

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

Consultancy to support the development of Kirinyaga County Agroecology Strategy

1. Introduction

Agroecology is increasingly recognized in Kenya as a strategic pathway for advancing sustainable food systems, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and social equity. Kirinyaga County is at the forefront of this shift; however, while local farmers have steadily adopted agroecological practices, these efforts have not yet been anchored within formal policy frameworks. This lack of institutional alignment prevents the establishment of a strategic foundation necessary to guide and scale agroecological transitions across the county.

Consequently, the Kirinyaga County Government, through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries, is spearheading the development of a comprehensive Agroecology Strategy. This initiative, crafted in close coordination with local agroecology actors, will establish the legal and strategic framework necessary to institutionalize and scale sustainable farming practices across the county.

In a collaborative effort under a consortium comprising the Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA-K), Resource Oriented Development Initiative (RODI Kenya), Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) and Effective Integrated Pest Management Association (EIPMA), BIBA-K is leading the technical implementation of the project. The key component of this initiative is to support the Kirinyaga County Government in creating an enabling policy environment for sustainable agriculture. To achieve this, BIBA-K seeks to engage a qualified Consultant(s) to facilitate the development of a comprehensive, realistic, and CIDP-aligned Agroecology Strategy. The consultant will ensure these instruments provide a robust legal and strategic foundation for the county's agroecological transition.

BIBA therefore invites qualified consultant(s)/Firms to submit proposals to undertake this assignment.

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

The primary objective of this consultancy is to spearhead the development of the Kirinyaga County Agroecology Strategy. The Consultant(s) will be responsible for facilitating a consultative process, working closely with a multi-sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG) to articulate, justify and synthesize critical issues that will form the strategic foundation of this instrument.

3. Scope of Work

The consultancy is structured into three distinct phases, detailed as follows:

3.1 Phase 1:

Desk review and preparation of draft Agroecology strategy

The consultant will:

- Review and consolidate relevant literature and existing documents on agroecology
- Facilitate consultations with Ward-level agricultural risk assessment forums.
- Analyze existing National and County policies, strategies and legislation in relation to sustainable agriculture and climate change
- Define a clear and strategic scope for the Strategy.
- Facilitate stakeholder sessions to visualize the strategy framework.
- Develop the outline and first draft of the Strategy.
- Present drafts to the TWG, collect feedback and integrate inputs.

3.2 Phase 2:

Facilitate county stakeholders' participation on the draft strategy

The consultant will:

- Present the Draft and subsequent refined strategy to the County Assembly Committee for Agriculture
- Facilitate and document stakeholder consultations and workshops
- Compile inputs from stakeholders
- Review the draft Agroecology strategy based on the stakeholder inputs
- Finalize and present the revised drafts to the CASSCOM

3.3 Phase 3:

Stakeholder validation and finalization of the Agroecology Strategy

The consultant will:

- Present the draft strategy during the County validation workshop
- Incorporate the inputs
- Present the final drafts to the TWG Committee
- Participate in a presentation to stakeholders for final approvals

4. Deliverables

Below are key deliverables of the consultancy;

- An inception report outlining the methodology and workplan
- A report on ward agricultural risk assessment
- A report of Analyzed existing policies and strategies both national and county, related to agroecology
- Reports of the stakeholder consultations
- Validation workshop report(s)
- Draft Agroecology strategy
- Final draft Agroecology strategy

5. Required Qualifications and Experience

The consultant (or lead consultant) should have:

- An advanced degree in agriculture, food systems, environmental studies, development studies, or a related field;
- Proven experience in developing agriculture-related strategies, policies, programme design and implementation, preferably at county or sub-national level
- Strong facilitation and stakeholder engagement skills;
- Good understanding of Kenya's devolved governance and county planning processes;
- Excellent analytical and writing skills.
- Evidence of having undertaken similar assignments (**attach two recent works and contact persons**)

6. Application process

Interested and qualified consultant (s) or firms should send their application by email addressed to BIBA Kenya National Coordinator: info@bibakenya.org and cc: kendi.juster@bibakenya.org and cecm.alvfkirinyaga@gmail.com by **26th May 2026**. The application subject heading: **Consultancy for Agroecology strategy_ KirinyagaC/26**.

The application should be accompanied by:

- A cover letter outlining how the consultant(s) or firm meets the listed qualifications
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) or CVs of the lead consultant and other experts in case of a firm
- Technical and financial proposals for consulting the assignment. The proposal to include the consultant's understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology, work plan, and itemized budget (including consultants' daily rate and all logistics-related costs with a breakdown for each phase)
- Copies of two similar assignments undertaken in the last 7 years and contacts of the clients
- Testimony from two (2) previous clients