



Terms of Reference
Consultancy services
Assessment of women's and ethnic minorities groups participation in the rice value chain in North mountainous areas of Vietnam

Summary:

The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV Vietnam) is currently implementing a project titled "Innovative financing for building community resilience to climate change in coastal Vietnam" - the Climate change adaptation and Agriculture Insurance project – funded by BMU. (The BMU project for short).

SNV is engaged in the agriculture sector implementing Value Chain, Inclusive Business and Climate Change adaptation and mitigation activities. SNV is currently implementing a DFAT/Australian Aid funded project **Sowing the Seeds of Change: Community-based Climate Change Mitigation through Sustainable Rice (SSC/SRI project)** to support and build the capacity of small holder rice producers and provincial agencies to apply the **System of Rice Intensification (SRI)** - an innovative, efficient, environmentally sustainable and climate smart farming technique that increases productivity of rice cultivation while reducing requirements for water, seed, synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and labour; reduce considerable volume of GHG emission and increase resilience for rice production.

After almost 3 years, approximately 10,000 farmers women and men have applied SRI and participated in the rice chain in 16 cooperatives/communes in 2 provinces Quang Binh and Binh Dinh, significantly increasing income and social impacts, especially gender equality. The project formulates evidences of sustainable agriculture production model that combines application of advance farming techniques, promotion of market linkages/value chain development and enhancing social inclusion/gender equality. The project gets high appreciation from key stakeholders, including Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

As part of enhancement sustainable agriculture strategy, SNV is studying opportunities to promote SRI to other regions, including northern upland and delta, emphasizing women and ethnic minorities roles.

SNV is inviting technical agencies and individual consultants to assess **women's and ethnic minorities (EM) groups participation in the rice value chain (RVC) in 3 northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam**

Objectives

- 1) Assessing current status of rice in overall livelihoods in the selected areas and examining the participation of women and EM groups in the RVC.
- 2) Examining influence factors to participation of women and EM group in the RVC
- 3) Finding out difficulties, challenges and opportunities and good case study about the participation of women/EM in the RVC.
- 4) Providing recommendation for solutions of improve the participation of women/EM in the RVC, thereby promote empowerment and gender equality, and further upscale SRI technique in future.

Tasks:

- 1) Develop a research proposal/framework (including co-researcher partnership, methodology, tools, research site, monitoring, materials etc.)
- 2) Literature review most recent practices and reports/researches on the role of women/EM groups in agriculture, objects participate in RVC or others related to this research topic.
- 3) Field survey: interviewing local stakeholders, including government, agriculture sector, women unions, rice farmers, millers, traders, shops, and consumers for understanding.
- 4) Data analysis: the data collected from field survey, will be analysed orient research objectives and reflect accurately local context.
- 5) Report: the data analysis result will be used for writing a valuable report, which shows the current role of women/EM in RVC; their level of participation; challenges and opportunities of women to participate in RVC; recommend for promote women empowerment and gender equality, as well as suggested solution for upscale SRI model look at the role of women.

Time and places of research

- The research will be conducted in 6 districts, of 3 provinces: Thai Nguyen, Yen Bai/Bac Can, and Phu Tho;
- The research will be implemented during June and July 2015

Objects of research may be include

- The rice farmers, both men and women
- Millers
- Traders, shops
- Consumers
-

Expected outputs and deliverables

- (1) A research proposal with details on research team, partnership, methodology, tools, research site, research plan, implementation agenda (field survey, consultation, reporting etc.), resources allocation, and budget detail.

- (2) A literature review report about role of women in agriculture, the main object (man/women) participate in RVC, and other related research.
- (3) A value report in both Vietnamese and English with evidences to prove that women contribute important role in the RVC; influence factors to participation of women; difficulties, challenges and opportunities for women participate in RVC; solutions for women empowerment and gender equality, as well as employ key role of women in RVC to upscale SRI model.

1. Timeframe

The consultancy is expected to do in early June to end July 2015. The detailed plan will be negotiated and agreed between SSC/SRI project and the selected consultants.

2. Requirements

- Prior strong research experiences in agricultural development, value chain, gender equality or related fields;
- At least 10 years with experience in doing researches in rural areas for community based projects.
- Having good knowledge of gender equality and gender empowerment
- Proficiency in the use of PRA tools in research will be an advantage
- Fluent in spoken and written English

3. Application guidelines:

Required documents include: (1) technical detail research proposal, include financial proposals in Vietnamese; (2) CV or a summary of proven your suitable capabilities.

Application package should be sent to: Nguyen Thi Phuong Nhung, email: Nhung.nguyen@snvworld.org; and copied Mr. Tran Quang Truong TTranquang@snvworld.org before **5:30pm** 04 June 2015.