TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR).

Consultancy for the Design, Development, and Deployment of the PROJECT Community Data and Innovation Hub Website and Open Repository.

1. **Background and Context.**

In line with this approach, **Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA Kenya)** is establishing a Community Data and Innovation Hub to strengthen agroecology policy implementation, evidence generation, and community-led knowledge systems. The Hub seeks to bridge food sovereignty and data sovereignty by;

- Documenting farmer-led agroecological innovations.
- Protecting indigenous knowledge through community governance.
- Developing open, decentralized, low-energy digital infrastructure.
- Creating ethical, community-controlled data systems.

The project avoids extractive, centralized data centre models and instead promotes small, low-energy, open-source, decentralized data nodes that can run on minimal power and integrate solar energy.

A core component of this initiative is the development of a community-governed, open-access website and digital repository that:

- Hosts numerous agroecological innovations.
- Integrates seed, soil, bio-input, and climate adaptation data.
- Applies an ethical licensing framework (ODbL, GNU GPLv3, TK Labels, CC-BY-NC-SA).
- Operates under a Community Data Governance Charter.

BIBA Kenya now seeks a qualified consultant/firm to design, develop, test, and deploy this platform.

2. Purpose of the Consultancy.

To design and deploy a decentralized, open-source, secure, multilingual, and community-centered website and open repository that operationalizes the Community Data and Innovation Hub in alignment with data sovereignty and ethical governance principles.

3. Objectives of the Assignment.

The consultancy will:

1. Develop a functional open-access agroecological database and website.
2. Integrate decentralized, lightweight, low-energy digital architecture.
3. Create the website according open source Licensing Framework and Community Data Governance protocols.
4. Ensure multilingual, mobile-first, and low-bandwidth accessibility.

5. Build internal capacity for long-term management and sustainability.
6. Support preparation for public platform launch (Month 6 milestone).

4. Scope of Work

The consultancy will run on a 3-week period, with technical support over the 6 months phase of the project.

The consultancy will be implemented in five structured phases/tasks, with development concentrated in the initial period and launch support extending within the broader implementation timeline.

Task 1: Inception & Technical Design.
The consultant will participate in an inception meeting, review key project documents (proposal, licensing framework, governance charter), and conduct a technical needs assessment aligned with farmer expectations. They will develop the technical architecture, database structure, UI/UX wireframes, hosting and security plan, and recommend an appropriate open-source CMS.
Deliverable: Inception & Technical Design Report.

Task 2: Platform Development.
The consultant will build the full website structure, including the repository/database, innovations mapping section, learning resources library, multimedia gallery, blog, policy brief repository, and contact interface. The platform will host at least 50 documented agroecological innovations using structured templates and advanced search features. It will integrate licensing frameworks (ODbL, GNU GPLv3, CC-BY-NC-SA, TK Labels), tiered access for sensitive data, and visible community governance and attribution mechanisms. The platform will also be linked to the official BIBA Kenya website and will include a **donations tab.**

Task 3: Ensuring Accessibility & Decentralization.
The platform will be mobile-first, low-bandwidth optimized, multilingual-ready, accessible (WCAG compliant), lightweight, and compatible with decentralized hosting. SMS integration pathways may be explored for future phases. The consultant will also assist in revamping/redesigning of the BIBA Kenya website www.bibakenya.org.

Task 4: Testing & Validation.
The consultant will conduct technical testing, facilitate user testing with farmers, youth, and BIBA staff, carry out a basic security audit, and resolve identified issues.
Deliverable: Beta Version and Testing Report.

Task 5: Training, Handover & Launch Support.
The consultant will provide hands-on training for BIBA staff and the IT intern, develop an admin manual and technical documentation, and ensure full handover of source code, credentials, and backup systems. They will also support the public platform launch.
Deliverables: Final Live Platform and Training & Handover Report.

6. Duration.

The consultant will be expected to develop the platform by 9th March 2026. The consultant is expected to also offer training to BIBA Kenya staff over the 6-month project period.

7. Reporting and Coordination.

The consultant will report to:

- Anne Maina – Project Lead
- Gideon Muya – Agroecology & Community Engagement Lead
- Janet Ndiki – Policy & Advocacy Lead

8. Required Qualifications.

The consultant/firm should demonstrate:

- Minimum 5 years' experience in open-source web development.
- Proven experience building database-driven repositories.
- Experience integrating open licensing frameworks.
- Understanding of data sovereignty and community governance models.
- Experience in digital security and low-bandwidth optimization.
- Ability to work with grassroots organizations and participatory models.
- Strong documentation and training skills.

Experience in:

- Open Data Commons (ODbL).
- TK Labels.
- GNU GPL.
- Decentralized digital infrastructure
  will be an added advantage.

9. Application Requirements.

Interested consultants/firms must submit:

1. Technical proposal (approach & methodology).
2. Financial proposal (itemized).
3. Portfolio of similar open-source platforms.
4. CV(s) of lead developer(s).
5. At least two references.
6. Proposed development timeline aligned to Project milestones.