

**Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare**  
Male', Republic of Maldives



# **Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare**

## **Terms of Reference for Consulting Services**

for

### **Consultancy for Strategic Direction and Policy Assessment of the Agriculture Sector**

Ref No: MAP/CS/2024/09

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Submission date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Maldives Agribusiness Programme

Consultancy Service for Strategic Direction and Policy Assessment of Agriculture Sector (Ref no: MAP/CS/2024/09)

# Foreword

These terms of reference have been prepared by Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare and are based on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the IFAD-issued standard procurement documents template for terms of reference available at [www.ifad.org/project-procurement](http://www.ifad.org/project-procurement). This document is to be used for the procurement of services in projects financed by IFAD.

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## **Terms of Reference (TOR)**

### **Consultancy for Strategic Direction and Policy Assessment of Agriculture Sector**

#### **1. Client**

The client for this assignment is Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare (MoAAW).

#### **2. Background**

The mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare of the Maldives is to strengthen the Agriculture Sector through enhancing the capacities of crop and livestock farmers/enterprises and improving the value of agricultural produce / products by linking the farmers to market in order to achieve national food security and socio-economic development, whilst safeguarding the health and welfare of animals. Higher vision is to transform agriculture sector into a sustainably managed and market-oriented system that contributes to socio-economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources while maintaining the rights of animals. The agriculture sector is a significant contributor to accelerating progress under SDG 1, 2 and 5. The Maldives SDG roadmap report published in February 2022 notes that while good progress has been made on international poverty targets (1.1), focused efforts are required to accelerate progress on small-scale food producers (target 2.3), malnutrition (target 2.2) and sustainable agriculture (target 2.4).

Even though Agriculture is crucial to economic growth of the country, contribution of the agriculture sector to the GDP is low compared to other sectors such as Tourism. There are several challenges and issues before the sector including food security, nutrition, livelihoods, animal health, climate change, and environmental degradation and biodiversity. Policy interventions are important to address these issues and make a positive impact on the lives of the communities and people working in the agriculture sector.

#### **3. Background of the assignment**

The first National Fisheries and Agricultural Policy (NFAP), was formulated in 2019 by the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MoFMRA) of the Republic of Maldives with the help of Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations. The 10-year national plan focused on developing the fisheries sector (i.e., oceanic fisheries, reef fisheries, aquaculture and post-harvest sub-sectors) as well as all crop and animal production systems encompassing the agriculture sector. The plan was formulated at that time to address current and potential future challenges in both fisheries and agriculture

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sector.

The current NFAP lacks some key responsibilities that are in the new mandate. In this regard Ministry wishes to hire a consultant to identify these gaps in the agriculture and animal welfare sector and identify areas for new policy interventions.

### 4. Overall objectives

**The Programme goal** is to elevate the importance of agriculture sector through increasing its contribution to the economy and by bringing positive changes to the livelihoods of those working in the agriculture and animal welfare sector.

**The development objective** is to bring positive changes to the agriculture sector through policy interventions. This objective will be achieved through setting a new strategic direction and improvements in the existing policies, development of new laws and regulations to strengthen the institution and the services, to enhance food security and nutrition, to promote sustained uptake and investment in climate-resilient agricultural technologies, develop animal welfare and animal husbandry, increase access to financing and markets, and ensure agricultural transformation is environmentally sustainable and biodiversity friendly.

### 5. Objectives of the assignment

The PIU wishes to contract a consultant to work in close consultation with Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare (MoAAW), relevant ministries and stakeholders to develop a Strategic Direction and Policy Assessment of Agriculture Sector for the next 10 years.

The consultant should identify current gaps in policy and regulatory framework and needs for main policy interventions for the agriculture and animal welfare sector to ensure climate-smart, sustainable, nutrition-sensitive and profitable good agricultural practices. Hence, the ministry wishes to hire a consultant to address these changes in the new mandates and reflect them in the NFAP document. The Consultant is expected to review the National Fisheries and Agricultural Policy 2019 – 2029, other sectoral documents and the new mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare to identify the policy gaps and recommend additional/revised policies to address these gaps. The Consultant should have a final validation workshop to present their findings/recommendations to key stakeholders.

### 6. Scope of work

The main purpose of this assignment is to update the current 'National Fisheries and Agricultural Policy 2019 – 2029 (NFAP) to incorporate the new revisions to the mandate of MoAAW. As such:

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- 6.1. In close coordination with the PIU and MoAAW, the consultant will prepare a detailed action plan for the assignment. Plan should include consultants understanding of the consultancy and associated tasks; Inception report with methodologies; key stakeholder lists, workshops, deliverables with timelines and reporting mechanism.
- 6.2. Undertake desk review/literature review on related subject matter.
- 6.3. Review the existing policy instruments (relating to Agriculture and Animal Welfare sectors, but also Land use, Environment, Climate change, Food security, Nutrition and health, Tourism<sup>1</sup>) to identify gaps that needs to be addressed to promote/incorporate the new mandate. The purpose of reviewing policy instruments relating to other Departments and Ministries is to ensure that the NFAP is well-aligned with other key policy frameworks, and comprehensively addresses the challenges facing the country's agricultural sector through recognition of linkages and plausible trade-offs in choice of transformation pathways.
- 6.4. Conduct consultations with key stakeholders to identify main challenges and policy gaps.
- 6.5. Based on the need assessment and stakeholder consultations the consultant should propose a new strategic direction for agriculture & animal welfare and propose new/revised policies, recommendations on new laws and regulations needed for the development of the agricultural and Animal Welfare sector and any other sectors that may impact the agricultural sector.
- 6.6. Present findings from the need assessment and stakeholder consultations and collect comments and recommendations
  - 6.6.1. Submit draft final report review on existing legislation and recommendation on policies needed for the agriculture sector to the relevant stakeholders.
  - 6.6.2. Stakeholder consultation meeting, where the results of need assessment and recommendation will be presented and comments and adjustments made.
  - 6.6.3. Organize consultative workshop with stakeholders to validate
  - 6.6.4. Consultant needs to prepare stakeholder meeting report including all comments and recommendations from meeting participants.
- 6.7. Final report should have
  - 6.7.1. Proposed new laws and regulations in relation to agriculture and Animal Welfare sector and any other sectors that may impact the agricultural sector.
  - 6.7.2. Propose changes/additions to the vision, mission, guiding principles, focus

<sup>1</sup> For example, the well-developed tourism sector could be a critical market for specialized / higher value agricultural produce, but also need regulatory incentives. The determinants of vision for and public investment in fisheries and livestock is not a function of marine biodiversity and environmental issues, but also relates to the country's goals and vision for food and nutrition security (what a healthy and sustainable food platter is, what proportion should fish/seafood and livestock should contribute, etc.).

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areas in the NFAP document

- 6.7.3. Propose new Pillars and identify objectives and key results to pursue those pillars
- 6.7.4. Results Framework with year wise targets for results to be achieved and corresponding activities that would be taken up to achieve those results.
- 6.7.5. Based on the Pillars and objectives new policy statements should be proposed.

## 7. Reports and schedule of deliverables

- 7.1. Submit Inception report/Action plan consisting of assessment, methodology, checklist for stakeholder interview/discussion.
- 7.2. Submit a report on Need Assessment of Major Issues and Policy Recommendations.
- 7.3. Present the result of need assessment and finding to the stakeholders and interested parties.
- 7.4. Submit stakeholder meeting report, including all comments and recommendations from participants
- 7.5. Submit report on analyses of existing laws and regulations, including recommendations
- 7.6. Develop Policy development and advocacy pathway/action plan for next 10 years for agriculture sector.
- 7.7. Give a final presentation of the report to representatives of MoAAW and other relevant stakeholders.

| Activities  | Timeframe  |
|---|--|
| Submit Inception report consisting of methodology, checklist for stakeholder interviews/discussions and proposed timeline for the action plan (including activities listed) key deliverables and milestones.<br><br>This should be shared for comments and agreed on both sides.  | Within 10 days of the signing of the consultant contract |
| Review existing NFAP (2019 – 2029), laws, rules and regulations relating to Agriculture and Animal Welfare sectors, but also Land use, Environment, Climate change, Food security, Nutrition and health, Tourism.<br>Conduct need assessment.<br>Conduct stakeholder consultations meetings.<br>Organize stakeholder meetings to discuss need assessment results and finalize recommendations for policy development. | Within 30 days   |

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|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Submit findings report (should include recommendations and comments from the stakeholder consultations). Report should be accepted by the client before moving onto the next stage |         |
| Based on the assessment and consultations (Develop policies, advocacy pathway/action plan for the next 10 years for agriculture and animal welfare sector)                         | 30 days |
| Report should be shared with relevant stakeholders for comments  |         |
| Submit final report (A presentation should be given before submitting the final report)  | 10 days |

### 8. Consultant's qualifications and experience

#### Key expert 1: Lead Policy Expert

##### Qualifications and skills

Master's Degree in policy, legal, law and advocacy related to agricultural development, agricultural economics and rural development, economics, and regional economics with considerable knowledge in a related area.

##### General professional experience

- Very strong familiarity with the Maldivian context and the process of policy changes in the country
- Should have excellent communication skills and be proficient in both written and spoken English & Dhivehi
- A well-organized and self-directed individual with sound technical skills, analytical ability, good judgment, and strong operational focus.

##### Specific professional experience

- Should have the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with different levels of government officials, CSOs and NGOs, private sector agencies, farmer groups / farmer organizations, marginalized groups (women, youth farmers) and relevant stakeholders
- Should have had previous experience working with multi-lateral development institutions in implementing donor-funded projects. A sound understanding of development projects would be an added advantage
- Must be sound and proficient in policy analysis, evaluation, and assessment



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### **9. Project coordination**

9.1. Consultant shall operate under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Director and MoAAW. Operational support and direct supervision from the PIU and technical guidance from IFAD in collaboration with MoAAW and the relevant national stakeholders must be ensured.

### **10. Services and facilities to be provided by client**

- 10.1. Assistance required on the client's part in obtaining relevant permissions from authorities (if necessary) to carry out the Services.
- 10.2. Available relevant data and information requested by the Consultant that are deemed by client to be useful to planning and carrying out the Services.

### **11. Services and facilities to be provided by the consultant**

- 11.1. The Consultant shall carry out all the services using own material, labour and equipment. The logistics of labour, equipment and tools shall be arranged by the Consultant.
- 11.2. The Consultant shall ensure that their personnel always carry themselves in good behavior and maintain a cordial friendly atmosphere with other personnel including employees of MoAAW, MAP, and other organizations.
- 11.3. The Consultant shall provide professional, objective, and impartial advice, at all times holding the client's interest's paramount, strictly avoiding conflicts with other assignments or its own corporate interests, and acting without any consideration for future work. The Consultant has an obligation to disclose to the client any situation of actual or potential conflict that impacts its capacity to serve the best interest of the client.