Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR BASELINE ASSESSMENT FOR STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE BY SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY: COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY TO ADVANCE FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground

BIBA Kenya is a network of farmer organizations, animal welfare groups, consumer networks, faith-based organizations, local non-governmental organizations, and community-based groups. Currently, it comprises 51 member organizations spread across 21 counties. These member organizations are distributed across regions including Nairobi, Central, Rift Valley, Western, Eastern, and Nyanza.

BIBA Kenya's mandate is to ensure the public is **AWARE** and **ALERT** about critical issues related to the environment, agriculture, livestock, food safety, health, and biodiversity. The network envisions a healthy nation that safeguards its biodiversity to promote community justice and sustainable livelihoods. BIBA Kenya implements its activities at the community level through its member organizations.

BIBA Kenya, in partnership with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya and the Effective IPM Association, is launching a new project titled Strengthening Climate Resilience by Scaling Up Agroecology. The consortium is currently in the preparatory phase, beginning with the conduct of a baseline study to inform project implementation.

1.2. About the Project

Strengthening climate resilience by scaling up Agroecology project will be implemented in 4 Counties of Kenya; Kiambu, Murang'a, West Pokot and Makueni. The project aims at utilizing collaborative research and advocacy to advance food systems transformation.

The project recognizes that fossil fuel-based agrochemicals used in the agriculture sector is a big contributor to climate change. The continued use of toxic fossil fuel- based agricultural inputs (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers) and unsustainable food production practices worsen the global climate scenario and has resulted in the degradation of soil health and decline in biodiversity. Research also shows that adoption of agroecology will strengthen the ability of farmers to shift from fossil fuel - based agrochemicals hence contributing to reduced emissions and enhancing resilience of the vulnerable small scale farmers.

The project incorporates agroecology policy influence, training and a participatory action research component. Research findings from the research will inform evidence-based advocacy against agrochemicals through use of multi stakeholder platforms with common agenda against agrochemicals, engagement meetings with policy makers at County and National level, media engagement to create awareness on effects of agrochemicals , and community caravans of women and youth calling out their policy makers to phase out agrochemicals and support agroecological inputs for climate resilience, food safety and sovereignty.

The consortium therefore plans to intensify the campaigns against the use of fossil fuel - based agrochemicals while at the same time lobbying for the urgent adoption of agroecological approaches towards addressing climate change challenges and support participatory action research on bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides as an alternative to harmful chemical- based pesticides.

1.3. Project Goal

The project aims to s trengthen climate resilience by scaling up agroecology: Collaborative research and advocacy to advance food systems in Kenya.

1.4. Project objectives

Below are the project specific objectives;

- Agroecology policy framework in West Pokot and Makueni County- The programme will support finalization of the West Pokot Agroecology draft policy and support the development of the Makueni Agroecology policy hence creating an enabling environment for the growth of food systems.
- Increased adoption of agroecological practices- through the support of the AEF, will be achieved through training and capacity building on issues such as the dangers of using hazardous pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. Alternatives will be provided during the training.
- Increased knowledge in research methodologies and insights drawing; participatory research activities will empower small-holder farmers with research skills and insights key for co-creation and innovation in agroecology practices and policy intervention.
- Increased number of smallholder farmers including youth in adopting agroecological practices ; Investing in mentoring smallholder farmers and youths along the agroecological value chains will result in a generation that is economically empowered, self-sustaining and equipped to contribute to resilient and sustainable food systems.
- Increased attention and recognition of agroecology in climate change discussions ; There will be rampant advocacy campaigns on adoption of agroecology that will increase the attention and recognition given to agriculture on climate change matters.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

The objective of this baseline assessment is to gather relevant baseline data and information to enable the project to assess its performance, measure results, and impacts throughout the project period.

Specifically, the baseline report is expected to gather data on;

i. Indicators for all outcomes and outputs as detailed in the project document; how realistic are the targets set based on the gathered facts?
ii. Inclusion of women, youth and the marginalized Establish their level of participation in the project activities.
iii. Data related to advocacy and awareness on key issues in the project; Identify areas where advocacy and public awareness is needed in relation to participatory action research.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The project will be implemented across four counties: Kiambu, Murang'a, Makueni, and West Pokot. Trainings and research component will be concentrated in Murang'a and Kiambu, while the primary focus in Makueni and West Pokot will be on advancing agroecology policy development, building on processes already initiated in these counties.

The consultant will play an active role in various assessment stages, including collaboratively developing and testing data collection tools, data quality control, data analysis, and report writing. BIBA Kenya will handle data collection exercise which will be gathered at the county level and from farmers through member organizations.

4. SPECIFIC TASKS AND KEY DELIVERABLES FOR THE CONSULTANT

I. Development and Refinement of Data Collection Tools

- Collaborate with the consortium Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) focal point to design, review, and refine comprehensive data collection instruments tailored for both qualitative and quantitative research.

- Ensure the tools align with the baseline objectives and meet established standards for validity and reliability.

II. Digital Deployment of Data Collection Tools

- Develop and configure advanced technical data collection instruments using either Survey123, SurveyCTO, or any other technology with arcgis platform.
- Prepare tools for seamless deployment, including pre-testing and resolving potential functionality issues, ensuring they are field-ready.

III. Data Collection Supervision and Quality Assurance

- Work in close coordination with the M&E focal point to oversee data collection processes, implementing quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) protocols.
- Troubleshoot technical or operational challenges that may be encountered during field data collection and provide actionable solutions.

IV. Data Analysis Plan and Execution

- Develop a robust data analysis plan, detailing methodologies for processing both quantitative and qualitative data.
- Perform comprehensive statistical and thematic analyses using appropriate software (e.g., R, Python, NVivo or any other) to derive actionable insights from the baseline dataset.

V. Baseline Survey Reporting

- Prepare a detailed baseline survey report that adheres to agreed-upon formats and meets all validation and approval requirements.
- Ensure the report includes key findings, methodological rigor, and actionable recommendations for the project implementation.

VI. Logical Framework Update

- Utilize baseline data to update the project's logical framework (logframe) based on the donor approved indicators.
- Recalibrate baseline values, targets, and assumptions to align with validated data and project objectives.

VII. Presentation of Baseline Findings

- Develop a comprehensive presentation of the baseline findings, including key insights, challenges, and recommendations.
- Present the findings to the project management team to facilitate informed decision-making and adoption of the baseline recommendations.

5. CONSULTANTS QUALIFICATION

To undertake this baseline assessment, the BIBA Kenya, on behalf of the consortium, is looking for a qualified, competent and experienced professional consultant. Key consideration include:

1) At least a master's degree in Development Studies, Agriculture/Agro Biodiversity, Biodiversity, Social Sciences, and or other relevant training. More than 10 years experience in working with NGO/CBOs/ FBOs
2) Demonstrable knowledge and experience in working with civil societies, culture, biodiversity, farming/agro biodiversity and seed systems, agricultural policies, governance, human rights, and advocacy issues.
3) Proven in-depth understanding and consulting experiences in conducting similar assessments.
4) Conversant with participatory methodologies and approaches to project review and evaluation

including familiarity with inclusion, gender, and cultural sensitivity analysis.

5) Proven track record of professional execution of similar consultancies/assignments; significant experience of evaluating institutional donor funded programmes and experience in evaluating NGO work or Networks.
6) Full working knowledge of English and great report writing skills, developing case studies e.t.c.

6. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

It is anticipated the baseline assessment process begin on **10th January 2025 and have it completed by 15th February 2025** at the latest. This includes submission of the final approved report.

The entire assignment should take **at least 30** working days including planning, data collection and analysis , findings dissemination, submission of final report and other deliverables related to this assignment.

7. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

In addition to providing all the necessary documentation and contacts, BIBA Kenya, being the consortium's lead organization, will provide and facilitate the research assistants and other costs related to data collection in the field. Further discussion and agreement with the consultant regarding this arrangement will take place. The consultant is therefore expected to cost other expenses related to the assignment in the financial proposal referencing deliverables.

8. APPLICATION PROCESS:

Completed proposals should include:

a) A **cover Letter** expressing interest and availability for the tasks
b) Technical proposal indicating his/her understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology for conducting the assignment and work plan.
c) Financial proposal showing the total cost of conducting the baseline assessment including the breakdown of all the consultancy costs
d) The terms for payments in terms of percentages in order to carry out the exercise.
e) A list of possible documents for review
f) At least one report of a similar assignment conducted elsewhere.
g) Detailed curriculum vitae of the consultant with relevant university certificates and relevant supporting documents and testimonials.
h) Names and contacts of two referees (phone numbers and email)

Interested and qualified consultant (s) or firms should send their application through info@bibakenya.org and cc kendi.juster@bibakenya.org and anne.maina@bibakenya.org with the subject heading: **Consultancy for AEF Baseline Assessment_202_4/5/6**

The closing date for application is **16th December 2024.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.