

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TORs FOR ACTIVITY: 1.8\_AGRIBUSINESS RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE  
TRANSFER



25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## TORs FOR ACTIVITY: 1.8\_AGRIBUSINESS RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

### 1.0 Background:

1.1 Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organization (SOCADIDO) has received funding from Sign of Hope (SoH) to implement a 39-months' (01.12.2021 – 28.02.2025) Project titled **Establishment and institutionalisation of a Multi-Actor Partnership platform to improve agribusiness for economic viability and improved living standards for smallholder farmers in Teso sub-region in Eastern Uganda.**

The project targets 5-districts and 1-city covering 10 sub-counties and 4-wards. These places include: Magoro and Getom Sub-counties in Katakwi district, Alito and Akoromit Sub-counties in Kapelebyong district, Kobuin and Mukura Sub-counties in Ngora district, Ocokican and Awaliwal Sub-counties in Soroti district, Alwa and Aperkira Sub-counties in Kaberamaido district, and Agama, Amen, Aloet and Opuyo wards in Soroti city.

The project targets 3,600 households and aims at the establishment and institutionalization of Agribusiness Prowess (MAP-SFAP) for sustainable economic viability and improved living standards of rural households in the target sub-counties/wards by 2024. The platform is called Ateker Development Foundation (ADEFO). As such, in addition to the formal registration, signing of MoUs and having a MAP platform constitution; in close collaboration with academic institutions, a series of knowledge transfer activities including 12 dialogue sessions with small-scale farmers - in form of fundraising events like breakfast and roundtable meetings, lectures and an annual conference. The local scientists will present their work in the field of Innovative Agriculture and Productivity at the different regular meetings and events including the ADEFO Governance Council meetings, ADEFO platform and the District Technical Working Groups (D-TWGs), thus reaching the main development actors and government representatives in Teso sub-region. Through this channel, the research findings will be shared with the policymakers potentially geared towards influencing the agricultural policies positively. SOCADIDO through the project will also organise dialogue sessions with agribusiness professionals, business entities and smallholder farmers in the project area. The dialogues will also be used to tap on the expertise and knowledge of the professionals with representatives of the academia who are developing innovations on agriculture, and how the two sectors can be linked for better social economic outcomes. The results from these interactions and presentations will be used as inputs for the work of ADEFO agribusiness partners.

1.2 SOCADIDO is seeking to engage with a host of professionals who conduct research studies on new innovations, and will work with them to organize dialogue sessions/ conferences which will be used to disseminate the findings. These research findings will be shared with the policymakers to potentially influence

agricultural policies and strategies for improving commercialized agriculture. The research findings should clearly show how rural smallholder farmers will be able to benefit, and as well be able to change mindset and improve the status and income levels of smallholder farmers.

## **2.0 Project Results:**

### **2.1 Impact of the project:**

Contribution to improving the socio-economic situation of smallholder farmers through establishing and institutionalizing a multi-actor partnership and developing institutional capacities of key actors to sustainably maintain the established structure.

### **2.2 Overall Objective of the project:**

To establish and institutionalize a Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) platform in order to improve agribusiness for economic viability and living standards for smallholder farmers in Teso sub-region in Eastern Uganda.

**2.3** The ADEFO-MAP project has three specific output areas directly contributing to the overall project objective. The specified output areas of the project are:

1. Ateker Development Foundation (ADEFO) is established as a multi-stakeholder collaboration platform, owned by local actors and mandated to actively contribute to and shape strategies in the agricultural sector.
2. The agricultural value chain production has improved through ADEFO establishing a joint platform for all agribusiness relevant actors and by doing so providing comprehensive support to the smallholder farmers.
3. The capacity of organisations directly involved in socio-economic development in the Teso sub-region, and its agricultural sector in particular, is strengthened, so that they can take over the established ADEFO.

### **2.4 Project outcome and output indicators:**

The indicators as per the respective project elements include but are not limited to:

The outcome indicator is; an established functional multi-actor partnership and its dialogue structures promote sustainable agricultural productivity and contribute to improving the socio-economic situation of smallholder farmers, and it encompass the following specific targets:

1. By the end of the project, a Multi Actor Partnership (MAP) platform is established, operationalized and is anchored in local structures. There is a unified strategy among the involved agricultural actors.
2. Through a survey at the end of the project, 80% of ADEFO members (19) will confirm improved cooperation among ADEFO stakeholders.
3. 70% of target smallholder farmers (2,520 farmers) report increased productivity from their pieces of land due to received knowledge, practical skills and improved agricultural inputs.
4. Post-harvest management techniques reduced the loss by 12.5% by the end of the project.
5. Income of 70% target households (2,520 households) has increased up to 100 EUR per month, by the end of the project.

**Output Level Indicators would include:**

**Output 1:** *Ateker Development Foundation (ADEFO) is established as a multi-stakeholder collaboration platform, owned by local actors and mandated to actively contribute to and shape strategies in the agricultural sector.*

1. An operational framework that includes a constitution, a governance structure and guidelines is developed and operationalised for the ADEFO platform.
2. By the end of 2022, an integrated master development plan for the agricultural sector in Teso sub-region is developed and used within the target project area.
3. At the end of the project, 80% (19) of the ADEFO actors have signed the MoU and are official members of the platform. They regularly participate in ADEFO activities and actively shape ADEFO's work. The local development actors, the private sector, civil society organizers and government agencies are familiar with national and international networks and cooperation platforms.

**Output 2:** *The agricultural value chain production has improved through ADEFO establishing a joint platform for all agribusiness relevant actors and by doing so providing comprehensive support to the smallholder farmers. (Please note that your proposed action specifically contributes to this result area)*

1. Through received training on post-harvest management techniques and post-harvest management supplies. By the end of the project, 70% (2,520) of the target smallholders have the knowledge to store their crops without high losses.
2. 70% of the target smallholder farmers (2,520) have improved their profit due to proper financial planning and marketing of their produce after received training on business management, financial literacy and value chain addition process.
3. 100% (3,600) of the farmers in the target area are sensitized on and linked to agricultural financing services/microfinancing services with 70% of them (2,520) using received knowledge to improve their household income.
4. Until the project end the developed Master Plan for Teso sub-region consolidates information on the priorities, services and resources for smallholder farmers Smallholder farmers will be able to contribute directly to the Master Plan by having their representatives participate in the TWGs at the district level.

**Output 3:** *The capacity of organisations directly involved in socio-economic development in the Teso sub-region, and its agricultural sector in particular, is strengthened, so that they can take over established ADEFO.*

1. To enable complex and multi-level cooperative processes, the institutional capacities of the core group and the extended group are built up until the end of the project.
2. 65% (6) of the organisations of the core group have attained adequate capacity to sustainably and effectively manage ADEFO, as well as strategically position it to address further development sectors and actors in the Teso sub-region.

## **2.5 Key partners:**

The key actors in this project include district and sub-county local governments, CSOs/NGOs, the traditional/cultural institutions, religious institutions, research and academic institutions, private sector players (input dealers, buyers, insurance companies, microfinance institutions & Banks), professionals, and media.

### **3.0 The objectives of agribusiness research and knowledge transfer:**

1. This research will support in coming up with innovations in agribusiness.
2. Through this channel, the research findings will be shared with the policy makers potentially to influencing the agricultural policies positively.
3. The results will be used as input for the work of ADEFO partners in improving agricultural production and productivity among smallholder farmers.

### **4.0 The activity scope:**

We will work in close collaboration with academic institutions or professionals in coming up with innovations; by the final year of the project; 12 dialogue sessions with small-scale farmers, and 3 conferences will be held for the local scientists to present their work in the field of innovative agriculture and productivity.

The local scientists will be invited to present their work during the different regular meetings and events like annual agricultural expo, farmer exchange and learning visits, during the ADEFO Governance Council meetings;

The research findings will be shared with the policymakers potentially to influence agricultural policies positively.

Based on the above objectives and in consultation SOCADIDO, the applicant will undertake to:

- Develop and present a research proposal of not more than UGX 3,500,000 (Three million, five hundred thousand Uganda shillings only), with clear;
  - Design, methodology, quality control procedures, plan, budget, including a presentation plan during the dialogue sessions and conferences.
- Remain responsible for the entire assignment maintaining the highest standards and quality.

### **5.0 Methodology:**

The assignment should be designed to capture and assess both the subjective and objective elements. It should provide clear research findings/innovations that are easily understood and can be used in both academics and practical agriculture.

### **6.0 Required of the consultant:**

**Documents:** The Applicant shall, in particular ensure to attach the following:

#### **6.1 Technical Proposal**

- a) Profile (resume) of the applicant including relevant experience (if any) (max 1 page)
- b) An expression of interest statement explaining why you are the most suitable person(s) (max 1 page)
- c) Detailed conceptual framework with expected deliverables including timeline to get the documents ready for ratification (2 pages).
- d) Recent CV

#### **6.2 Financial proposal**

The financial proposal shall specify a total sum amount, with a breakdown of costs for the proposed research.

**Required expertise and qualifications:**

- An applicant (student or professional) should be relevant in the field of agriculture and agribusiness.
- At least some work experience (for professional) demonstrated in developing related documents.
- Demonstrated experiences and skills in facilitating stakeholder/working group consultations.

### Criteria for Selection:

The evaluation of the applicant/researcher will be based on Combined Scoring method; where methodology and experience is given 70% weightage and financial offer will be given 30% weightage. Only applicants meeting a minimum of 50 points under the technical evaluation will be considered for the final evaluation.

Criteria	Weight	Maximum points
<b>Technical (70 %)</b>		
Demonstrates knowledge on agribusiness	15	15
Demonstrated skills in conducting the research, especially in the field of agribusiness.	25	25
Demonstrated skills in facilitation/consultation and coordination skills among relevant stakeholders.	15	15
Methodology, activities, work plan, quality control, experience, etc.	15	15
<b>Financial (30 %)</b>	30	30
<b>Total (100%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### 7.0 Duration:

The assignment is expected to commence in February 2024; the first dialogue will be hosted in March 2024.

### 8.0 Reporting:

A well-researched information should be developed and adopted by the whole ADEFO platform and smallholder farmers.

The research on agribusiness and knowledge transfer should be well structured and easy to understand and comprehended by the smallholder farmers and ADEFO members. It should minimize and eliminate barriers to its effective use.

### 10. Submission of Bids:

The deadline for submission of research proposals is **7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, 5:00 pm**. The applicants are required to submit their research proposals for the agribusiness research and knowledge transfer to the Diocesan Development Coordinator SOCADIDO. Proposals will be accepted both in soft and hard copy.