

**Expression of Interest to Conduct Baseline and Gender Assessment Study for Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns**

**(BETTER)**

**Introduction**

Self Help Africa (SHA) is an international NGO with the vision of an economically thriving and resilient rural Africa. We have 50 years of experience working with smallholder farmers, farmer associations, cooperatives and agribusinesses across Africa to help farmers grow and sell more food, improve diets, diversify incomes and make their livelihoods more sustainable and resilient to external shocks. We also work to build awareness of issues affecting smallholders and represent their interests at policy and institutional level. Our sectors of expertise include, Food and Nutrition Security, Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Access to Finance, Farming as a Business, Value Chain Development, Climate Resilience, Natural Resource Management, Water and Sanitation and Policy Influencing. SHA has been operating in Malawi since 1994.

Self Help Africa as lead agency, in collaboration with Action Aid, Evangelical Association of Malawi, Plan International and ADRA, with funding from the European Union, will be implementing a programme called BETTER. BETTER with a total funding of €14.6 million with EU contributing €13.96 million is a five year programme that aims at increasing the resilience, food, nutrition and income security of 402,000 smallholder farmers in the 10 districts of Karonga, Chitipa, Mzimba, Kasungu, Nkhata-Bay, Nkhotakota, Salima, Chiradzulu, Thyolo and Mulanje. BETTER is part of the KULIMA (Kutukula Ulimi m’Malawi) Programme. KULIMA Programme with an estimated cost of €111 000 000, is funded by the EU contributing €100 ,000 ,000, and co-financed by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and German Cooperation. The BETTER programme has the following specific objectives; to strengthen agricultural extension services through 13,400 FFS groups in order to secure effective and productive services for smallholder farmers in 10 KULIMA districts; to increase the absorptive/anticipatory, adaptive and transformative capacities of 402,000 smallholder farmers to adapt to adverse effects of climate change and improve food security in 78 EPAs in 10 KULIMA districts; to improve food security for 402,000 farmers through effective livelihood diversification and technology transfer.

**Purpose of the Assignment One-Baseline Study**

The main aim of carrying out the baseline survey is to obtain quantitative baseline figures and information for the project indicators at impact, outcome and output levels that will be used as the reference points to progressively measure and evaluate the project performance against the set targets during and at the end of project implementation. Data collected will provide quantifiable information on the current status of smallholder farmers, their households as well as the availability and status of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in the KULIMA districts in line with the indicators outlined in the project Log frame.

Additionally, the baseline survey will serve to validate the indicator targets in terms of attainability and where appropriate provide justification for revision of some targets. Information collected during the survey may also be used to improve the design of the project in order to allow effective implementation.

**Purpose of the Assignment Two-Gender Assessment Study**

The gender analysis will identify gender activity profiles, gender constraints and opportunities, access and control of resources and existing social norms and power relations; and will also gather information in relation to the challenges facing women with regard to their social and economic empowerment in the context of the implementation of the programme, and to use this information to mainstream gender considerations into the programme, such as addressing gendered division of labour, technologies, women’s and men’s, boys and girls needs and preferences, and opportunities for and constraints on women’s participation.

**Application Process**

Please request for the detailed Terms of Reference for the Baseline Study and for the Gender Analysis study from lorenza.quadrini@selfhelpafrica.org or grace.kennedy@selfhelpafrica.org

The final date of submission of completed applications is 09 February 2018.

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