



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
P.O. Box G13
Honiara
Solomon Islands

AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FOR MARKETS AND NUTRITION – (AIM-N) PROJECT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title of the Position	Rural Finance specialist
Duty Station	Honiara – Project Management Unit (PMU)
Duration of the assignment	Up to five (5) years, following successful completion of a six-month probationary period, renewable contracts if performance is satisfactory
Project Area	The project will be implemented in Choiseul, Isabel and Western Province.
Project Objective	To improved food security, nutrition and household income through empowerment and resilient farming system.
Background of the Project	The Agriculture Investment for Markers and Nutrition (AIM-N) project aims at improving nutrition and food poverty in rural areas, building on the indigenous peoples 'traditional farming systems. The project will adopt a nutrition-sensitive and inclusive approach that will link nutrition behaviour change with agricultural production for home consumption and for market. It will develop an integrated. Evidence-based approach with potential for scaling up that will jointly address families' nutrition and cash income requirements, while promoting gender equality and social inclusion, by (i) empowering families to change their nutrition behaviour based on better knowledge on healthy diets and on nutritious food production and purchase;(ii) promoting diversified production of nutritious food for home consumption, with focus on local species, including neglected and under-utilized species with achieve good nutrition as well as resilience to climate change, disaster and food systems under stress; and (iii) enabling families to generate reliable income by partnering with agribusiness for the production of crops that respond to domestic market opportunities or export markets. More diversified and resilient farming system will be promoted for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness and recovery.

	<p>The project objective is to Improved food security, nutrition and household income through empowerment resilient farming systems in Solomon Islands rural communities.</p> <p>AIM-N has three interrelated components:</p> <p>Component 1 – Action for Nutrition: This component has three sub-components that link nutrition education to the diversification of food produced in the communities and promote a similar approach for improving student nutrition in boarding schools. Sub-component 1.1 Nutrition social and behaviour change. 1.2 is Diversified community-based food production and 1.3 is Improved nutrition in boarding school.</p> <p>Component 2 – Inclusive partnership for markets access. This component has 3 sub-components that will connect smallholders, including women and youth with profitable markets and assist them in developing their organization. Sub-component 2.1 Partnerships will promote the development of partnerships between buyers and farmers. Sub-component 2.2 Farmers organisation will support farmers involved in partnerships to improve their registration, governance, technical and business skills. Sub-component 2.3 Public and Private Service providers will strengthen the capacities of extensions, cooperatives, other farmers organisation and service providers to deliver quality extension services to farmers.</p> <p>Component 3 – Investments in Resilient Agri-Food Systems focusses on 3 sub components: 3.1 Grants for gender transformation will supply competitive grants to women groups participating while sub-component 3.2 Financing of agribusiness will finance a line of credit for extending loans for investment and working capital to micro, small and medium agribusiness as well as FO's. Sub-component 3.3. Financing of enabling infrastructure will provide grant funding for the building or rehabilitation of collective productive infrastructure such as jetties and wharves, collection points and storage, as well jetties and wharves, collection points and storage, as well as the building or rehabilitation of housing for extension officers. <i>Component 3: will be implemented through PMU (and specially a Grant Manager for Sub-Component 3.1, and infrastructure engineer for sub-component 3.3 and DBSI for sub-component 3.2</i></p> <p>Component 4 – Rapid Disaster Response. This component will have no budget allocation and will only used in the event of disaster that could be related to a weather or natural hazard human or animal pandemic, or agriculture pest and disease incursions. It will be triggered upon government request to IFAD to support rapid adaptive response: drawing from the uncommitted project resources under other components.</p>
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Roles and Responsibilities	<p>Under the authority of the Financial and Administrative Manager the Rural Specialist Officer will assist in ensuring the implementation of activities is smoothly executed.</p> <p>The specific tasks are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure that the provisions and agreements as stipulated in the Memoranda of Agreement between AIM-N and DBSI are properly implemented and monitored; ○ Facilitate the conduct of strategic planning sessions with DBSI to enhance the level of value chain financing and to support expansion of the loan portfolio. ○ Assist AIM-N service providers and PMU in facilitating credit brokering and networking with DBSI for the financing of the value chain selected. ○ Coordinate with DBSI and other financial institutions in the development of financial products for FO's and Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as necessary. ○ Assists service providers in the development of financial management and literacy related training modules to be conducted at the field level. ○ Identification selection and evaluation of consultants or service providers to be engaged in the implementation of consultancy services training and seminars related to rural finance and VC finance; ○ Assist the service providers in the review, evaluation and preparation of clients' Detailed Investment or Business Plans, with a focus on the financial proposal for financial institutions; ○ Advocate for loan applicants, provide follow up and monitoring of loan process vis a vis the financial institutions; ○ Liaise with other potential finance sources as source of finance ○ Coordinate with DBSI to provide six monthly reporting on the LOC activity and loan portfolios; ○ Participate in the preparation of the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), Annual Procurement Plan (APP) and/or other planning and budget related activities. ○ Prepare Monthly workplan report on as to achievements. ○ Performs other duties and responsibilities that may be assigned by the Project Director/Project Manager.
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Qualification and Experience	<p>Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or Finance. A Certified Public Accountant is an advantage as is an MBA or other technical degree (Agribusiness, Agronomy, Natural Resource Management etc)</p> <p>At least 5 years' in position/s involved in rural finance and credit delivery. Experience in Agribusiness or Agriculture is a plus.</p> <p>With highly technical and profession skills in facilitating rural finance and linking businesses to credit access. With intensive back ground in rural business finance institutions in the provision of Agriculture/Agribusiness credit or other financial service delivery.</p> <p>Familiarity with economic development tools, particularly in value chain development, results-based management, and other related tools and approaches utilized by the government and development partner agencies and banks as necessary.</p> <p>Familiarity with insurance products, private sector partnership development, credit guarantee, etc.</p> <p>Competent in the use of Microsoft word, Excel and PowerPoint, Excellent interpersonal skills</p> <p>Must be fully aware of and alert to the crosscutting issues of gender, youth, marginalised groups. Discrimination and poverty targeting.</p>
Timeline	Up to five (5) years, following successful completion of the six-month probationary period with renewable contracts if performance is satisfactory.
Resource and Budget	Provided and paid for by the Project
Reporting	Project Manager
Evaluation and Monitoring	Performance and Outputs are measured against the project activities, frameworks and Workplans.
Approval;	The implementing agency, MoFT, IFAD, Project Manager