

SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Terms of Reference (TOR)

**For Individual Consultancy Service for Development of a Project Proposal for the
second phase of Consortium for Scaling Up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia
(C-SUCSeS-Phase -II) including crop, livestock and fisheries sectors**

1. Background

SAARC Agriculture center (SAC) was established in 1988 by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to promote agricultural research, development as well as technology dissemination initiatives for sustainable agricultural development and poverty eradication in the region. SAC tirelessly works in fostering regional cooperation among Member States to promote sustainable, resilient, inclusive, healthy and flourishing Food and Agriculture system in South Asia. Governing Body comprising members from each SAARC member state governs financial and management approval for the center.

Climate change in South Asia caused severe devastation. The trajectory of climate change such as high temperatures, recurring drought and heat waves, disease and pest infestation, increased precipitation and extreme weather events have jeopardized entire agricultural and food systems of the region. The demographic realities to feed growing population push the boundaries of production system to extremes, further enhance climate change vulnerability and fragility of the region.

To synchronize climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and forge a pathway for climate resilient South Asia, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and SAARC Development Fund (SDF) have collaborated to establish the Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS). Focusing mainly crop sector in the first phase (2022-2025), the project achieved remarkable deliverables as committed by six member SAARC countries: Bangladesh, Bhuta, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Stocktaking evidence from C-SUCSeS phase-I show that the project bridge up the knowledge gap by developing comprehensive inventory of CSA technologies, prioritization based on World Bank technology index and validated including gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations through participatory research involving small-medium farmers, agriculture service providers, extension agents, researchers and professionals. Farmers consisting one-third women famers were trained in site specific climate smart agriculture technologies and practices. In knowledge management country specific CSA technologies were translated into national languages to speedup dissemination and adoption. Policy and institutional constraints in adoption of CSA were assessed that could help in resolving the challenges of adopting CSA technologies in SAARC member countries.

Based on the success stories of the C-SUCSeS-Phase-I and to cover the entire agriculture production system, the service of consultant is solicited.



The phase-II of C-SUCSeS project is being proposed from 2026-2030 encompassing all components of agriculture and food production system to developing climate resilience in crop, livestock and fisheries sector through partnership and cooperation between SAARC Agriculture Centre, NARES, IFPRI and other CGIAR organizations.

2. Consultancy Objective

The objective of hiring a consultant is to develop a full project proposal on Climate smart agriculture (CSA), climate smart livestock (CSL) and climate smart fisheries (CSF) in the context of South Asia.

3. Scope and Work

The Consultant will work closely with Project Coordination Unit at SAC, Member States, and IFPRI to accomplish the tasks. The responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

- Review relevant project documents on climate change risks, the state of natural resources, rural livelihood, and gender and social issues that are binding in building climate resilience in SAARC member countries (MCs).
- Develop components of the proposed project: actionable solutions for project teams and MCs to address climate change risks faced by various vulnerability groups at scale through closing technical, institutional, and financial gaps for adaptation and mitigation framework.
- Identify priority practices, business models, and technologies of climate smart crops, livestock and fisheries that can be tested and demonstrated in participating MCs. The innovative solutions include adaptation and mitigation solutions, supporting systemic upscaling thereof with scientific knowledge, technology applications, financing means, institutional and policy reform beyond the project-based interventions.
- Design, development and develop effective dissemination pathways of effective outreach and information products as per the project's work plan and budget. This task includes but is not limited to describe how knowledge management products and research outputs like briefs, reports, project website/microsite, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) network platform, blogs, newsletters, press releases can be developed and disseminated.
- Reach out to national and regional partners and stakeholders to develop a CSA network of the community of practice including researchers, entrepreneurs, farmer organizations, donors, and policymakers across all the SAARC countries.
- Develop a strategic communications plan for launching all the products and outputs and identify existing influencing opportunities and events at which to showcase them.
- Prepare a comprehensive detailed project proposal of C-SUCSeS Phase-II considering the point mentioned above and the strength of phase-I outputs, targeting multiple funding entities.



4. Specific Tasks/Work assignment

4.1 The Consultant will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Conduct a situational analysis.
- Review existing CSA policies, strategies, programs, and data.
- Map stakeholders and institutions in CSA, CSL, and CSF at SAARC regional and national levels.
- Analyze climate vulnerabilities and agricultural risks.

4.2 Undertaking CSA practice prioritization and targeting

- Use tools like CSA Prioritization Framework (WB/FAO/CIAT), and Agroecological Zoning to undertake prioritization and targeting of CSA practices in crop, livestock and fisheries sectors.
- Identify context-specific, scalable CSA, CSL and CSF interventions.

4.3 Undertaking strategy drafting documents

- Define vision, goals, strategic pillars, and guiding principles.
- Detail implementation arrangements, roles, timelines, and financing pathways.
- Include cross-cutting issues: gender, nutrition, digital agriculture, land tenure.

4.4 May participate in validation and then revise and finalize the document

- Present draft to stakeholders for validation during the validation workshop
- Incorporate feedback and produce final strategy documents and executive summary.

5. Deliverables

- Inception Report (including work plan and methodology)
- Situational Analysis Report
- Stakeholder Consultation Report
- Draft CSA Scaling Strategy for crop, livestock and fisheries sectors
- Draft a Final CSA Scaling-up strategy, with M&EL Framework and Implementation Plan.

6. Duration

The assignment is expected to take a total of 30 working days spread across 3 months.

7. Reporting

Director SAC shall oversee the assignment of the Consultant.



8. Qualifications and work experience of the Consultant

- Masters' degree/PhD degree in Agronomy/Soil science/Natural Sciences/Environmental Sciences/Environmental policy/Resources Management/Agricultural Economics
- At least 10 years' experience in climate-smart agriculture, climate adaptation, or sustainable agriculture policy in SAARC region.
- Proven track record in climate change related strategy development or working with related projects for increasing productivity, adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sector in SAARC region.
- Experience in CSA multistakeholder platforms engagement and facilitation.

9. Documents to be submitted and duration of the assignment

- Applicants must submit an application confirming the interest and availability of an individual for the assignment and/CV including Education/Qualification, Professional Certification, and employment records and experiences.
- The duration of the assignment is for two months.
- Submit your application via email to **director@sac.org.bd** together with your CV, academic certificates, experience certificates, documents, related to preparing project proposal and implementing projects related to climate smart agriculture projects etc.

