

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Political Economy Analysis Consultant for the Food Systems Transformation Project

Introduction

These Terms of Reference (TOR) set out the expected role and responsibilities of the consultant to conduct a comprehensive political economy analysis to identify key stakeholders/actors who have the capacity and power to affect policy decisions in the food systems in Kenya; existing intractable and intersecting barriers and knowledge gaps that hinder effective policy implementation; and provide actionable, contextual and evidence-informed policy recommendations that can influence inclusive and sustainable changes in the food systems value chain in Kenya.

The Food Systems Transformation Project Summary

The Food Systems Transformation (FST) project seeks **to contribute to the strengthening of equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems** by **enhancing capacity for policy engagement** and evidence uptake targeted to strategic stakeholders with an impetus to build a systems perspective in the food value chain. The project is a response to IDRC's 2020-2030 Strategy and mirrors Kenya's Agenda 2030 and Big 4 Agenda, the AU Maputo declaration, and United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, and 5.

The main objectives of the FST project include:

1. **Assessing and strengthening the capacity** of Kenyan food systems stakeholders and policy actors in accessing and appropriating inclusive research evidence in practice and policy.
2. Co-engaging stakeholders in a systematic reflection of Kenya's food systems policy environment aimed at harnessing a shared vision, **streamlining mutually reinforcing policies** across sectors, and **identifying strategic pathways to action**.
3. Facilitating collaborative long-term **knowledge exchange** and **amplify evidence-based and innovative solutions** among Kenya's food systems actors.
4. **Mobilising last mile momentum** in attaining a **national agro-ecology strategy** with a sufficient evidence-based capacity for operationalising it.

Scope of the Political Economy Analysis

1. Mapping of the key power relations, dynamics and trends in food systems governance and policy systems, structures, and processes.
2. Identification of overt and covert power brokers, incentives, enablers, and rewards for brokering policy changes within the food systems environment in Kenya.
3. Identification of key barriers that impede active and influential use of evidence for inclusive and transformative food systems.
4. Identification of key enablers that promote and influence the use of evidence for inclusive and transformative food systems.
5. Identification of key capacity gaps that undermine the effective implementation of food systems policies in Kenya.
6. Provide actionable and highly targeted recommendations on both immediate and long-term strategies for engaging food systems stakeholders in Kenya to ensure transformative, evidence-informed policy reforms.

Methodology

PASGR expects an in-depth, evidence-based, critical analysis and wider consultations with key stakeholders in national and county government, civil society, INGOs, UN agencies and grassroots organisations dealing directly with the food systems value chain in Kenya. The methodology will include:

1. A thorough review of food systems policy framework at the National level and at the County of Nairobi level.
2. A through literature review on the utilization of policies within the entire food systems value chain in Kenya.
3. In-depth key informant interviews with high-level government policy makers, civil society, INGOs, UN agencies and leaders of grassroots organisations within the food systems policy environment.
4. Validation of the PEA report in a stakeholder forum and revisions made according to discussions.

Deliverables

The PEA consultant is responsible for the timely submission of the following deliverables:

1. A work plan and methodology for the assignment
2. A highly targeted stakeholder analysis matrix showing stakeholders' sector, institution, interests, motivations, power, capacity, incentives, and disincentives to effect policy changes in the food systems value chain at the Nairobi County and the National level.
3. An in-depth analysis of the current policy framework gaps in food systems in Nairobi County and at the National level.
4. Evidence-informed, actionable short-term and long-term recommendations to effecting sustainable changes towards strengthening of food systems in Nairobi County and at the National level.
5. A synthesis political economy report focused on the process, results, lessons and recommendations.

Minimum Requirements

1. Advanced degree with a specialization in relevant field(s) related to policy and governance, political economy, development economics, agronomy, food security, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, social sciences, and related field or proven relevant experience in the above fields.
2. Proven experience in political economy analysis, policy analysis and high-level policy advice relating to food systems governance, food security, agriculture, and rural development.
3. Relevant experience working with high-level governmental and intergovernmental policy actors, multi-stakeholder agencies and multisystemic teams in Africa.
4. Show clear understanding of inclusive agrifood systems transformation through evidence-informed decision making.
5. Extensive evidence-policy networks in Kenya will be an added advantage.
6. Demonstrated experience in working on similar assignments in Kenya.

Application Procedure

The consultant/firm is required to submit the following:

- Letter of interest
- CV with three references

- At least three samples of previous work related to the requirements of this ToR.

Interested and eligible firms/individuals are requested to submit their application no later than **5.00pm EAT 17 May 2023** to Dr. Muthio Nzau on email: mnzau@pasgr.org cc research@pasgr.org