



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Consultant Category B *

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| Name: | |
| Job Title**: | International Consultant - Agrifood Systems Economist |
| Division/Department: | FAO Sub-Regional Office for Pacific (SAP) |
| Programme/Project Number: | |
| Duty Station: | Apia, Samoa |
| Start Date of Assignment: | Duration: 110 Calendar days (renewable) |
| Reports to; name of supervisor: | Joseph Nyemah Title: Food and Nutrition Officer for the Pacific |

* Please note: If this TOR is for Consultant / PSA.SBS contract, the minimum relevant experience required **for the assignment** is as follows:
1 year for a category C; 5 years for a category B; 12 years for COF category A; 15 years PSA or COF category A (World Class Expert);

** Please enter a short title (max 25 chars) for this assignment.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through the FAO Strategic Framework by supporting the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

FAO's Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands (SAP) is responsible for developing, promoting, overseeing and implementing agreed strategies for addressing regional food, agriculture, rural development priorities in the Pacific. It develops and maintains relations with sub region-wide institutions including Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIOs). It assists the FAO Representations in the subregion with addressing food security, agriculture and rural development issues at country level. The Subregional Office is a subsidiary of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP).

FAO SAP is located in Apia, Samoa and covers 13 Pacific Island countries including Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu; and Tokelau, a territory of New Zealand.

Context

The landmass, populations and economies of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) covered by FAO are small, for example, Fiji has the largest arable land (about 18,300 square kilometers), population (about 890,000) and economy (GNI of about USD4 billion), while Niue's land size, population and GNI are about 259 square kilometers, 1,400 and \$24 million (ADB, 2017) respectively. Tourism, agriculture and fisheries are the major contributors to the national economies of these Pacific SIDS. Climate change induced disasters and a high incidence of non-communicable diseases are existential threats to the populations, who rely largely on food imports. The impacts of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine did not help the overall agriculture and food security of these countries. Various research shows that progress for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is at best stalled and at worse reversed. This context spells a situation of volatility for national agrifood systems.

The United Nations is supporting these countries to advance their national food systems transformation agendas, which is an opportunity for change. Most of the governments are designing varied actions as part of their national food systems transformation agendas. FAO also recently received a request from the Government of Samoa stating that the country is confronting an unexplained increasing price of locally produced crops and scarcity of planting materials for taro and banana. This context

demands sound analytic policy advisories for decision-making. The FAO Office in these Pacific SIDS is therefore looking for a competent economist who can generate policy advisories within this changing context of agrifood systems economics.

Tasks and responsibilities

Under the overall leadership of the FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands and technical supervision of the Food and Nutrition Officer, the International Consultant – Agrifood Systems Economist - will work closely within a multi-disciplinary team to generate and publish evidence-based policy advisories primarily for governments, but also for development partners in the Pacific. The Agrifood Systems Economists will intellectualize how agrifood systems is mediated by global, regional and national economic behaviours. For the first part of this assignment, the Agrifood Systems Economist will focus on Samoa to produce the following outputs:

Output 1: Analyze the Samoa Government’s capacity for agrifood systems economic analysis and early warning capacity, and if needed propose and put in place a monitoring system with the validation of the Government.

Output 2: Draw on the monitoring systems to provide a policy brief that will advise the Government over the reported increasing prices of locally produced taro and banana and scarcity of their planting materials.

Output 3: Draw on the monitoring systems to produce a policy brief that will illuminate the Government’s decision-making processes related to its ongoing national agrifood systems recovery efforts addressing impacts of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine.

Output 4: Draw on the monitoring systems to produce a policy brief that will illuminate the Government’s decision-making processes over how to address the crippling crisis of Non-communicable Diseases via fiscal policy instruments, trade and taxation measures that would constrain access to unhealthy food and beverages.

Output 5: Draw on the monitoring systems to produce a policy brief that will illuminate the Government’s decision-making processes over the potential socio-economic trade-offs linked to the transformation of national agrifood systems.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| Expected Outputs: | Required Completion Working Days |
|---|--|
| A clear methodology explaining how the 5 outputs will be achieved | 5 days |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Output 1: not more than 10 pages 2. Output 2: 10 to 15 pages, single spacing 3. Output 3: 10 to 15 pages, single spacing 4. Output 4: 10 to 15 pages, single spacing 5. Output 5: 10 to 15 pages, single spacing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 30 days 2. 20 days 3. 20 days 4. 20 days 5. 20 days |

Minimum Qualifications

- Advanced university degree in economics, development economics, agricultural economics, business/public administration, international development studies.
- Proven record of at least 7 years of conducting policy research, authoring and publishing practical and action oriented policy advisories for governments, development partners, senior leaders, etc...
- Good knowledge of the theoretical nexus between economics and agrifood systems.
- Excellent writing analytic capacity, and good command of the English Language.
- Knowledge of the Pacific development context is an advantage.