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**TORs FOR CONSULTANT TO REVIEW EXISTING VILLAGE AGENT TRAINING MANUAL FOR ECO-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES AND TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE VILLAGE AGENT MODEL TO DELIVER QUALITY SERVICES TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS**

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| Organisation | Self Help Africa-Uganda |
| Programme | Agriculture and Market Support Project |
| Assignment type | Review existing Village Agent training manual for eco-friendly businesses and training young people on the application of the village agent model to deliver quality services to smallholder farmers |
| Project location | Adjumani and Kiryandongo |
| Duration | 15 working days |

**Introduction:**

Self Help Africa (SHA) is an Irish-based, International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) implementing rural development, sustainable livelihoods, and food security programs in nine countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Uganda, SHA has been operational since 1989, implementing various programs across all regions of the country.

With funding from the United Nations World Food Program, Self Help Africa (SHA) is implementing the Agriculture and Market Support (AMS) project – from November 2023 to December 2024 in Kiryandongo and Adjumani districts. The project is supporting 12670 smallholder farmers both refugees and host communities. The focus of this phase of the program is on improving Post-Harvest Management and increasing market access.

**Specific objectives of the project include**:

1. Improve the quality of targeted crops, PHM, and food safety and quality among women and youth smallholders, MSEs and Aggregators
2. Increase demand and supply of agricultural services
3. Increase pro-smallholder marketing among small holders especially among women and youth
4. Strengthen national and sub-national institutions for pro-smallholder policies and programs

**Brief Background of the activity:**

With funding from the United Nations World Food Program, Self Help Africa (SHA) is implementing the Agriculture and Market Support (AMS) project – from November 2023 to December 2024 in Kiryandongo and Adjumani districts. The project is supporting 12670 smallholder farmers both refugees and host communities. The focus of this phase of the program is on improving Post-Harvest Management and increasing market access.

Over 70 percent of the world’s poor rely on agriculture and live in rural areas where poor infrastructure and other market inefficiencies prevent them from accessing essential business services! Limited access often means these smallholder farmers miss out on innovations that could improve productivity and strengthen their resilience. Women and youth are particularly prone to marginalization, and so are other disadvantaged groups such as the disabled and elderly. The village agent approach is designed to provide improved market linkages for smallholder farmers, including these marginalized groups, to suppliers and buyers.

The improved linkages to suppliers will increase their crop yield and animal production leading to improved food for the household or production to sell. Improved output market linkages between farmers and buyers will increase prices and profitability, contributing to higher household income.

The village agent model seeks to enable a transition of entrepreneurial community members, especially those working in agriculture, to become providers of fee-based market-based services.

In summary, A village agent is essentially a broker who facilitates business linkages between producers in rural areas and service providers in urban areas. In market development and food security programmes, producers are typically farmers and service providers are buyers or suppliers of agricultural inputs. A village agent identifies opportunities to strengthen business relationships by enhancing the quality of interaction and nurturing win-win transactions. They increase the efficiency and reliability of information flow, as well as the movement of goods and services between farmers and value chain actors.

**Specific Expectations for the Consultant**

1. To review different village agent manuals being used by private sector actors in Adjumani and Kiryandongo
2. Develop a simplified village agent training manual that defines what the village agent model approach is, who is a village agent, the steps in applying the village agent approach, the selection criteria for a village agent, roles and responsibilities
3. Train young people on the application of the village agent model to deliver quality services to smallholder farmers in Kiryandongo and Adjumani

**Expected Output of the Assignment**

Expected outcomes include: -

1. The consultant develops a simplified village agent training manual that will be used by village agents of different private sector actors across the two districts to guide their operations in service delivery to smallholder farmers.
2. Train 70 village agents on the application of the manual in the two districts
3. A detailed training report submitted to the project manager

**Administration and logistical support**

* Consultancy fees shall be payable as per agreed instalments and progress made on completion of deliverables.
* Transport, meals, and accommodation for the consultant and their entire team are catered for within the consultancy fees payable above.
* The consultant will work closely with and report directly to the Project Manager and the Market Linkage Officer and one assigned Field Training Officer from the Adjumani and Kiryandongo districts.

**Minimum Requirements**

The ideal applicant should possess: -

* Experience in conducting similar assessments for different Non-Governmental Organizations
* Extensive knowledge of private sector engagement and developing training tools for farmers in rural areas of Uganda
* The consultants to be hired are individuals, with practical knowledge, skills, and experience in providing training services in various agriculture and livelihoods sector. They should have experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative assessments and facilitating adult learning sessions.

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