

USAID CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN THE MEKONG DELTA

Hanoi, 6 March 2024

RECRUIT

Title	Commodity Climate Suitability Analysis Consultant
Project	USAID Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta
Deadline for CV submission	14 March, 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Mekong Delta Project (CRM) works with the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to enhance the resilience of the Mekong Delta's communities, ecosystems, and livelihoods. The overall goal of CRM is to advance low-emissions, climate-resilient, agricultural livelihoods combined with biodiversity conservation to support carbon sequestration, healthy ecosystems, and resilience of vulnerable communities in the Mekong Delta.

CRM works across five provinces of Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, and Tra Vinh and focus on three interconnected objectives and one cross-cutting theme:

- **Objective 1: Strengthen climate change resilience of the most vulnerable populations.** CRM will engage stakeholders to assess and address vulnerability through enhanced climate information services, resilient livelihood, and safety net models, improved provincial plans, and increased access to finance.
- **Objective 2: Strengthen management and restoration of natural ecosystems to provide ecosystem goods and services.** CRM will take an inclusive participatory approach to identify entry points to support evidence-based transformation of legal and governance frameworks, improve management capacity, and incentivize natural resource conservation.
- **Objective 3: Reduce methane emissions through low-emission and sustainable agriculture practices.** CRM will work with GVN and stakeholders across value chains to assess gaps and opportunities and harness payment for environmental services schemes and other results-based finance mechanisms to reduce intensive rice farming and GHG emissions and drive transformation through a market systems approach.
- **Cross-cutting focus: Develop and implement policies to advance climate actions and biodiversity conservation.** CRM will also work with GVN and stakeholders to enhance development, harmonization, and implementation of policies, as well as to strengthen national and sub-national coordination. CRM will engage key stakeholders to influence and incentivize policy, practice, and behavior in favor of transformation.

CRM will be implemented during the period of 2023-2028 by Winrock International (WI) with a consortium of Vietnamese and international partners. GVN counterparts are the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Management Board of Forest Projects (MBFPs).

As part of the project preparation phase, the CRM team will be conducting two interconnected and complementary assessments/analyses to inform activity planning upon project approval. These analyses include:

- i. Climate vulnerability assessment (CVA), to identify the most vulnerable areas to climate change and their most significant risks to be addressed through CRM.
- ii. Value chain analysis (VCA), to further understand the market dynamics of rice, horticulture, aquaculture and other potential business opportunities for local communities and businesses.

To enable the project to identify appropriate climate resilient value chain interventions/activities, CRM is seeking a Commodity Climate Suitability Analysis (CCSA) consultant to join the CVA and VCA teams and contribute to delivering the VCA report.

2. TASK DESCRIPTION

The CCSA Consultant will be responsible for conducting a rapid desk study of available resources, including existing assessments such as the November 2013 “USAID Mekong ARCC Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study for the Lower Mekong Basin”, the 2023-“CGIAR Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report for: Rice Value Chain, Fruit Value Chain, and for Aquaculture Value Chain”. The CRVC consultant will then participate in field surveys and data collection as an integral part of the CRM assessment team (details to be further developed in coordination with the CRM team) to focus on analysis of the “comfort zone”, including (i) ecological indicators of potential low emission/resilient commodities; and (ii) suitability of rice, horticulture, and aquaculture species...etc. in the project target areas. The final product will be a practical section (maximum 15 pages, excluding appendices) provided a summary of “comfort zone” and commodity (mainly rice, horticulture and aquaculture or RHA) climate suitability analysis results for CRM, and recommended corrective actions to sustainably develop the selected commodity value chains within the life of the project.

3. TASKS

- i. Conduct desk review and screen available secondary data, policies, and reports such socio-economic analysis, value chain development reports, published papers, etc.
- ii. Develop methodology and techniques for data collection, present data gathering and analysis tools for carrying out the comfort zone and RHA commodity climate suitability analysis.
- iii. Work with CRM team, focal points/representatives of five project’s provinces to agree on the scale, methodology and data collection method to support for comfort zone and RHA commodity climate suitability analysis.
- iv. Prepare and submit a detailed work plan, including methodology and data collection technique/tools for gathering primary data on comfort zone and RHA commodity climate suitability in the field.
- v. Conduct field data collection to identify the most potential commodities (based on at least three key criteria: a. market/demand-based; b. GHG emissions reduction-based; and c. climate suitability-based criteria) to be supported by CRM, in close collaboration with the RHA experts from the CVA and VCA teams.
- vi. Map out and cluster climate risk zones for selected commodities/value chain under the project sites in close collaboration with the CVA team.
- vii. Analyze “Comfort Zones” and “commodity climate suitability” for (up-to) eight potential RHA commodities in the target project’s provinces.
- viii. Co-present the initial findings from the comfort zone and RHA commodity climate suitability of the VCA at provincial consultation meetings in each of five Dong Thap,

Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, and Tra Vinh right after completing the field assessments.

- ix. Prepare and submit the first draft section of the VCA report to CRM/WI for comments.
- x. Incorporate comments provided by CRM/WI to improve the draft section of the VCA report and produce the final draft section on comfort zones and RHA commodity climate suitability of the VCA report.

4. ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF EFFORT (LOE) AND DELIVERABLES

The estimated LOE for this assignment is **30** person-days to be implemented within three months, starting from March to May 2024. Deliverable #1 and Deliverable #3 must be prepared in English and Vietnamese. Deliverable #2 and other raw data/ supporting documents, etc., can be in Vietnamese. The specific deliverables and timeframe are listed below in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1. Level of effort and associated deliverables

#	Activities	LOE (day)	Description of the outputs/deliverables	Deliverables (D)	Due date (of deliverable)	Means of Deliverable Verification
1	i, ii, iii, and iv	3	Detailed work plan, including methodology and techniques for analysing comfort zone and suitability in the field	D1: 01 Work Plan	March 20, 2024	Approval by the supervisor
2	v to ix	20	First draft Section of the VCA Report, including list of potential commodities, maps, brief findings of “ <i>Comfort Zones</i> ”, “ <i>commodity climate suitability</i> and other raw data.	D2: 01 First Draft Section of VCA Report	May 15, 2024	CRM technical team provides comments and concur for provincial consultation meetings
3	x	7	Final draft section of Comfort zone and RHA commodity climate suitability analysis, including a table of corrective/adaptive actions for promoting sustainable value chain development of the selected commodities	D3: 01 Final section of the VCA Report	May 31, 2024	Approved by the supervisor

5. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Advanced degree in sustainable development studies, agribusiness, aquaculture environmental science, circular economy, climate change and adaptation, natural resource management, or related field.
- At least 10 years of relevant professional experience and a good understanding of the current situation in Vietnam on climate change, green growth, sustainable value chain development.
- Knowledge and prior experience of conducting similar (comfort zone and commodity climate suitability analysis) assignments is highly preferable.
- Experience with diversity, equity, and inclusion related to gender and vulnerable populations and communities.

- Good social, analytical and planning skills.
- Be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently as well as in a team.
- Generating creative, practical approaches to overcome challenging situations.
- Excellent speaking and writing skills in Vietnamese and English.

6. SUPERVISOR

The CCSA consultant will report to the Deputy Chief of Party/Technical.

7. HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates with the required qualifications and experience are invited to send a letter of interest and a full CV in English to vietnamjobs@winrock.org with subject line of “Your full name – Commodity Climate Suitability Analysis Consultant” no later than 14 March 2024.

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest but only candidates who meet requisite criteria and are shortlisted will be contacted.