

Consultancy Opportunity: Literature Review on Gender Dynamics in Seed Systems

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. BACKGROUND

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is looking for a collaborator to conduct a semi-systematic literature review on gender dynamics in seed systems innovations. The review will serve as the first output from a gender learning module within [ISSD Africa](#). Funded by the Swiss Development Corporation, ISSD Africa works to address key bottlenecks preventing African seed sectors reaching their potential. ISSD Africa is a community of practice; a coalition of global organizations that identifies, explores and promotes innovations to enable sustainable and inclusive seed sector transformation.

With co-funding from the NL-CGIAR research program for seed systems development, the gender learning module aims to analyze gender dynamics in seed systems. The gender module will identify the extent to which different business models for seed delivery can overcome gender gaps in the reach, benefits and empowerment of existing seed distribution models.

An implicit assumption in many seed systems is that all farmers have the same seed needs and preferences, and the same access to seeds. This is not the case. Different farmers – women and men of different social categories (age, ethnicity, socio-economic standing etc.) - have different demands for seed, and seed production and marketing systems for high-quality seeds do not work equally well for each crop and every seed user.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

The goal of this literature review is to review the literature on innovations in seed systems, particularly seed distribution, and analyze to what extent these innovations improve the sustainability and inclusivity of seed systems; in particular the potential for new business models to empower women in agriculture.

The review will first review the literature for key innovations in seed systems and describe findings on the extent to which these innovations help improve agricultural productivity and incomes (increase the size of the pie). Then, most importantly, the review will shed light on the extent to which these innovations reach, benefit and empower women (divide the pie more equally). To the extent that the reviewed articles do not include a gender analysis, the review will add such an analysis for alternative categories of innovations using existing frameworks to conceptualize gender dynamics in seed systems.

The review will draw on literature from multiple disciplines within social science, including for instance development economics, agriculture, business studies and anthropology, covering both qualitative and quantitative research.

The consultancy is for in total 30 days, distributed as follows:

Drafting, piloting and refining a protocol for the review (3 days) – In close consultation with the IFPRI project leader, the consultant will draft a protocol including search terms, inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria that will be used in the review. The consultant will then test the guidelines specified in this protocol, and refine it based on the pilot experiences.

Literature review (15 days) – Next, the consultant will apply the protocol, and describe for each paper: (i) the innovation and theory of change behind the innovation; (ii) the impacts of the innovation on agricultural productivity and factors leading to improved productivity; (iii) the extent to which the paper has done a gender analysis; (iv) subjecting the innovation to a gender analysis based on an existing framework for gender dynamics in seed systems.

Documenting findings (10 days) – Findings will be documented systematically, for instance through tables that can be included as annexes in the paper. The consultant will also take the lead in drafting a paper that can be disseminated as an ISSD Africa working paper and submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Weekly reporting and meetings (2 days) – The consultant will send weekly progress reports and will meet with the project leader where needed. The consultant may be requested to present the review either remotely or in person. This will be determined at a later stage. IFPRI will in the case of travel cover the consultant’s travel expenses subject to IFPRI’s travel policy for collaborators.

III. TIMELINE

- March 20: Announcement of RFP
- March 31: Deadline for applications
- April 15: Proposal for search procedures, inclusion and exclusion criteria
- April 30: Progress meeting, refine inclusion and exclusion criteria
- May 31: First draft of the paper presented
- June 30: Paper ready for submission to ISSD Africa Working Paper series / peer-reviewed journal

IV. DELIVERABLES

Payment is subject to completion of the following deliverables:

Deliverable	Deliverable due	Payment due	Payment
1. Finalized protocol (methods)	April 30	May 15	20%
2. Finalized literature review (results)	May 31	June 15	30%
3. Paper submitted as ISSD Africa working paper	June 30	July 15	50%

V. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Consultants can send in an application before the stated deadline via email, to B.Kramer@cgiar.org. Please include in your application the following sections:

- a) Cover letter including capacity statement
- b) CV supporting capacity statement
- c) Proposed daily rate with supporting documentation of current rate