presentations to a selected audience with government and private sector stakeholders before finalizing the relevant contracts. The research grant will cover the consultant fees, honoraria for staff, local travel, and consumables. Please note that funding for any equipment, including computers will not be covered.

Interest research teams may obtain further information at the address below during office hours.

EOIs must be delivered by registered post to the address below by 7th December, 2017. Please indicate "EOIs for Policy Research Projects: Theme of the Research project" on the left hand top corner of the envelop.

Project Director

Project Management Unit

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Ext. 1128 – Asoka Jayakody, 1129 – R S Malawathnthri (Working Hours: 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.)