



Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
Male', Republic of Maldives

Terms of reference
Biosecurity and Disease Specialist

A. Background

On behalf of the Government of Maldives, The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MOFA) is currently implementing one grant project titled “*Mariculture Enterprise Development Project (MEDeP)*” funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Maldives.

The overall goal of **MEDeP** would be to expand livelihood opportunities and reduce vulnerability. The development objective of the project would be to enhance incomes and employment especially for youth and women from mariculture activities. The key outcomes expected from the project would include (i) enhanced capacity of the MOFA to regulate and manage the mariculture industry (ii) strengthened capacity of the private sector including companies, small and medium enterprises and individual entrepreneurs to invest and participate in the mariculture value chain and (iii) increased capacity of poor households especially women and youth to realize productive gains from the mariculture sector.

In keeping with IFAD policy, the direct target group of MEDeP would be the rural poor, who tend to be concentrated at the lower end of the private-sector continuum. The target group for the MEDeP would include (i) young women and men interested in mariculture (ii) small entrepreneurs along the mariculture value chain and (iii) private sector firms willing to invest in mariculture.

The main benefit of the MEDeP would be the growth of an alternative source of livelihood, employment and incomes thereby reducing the vulnerability in the country which has a very limited resource base. The project is expected to lead to the development of the private Mariculture sector.

MEDeP has two major components – institutional strengthening for mariculture development and the development of mariculture value-chains. The institutional strengthening component aims to increase MOFA’s institutional capacity for effective management of aquaculture development within the country, while the value-chain development component targets the development of small-scale producers along the mariculture value chain. Under its institutional strengthening component, MEDeP is working toward the development of aquatic animal health and biosecurity management capacity in the Maldives, with the development of a national aquatic animal health quarantine facility, a diagnostic laboratory facility and plans and protocols for aquatic animal health management.

To this end, MEDeP intends to engage the services of an individual consultant or consulting institution to be responsible for fulfilling the requirements of aquatic animal health management, developing required plans and operating procedures for the aquatic animal quarantine and diagnostic facilities and the provision of hands-on training for quarantine officers and laboratory technicians.

B. Consultancy Objective

The objective of the consultancy is to increase the capacity MOFA to manage aquatic animal health, biosecurity and health certification for live aquacultured commodities.

C. Tasks and Responsibilities

The consultant will carry out the following specific tasks:

- Identify key national issues concerning aquatic animal health
- Develop a disease screening programme for groupers and cultured sea cucumbers
- Develop a disease surveillance programme with focus on cultured sea cucumbers and groupers
- Develop a disease response plan to ensure disease containment and prevention of uninfected stock
- Teach operational staff of the quarantine facility as well as diagnostic laboratory the theoretical basis of diagnostic techniques like histology, molecular biology, microbiology and parasitology; aquatic animal health management
- Prepare of operational protocols for the aquatic animal quarantine facility and diagnostic laboratory
- Review existing equipment in the diagnostic laboratory and make recommendations for additional equipment needs
- Development of an aquatic animal health certification programme

A. Expected Deliverables/Outputs

The consultant is expected to produce the following deliverables:

Task	Key deliverable	Deliverable time
Identify key national issues concerning aquatic animal health	Report on current status including recommendations to ensure biosecurity and aquatic animal health management to cater to a thriving aquaculture sector	Before departure from Maldives
Develop a disease screening programme	Report, with a potential list grouper and sea cucumber diseases in the Maldives	Within 20 days from the start of the start of the consultancy

Develop a disease surveillance programme	Disease surveillance protocols	Within 20 days from the start of the start of the consultancy
Develop a disease response plan	Disease response protocol identifying steps needed to confirm disease spread, actions required for diseases of different risk levels	Within 20 days from the start of the start of the consultancy
Teach theoretical basis	Teach 5 MOFA staff the theoretical basis of diagnostic techniques and aquatic animal health management	During the stay in Maldives
Prepare operational protocols for quarantine facility and diagnostic laboratory	Standard operational protocol for both quarantine facility and diagnostic laboratory	Before departure from Maldives
Review equipment requirement for diagnostic laboratory	List of additional equipment needed	Before departure from Maldives
Develop aquatic animal health certification programme	Protocol for certification programme	Within 20 days from the start of the start of the consultancy

B. Proposal Submission

The consultant is expected to submit

- Technical proposal explaining how the tasks will be carried out, and objectives and expected outcomes of the consultancy will be achieved
- Financial proposal for carrying out the tasks, and achieving the objectives and expected outcomes. International, DSA and local travel expenses will be provided and need not be included in the proposal
- Work-plan for carrying out the tasks

C. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals of successful consultant will be evaluated using the following criteria based on Quality and Cost Based Selection method:

Details	Points
Academic qualification	20
Relevant experience	30
Duration	15
Cost	35
Total	100

Points will be allocated as below:

- Academic qualification: 20 marks will be given to the consultant who engages maximum number of experts qualified to carry out the specific tasks.
- Relevant Experience: 30 marks will be given to the consultant who submits maximum number of related work reference letters or other documentary evidence.
- Duration: $\text{Lowest duration} / \text{proposed duration} \times 15$.
- Cost: $\text{Lowest price} / \text{proposed price} \times 35$.

D. Location and Duration

The consultant will be based in Male' and is expected to travel to quarantine and aquaculture facilities for assessing the situation and collecting information. Duration of the consultancy is 30 days, out of which the consultant will work 12 days in Maldives and 18 days in home country.

E. Academic Qualification, Experience and Competency

The consultant/consulting team should possess the following qualifications as a minimum standard for recruitment:

- A postgraduate (Masters or above) degree in aquatic pathology or aquatic veterinary studies
- A minimum of 5-10years experience working with aquatic animal health management, biosecurity or aquatic disease diagnostics
- Previous experience in managing aquatic animal health, biosecurity or aquatic disease diagnostics
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent report writing and analytical skills