



Term of References

An assessment on situation of local rice seed conservation and production in the North and Central North of Vietnam

Oxfam is a confederation of 21 organizations working together in more than 70 countries. We are part of a global movement for change, empowering people to create a future that is secure, just, and free from poverty.

Oxfam in Vietnam is working to seek transformative changes in policies, practices and beliefs in ways that will fundamentally improve the lives of poor and marginalized women and men and ensure that all citizens have the same opportunity to enjoy their rights. Oxfam in Vietnam current country strategy contributes to shaping the debate on extreme inequality in Vietnam and globally, our three program goals include promoting gender equality and women's agency, social accountability and empowered citizens, and secured livelihoods and resilient communities.

All our work is led by three core values: Empowerment, Accountability, Inclusiveness. To read more about our values please click [here](#).

Oxfam is committed to preventing any type of unwanted behaviour at work including sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, lack of integrity and financial misconduct; and committed to promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. Oxfam expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment through our code of conduct. We place a high priority on ensuring that only those who share and demonstrate our values are recruited to work for us.

1. Background

In Vietnam, rice is one of the most important crops and about two thirds of households produce rice both for domestic consumption and as a cash crop. For the poorest Vietnamese, rice represents for about 30% of household expenses. National rice production has increased

nearly double in the last decade, that helps Vietnam from a food insufficiency country to the second largest rice export in the world.

However, many rice farmers are amongst the poorest in Vietnam and rice production is facing with number of challenges such as Vietnam's rice is generally low quality and aims at non-discerning market, low income for rice farmer, industrialization of the country and climate change impacts are resulting a reduction in paddy land, rice intensification is having negative impacts on the environment from overuse of natural resources and inputs, etc.

Recently, the domestic demands for good quality rice have been increased significantly, Vietnamese consumers tend to pay higher prices for good quality/tasty rice which provides incentives for farmers to choose high quality rice varieties- mostly local/indigenous rice varieties. The recent research shows that many farmers in the Northern mountainous provinces have comeback to cultivate local rice varieties such as Seng Cu, Chiem Huong, Tu Le, Te Rau, Bao Thai, Tam Dien Bien, Nep Thau Dau, Nep Khau Nua Lech, Nep Vai, Khau Cay Noi, etc for household consumption and commercial purposes. These local varieties have recognized as high quality, tasty and rich nutrition by the consumers and therefore, reaching high market demand even though the prices are 50-60% higher than other normal rice. Moreover, rice producers also confirmed that local rice varieties are more resilient to the climate changes/extreme weather than the hybrid/imported rice varieties. These advantages have contributed significantly to improve livelihood of rice farmers, especially ethnic minority women in the mountainous provinces.

Realizing the value of indigenous varieties, some provincial governments have paid attention to support and promote production of local rice varieties for income generation and indigenous variety conservation as well. However, there are number of barriers for expanding the production of these varieties and even maintaining the existing production areas. Shortage and unavailability of quality seeds are considered as main reason. Many farmers are lacking seed improvement/restoration and production skills as they often buy packaged seeds from seed companies. Moreover, the current policy and regulations on seed certification and registration are quite challenging for small scale farmers to engage in seed production and trade. In addition, lack of private sector engagement as they have not seen significant intensives to invest in indigenous seed production and business is also impacted to the conservation and development of the indigenous rice varieties as well as to the sustainable development of local rice value chain as a whole.

Oxfam in Vietnam would like to hire a consultant team to assess deeply the situation of local rice seed conservation and production in Vietnam. The study result will provide insight information for agriculture policy makers and relevant stakeholders i.e. rice producers, private sector/enterprises, local authorities, etc. to build policy and action plan for sustainable development of indigenous rice varieties as well as local rice value chains. In addition, Oxfam will also use the study results for its future programming.

2. Objective

The study aims to achieve the below specific objectives:

- Assess the situation of management, production and marketing of indigenous rice seeds, including an in-depth analysis on current models/practices on local rice seed

production and marketing/distribution, gender issue and power relation between actors in local seed supply chain.

- Update and analyze the current policy and regulation relating to indigenous rice seed management, production and marketing
- Identify and analyze the challenges that effect to the restoration, production and marketing of the indigenous rice seeds.
- Provide feasible solutions for promoting the conservation, production and marketing/distribution of indigenous rice seeds to meet the demand of sustainable development of local rice value chain in the future.

3. The cope of assessment and key contents

Location: The assessment will focus on seed related issues of indigenous/local rice varieties in the North and Central North of Vietnam.

Timeline: 25/12/2022- 25/3/2022

Key assessment contents:

- Provide an overview of indigenous/local rice variety conservation and development in Vietnam
- Assess the current practices of conservation, restoration/improvement, production, supply/distribution/marketing of indigenous rice seeds
- Analyze power relations and gender issues in local rice seed supply chain.
- Assess and analyze the effectiveness, sustainability, advantages, challenges/barriers and lesson learn of the current models/practices on indigenous rice seed production and marketing/distribution.
- Provide an assessment and forecast on current and future market demand/trend for indigenous rice seeds
- Analyze the support services for conservation, production and marketing of indigenous rice seeds, including scientific/technical research, extension services, seed certification/registration, etc.
- Analyze the policy and regulation (central and provincial levels) relating to management, conservation, production and marketing of indigenous rice seeds.
- Provide feasible solutions to promote the conversation/restoration, production and marketing of indigenous rice seeds.

4. Expected outputs:

The consultant is expected to deliver an assessment report (max 40 pages, excluding annex) with the below timeline:

- Draft report: 15/3/2022
- Final report: 25/3/2022

5. Consultant requirement

A team of consultant will be recruited to conduct this assessment. The consultant should meet the below criteria

Team leader:

- Master's degree or higher in agriculture, economics or related fields
- At least 10 years of experiences in research, field assessment and survey, qualitative analysis.
- Strong research experiences in agriculture development, policy and regulation. Good understanding on rice sector is an advantage.
- Good knowledge on cross cutting issues i.e. gender equality, inclusiveness, climate change
- Good knowledge on agri-business, SMEs/private sector, business analysis
- Good experiences in research management and coordination, stakeholder dialogue facilitation
- Good analytical and reporting skills

Team members:

- Holds Master's degree in relevant fields (e.g. agriculture/crop science, economics, biology, etc)
- At least seven years of experiences in research, evaluation, field assessment and survey, qualitative research.
- Strong knowledge and experiences in crop production, especially rice sector. Having knowledge in seed production/breeding and or seed business, is an advantage.
- Good working experiences on collective economic activities (farmer group, farmer cooperative, farmer networks, etc)
- Good knowledge on agri-business, SMEs/private sector, business analysis
- Good knowledge on cross cutting issues i.e. gender equality, inclusiveness, climate change
- Good analytical and reporting skill

6. How to apply

The Interested consultant is requested to submit application documents via the below email address: HR.Vietnam@oxfam.org before 17:00, 22/12/2021. The documents could be written in English or Vietnamese and should include:

- Consultant's Curriculum Vitae
- Detailed technical proposal
- Financial proposal

Note: we will inform only to the shortlisted candidates