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Consultancy for one Plant Protection Assistant under the Coconut Tree Pest Control Project

A. BACKGROUND

The Government of the Republic of Maldives, through the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Ocean Resources, is implementing the Assistance Project on Coconut Tree Pest Control in Maldives in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

The project focuses on:

1. Establishing three natural enemy insect plants (minimum 120 m² each) with a daily production capacity of 100,000 parasitoids.
2. Rearing parasitoids for the control of Coconut Hispine Leaf Beetle (*Brontispa longissima*).
3. Conducting pest surveillance, quarantine regulation, and field investigations.
4. Delivering technical training sessions for Maldivian personnel.
5. Providing pest control packages for Coconut Hispine Leaf Beetle management.

The plant protection assistant will play a key role in supporting these objectives and will be based at HDh. Hanimadhoo (Main duty station: Hanimaadhoo Agriculture Center (HAC)) with extensive travel.

B. OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT

The Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Ocean Resources wishes to contract one Plant Protection Assistant to work in the natural enemy insect plants established under the Coconut Tree Pest Control Project. The Plant protection Assistant will be expected to report to the Lead project technician and to work closely with the National Plant Health Service Department of the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Ocean Resources, and experts dispatched under the project.

The Plant protection Assistant will support the project by assisting in laboratory operations, parasitoid rearing, pest control research, quarantine sample preparations, training activities. Their role will be critical in ensuring the effective production and release of parasitoids, maintaining laboratory standards,

and contributing to pest surveillance carried under the ministry's routine programs and control measures across the Maldives.

C. OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Plant Protection Assistant will:

1. Assist in rearing, maintaining, and releasing parasitoids at the insect-rearing facilities.
2. Support preparation of pest control packages and quarantine samples.
3. Participate in field investigations, training and pest surveillance activities carried out in the selected islands.
4. Assist in creating and organizing training materials for extension activities of the project.
5. Operate and maintain laboratory equipment and prepare reports, ensuring proper documentation and filing.
6. Conduct regular inventory checks and requisition supplies for laboratory work.
7. Dispose of laboratory waste in compliance with safety guidelines and SOPs.
8. Provide logistical support during training sessions and pest control fieldwork.
9. Perform any other tasks assigned by the project management team.
10. Assist in the routine of training, research, and demonstration activities.
11. The accompanying project team during their travel to the islands selected to establish a natural enemy laboratory.

D. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. Attainment of a minimum of a 'D' grade in at least two subjects in the Secondary School Certificate or an equivalent examination, along with a minimum of a 'C' grade in 'Dhivehi' in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examination
2. Ability to work both in English and Dhivehi languages with familiarity in MS office packages.
3. Ability to work in a team, adapt to changing conditions, and take initiative.
4. Willingness to learn about agriculture, forestry and particularly the pest and disease control.
5. Willingness to travel to different islands and stay for extended periods as required by project activities.
6. Flexibility to undertake any work assigned by the designated supervisor.
7. Flexibility to work long hours

E. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

1. Report directly to the Lead Technician of the project or designated supervisor throughout the duration of the contract unless otherwise advised by the Implementing Agency.
2. Expected to work on weekdays in accordance with the work schedule followed at HAC and in line with the Ministry's SOPs, for a total of 30 hours per week.

F. SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

1. Duration: 17 months
2. Location: Natural enemy insect plants and laboratory facilities established under the Coconut Tree Pest Control Project, including Hanimaadhoo Agricultural Center and other designated sites.

G. REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

1. A monthly salary of MVR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Rufiyaa) for the services provided, excluding any unauthorized leave.
2. Training and travel expenses will be covered as per the budget allocated for the project and approved by implementing agency as per the Public Finance Regulation of Maldives

H. SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

1. Office space or workstation will be provided at HAC.
2. Local transport for official travel between field visits to islands; food, accommodation and allowance will be provided as per the Public Finance Regulation of Maldives
3. Access to insect-rearing plants and training venues established under the Coconut Tree Pest Control Project and Access to HAC office space and IT systems as per ministry's SOPs.

I. SELECTIN CRITERIA

Criterion	Points
Educational Qualification and Work Experience - 5 Points will be given for additional Qualifications (maximum 15 points will be given).	40 Points
Interview	35 Points
Exam	25 Points