

TERMS OF REFERENCE

STUDY ON "CHALLENGES FACED BY THE WOMEN FARMERS, SMALL-HOLDER AND SHARE CROPPER IN BANGLADESH"

Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)
Oxfam in Bangladesh

Background

Oxfam in Bangladesh has been implementing food security governance projects in three northern districts namely Kurigram, Rangpur and Dinajpur with the financial assistance of European Union. The project strives to increase awareness of vulnerable farmers' and fisher folks' on various rights and entitlements issues and establish/increase their access to different government's facilities and services and participation in the decision making processes. Three implementing partners namely Polli Sree-Dinajpur, ZIBIKA-Kurigram and SEED-Rangpur are directly working with 10,000 farmers and fisher folks and organized/ formed 60 Community Based Organizations (CBO) under 12 unions. As part of campaign and mobilization activities, numbers of dialogues, linkage building workshops, mass gathering and round table meeting with MPs and other political leaders and government officials were organized by Partner organizations in respective areas. Oxfam along with the PNGOs have also successfully organized the 1st National Farmer's Assembly in May 2014 in Dhaka at the BIAM Foundation auditorium. Over 400 farmers and fisher folks, civil society representatives, government representatives, policy makers, development practitioners, experts, journalists from print and electronic media participated in the Assembly.

Overall Objective of the Study

To identify the problems faced by women farmers, smallholders and share croppers in the northern district of Bangladesh and challenges in availing agriculture support services from the respective government departments.

Specific objectives

- To review the existing laws and policies of Bangladesh with regards to Agriculture and analyze the various support/ service mechanism designed/ provisioned particularly for women farmers
- To identify the gaps in implementation of the laws and policies with regards to agriculture
- To conduct a local power structure mapping with regards to agriculture and relevant service availing and delivery mechanism at the local level
- To identify the challenges faced by women farmers, smallholders and share croppers in the northern part of Bangladesh
- To reveal the comparison of cost of Production and Market Price: Alternative Survival and Livelihood Strategy of the share croppers
- To find out the way of having agricultural services for the poor, marginal farmers and women producers.

Study questions:

- What are the challenges and barriers faced by women farmers, smallholders and share cropper in the northern part of Bangladesh?

- What are the legislative and policy provision for the women, poor and vulnerable farmers in respect of agriculture services?
- What support and services are being offered by the respective departments for the women and marginal farmers?
- Adequacy of the existing technical support, services, subsidies etc.
- What are the challenges faced by women farmers in accessing agriculture support services?
- Timeliness and effectiveness of support, services, subsidy and trainings.
- What are government's monitoring and accountability mechanisms for effective service delivery?
- Role of the elected body for ensuring the services to the woman and marginal farmers.

Scope of study

The study will check the existing status of women farmers, small holders and share croppers in the project location. The study will include the review of relevant policy and official document/order and other relevant secondary document on the existing services. Some case stories can be prepared regarding these issues. The consultant will find-out the gaps in the support and services of respective department through field level physical visits including interview, observation and FGD in the project area including Rangpur, Dinajpur and Kurigram district. The FGD will be implemented with assistance from PNGO team and have to incorporate the field findings in the study report accordingly.

Deliverable

1. Full Study report in English with an executive summary and specific recommendation;
2. Develop an abstract of the report with no more than 500 words;
3. Finalize the report addressing the comments/feedback from Oxfam;
4. Prepare a summary (synopsis) of the report in Bangla and present it in the Parallel Session of the assembly day in 15th of September 2015 (Possible);

The report shall include

- The gender perspective, diversity and discrimination to get access of agriculture services will be discovered.
- The report will be prepared on the basis of study and information generated from the working area of the project where CBO have dealing the issue.
- The report will reveal the community demand and what further supports are needed from relevant department.
- The paper will come up with specific recommendations to improve the agriculture services towards marginalize share cropper and women farmers.

Responsibility of the Consultant

- Conducting study and produce the report.
- Develop methodology and the timeframe of the study
- Review the implementation gaps (gaps between policy and practice/implementation) identified through social audits, dialogues and public hearing process.
- Review the policy and identify its limitations, collect field level information on the implementation status of agriculture services (FGD and KII with relevance stake holders).

- Submit the draft report to Oxfam for comments/feedback
- Finalize the report addressing the comments/feedback from Oxfam
- Prepare a summary (synopsis) of the report for the assembly in Bangla and present it in parallel Session on assembly day in September 2015.

Responsibilities of Oxfam:

- Provide comments and necessary adjustment on designed methodology.
- Ensure support for arranging the field level activities.
- Feedback on draft report and key note paper

Assessment criteria for selection of the consultant:

Sl. Number	Area of assessment	Score distribution
01	Understanding of the ToR	10
02	Relevant experience	15
03	Proposed methodologies	15
04	Financial competitiveness	10
	Total marks	50

Timeline of the study:

- 1st of July to 31st July 2015 (Four week)
- Submission of draft report and key note paper by 1st of August 2015.
- Submission of final report by 12th of August 2015

Area to be covered: Dinajpur, Rangpur and Kurigram

Maximum funding available: BDT 2, 75,000.00 including VAT & Tax

How to apply:

The Individual/firm must submit the following documents along with Technical & Financial Proposal (including VAT/TAX):

For Individual Consultant:

- Maximum 2 page CV highlighting related assignment completed with client name, contract person and mobile number (this person must have fulltime engagement during assignment time)
- Other Team members' one page short CV highlighting related assignment completed
- TIN Certificate (PDF soft version)

Application Instruction:

We invite proposal from interested individuals to undertake this assignment. **Please refer detailed TOR for this assignment** and submit your letter of interest to abakshi@oxfam.org.uk by **25 June, 2015**.