



## PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

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### Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP)

**Terms of Reference (ToR) for selection of Individual Consultant for preparing a strategy paper on “Transformation of agroecological farming (beyond organic) for ensuring nutritious & safe food without compromising yield and reducing input subsidies on chemical fertilizer and pesticide in Bangladesh”.**

#### 1. Introduction:

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is an apex organization for poverty alleviation through employment generation established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Since its inception in 1990, PKSF has been implementing various poverty alleviation programs and projects including financial services program through its countrywide network of Partner Organizations (POs). Apart from the government's financial support, PKSF receives funds from different international development organization like The World Bank, ADB, DFID, IFAD etc. for implementing projects in the field of poverty alleviation.

PKSF is currently implementing a project titled 'Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP)' jointly financed by PKSF and 'International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)' and 'DANIDA'. The project is aimed at enhancing livelihoods (higher income from self-employment, business profit and wage employment and food security) of the moderate and extreme poor project participants (men and women) in a sustainable manner. The project goal is to sustainably increase the income, food security and nutrition of marginal and small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs across selected value chains. The development objective is the sustainable growth of selected rural commodity value chains with comparative advantage, market demand, growth potential, and backward linkages to small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. The project is being implemented through the partner organizations (POs) of PKSF, across the country.

The key notion of RMTP is to integrate agricultural value chains interventions and mutually beneficial commercial linkages between small farmers/micro-entrepreneurs and larger-scale consolidators such as private sector agribusiness. Participation of agribusinesses is fundamental to generate demand and create markets that reliably absorb output from small farms and micro-enterprises; agribusinesses serve as engines of rural transformation. The project will support small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs (or their

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organizations) and agribusinesses to improve their operations and integrate contractually within selected value chains. In this perspective, commodities that respond to growing demand from domestic, regional and global markets, ensure nutritional benefits for both producers and consumers, and can be aligned to comply with food quality and safety standards, will be prioritized under the project.

Farming in Bangladesh is critically concerned by the wide range of consumers due to rampant use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, growth hormones and unsafe production of food crops. This crop production system is destroying soil health, deteriorating human health and creating environmental pollution with a serious threat to biodiversity. In Bangladesh, farmers apply chemical insecticides in almost 98% of produced vegetables. Approximately 50 thousand tons of lethal chemicals are used in crop field annually. According to the Physicians, this type of produced food has a detrimental effect on human bodies, especially on the heart, liver, and kidneys. The number of heart, liver, and kidney patients in the country increases daily. People are becoming more health-conscious day by day, trying to eat healthy foods. Many are trying to avoid potentially harmful foods and becoming increasingly interested in consuming safe food. For these reasons, many people are leaning toward organic food. But organic food is not widely available, despite the demand. It is not easy to traced due to having information asymmetry in the food market. On the contrary, public subsidies on chemical fertilizers and other agricultural inputs increasing day by day for instance BDT 160.00 billion for securing increased demand for food crops, hence govt. investment and real cost of production are increased.

In this context, PKSF is intended, to prepare a strategy paper on "Transformation of agroecological farming (beyond organic) for ensuring nutritious & safe food without compromising yield and reducing input subsidies of chemical fertilizer and pesticide in Bangladesh" to identify the farmers behavioral pattern for using chemical pesticides, hormones, fertilizers and to suggest sustainable solutions to the constraints identified. The policy paper shall also identify the policy related issues and suggest in commercialization of safe food production and promotion of agri-business clusters. The policy paper will be prepared through analyzing the major potential horticultural subsectors of the country.

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### 2. Objectives: The key objectives are to

- i) identify existing conventional practices of vegetable, fruit and other crop production system and suggest means of sustainable agroecological farming practices;
- ii) provide detail cost benefits of agroecological farming considering the true cost analysis or ecosystem services (Including environmental, ecological, economic and social) over conventional farming and determine the ecological farming doesn't compromise yield in compare to conventional farming;
- iii) provide strategy for reducing public subsidies on chemical inputs. Projection of economic/monetary gains from withdrawal/lessening subsidies on chemical fertilizer and pesticides;
- iv) determine the tractability system of safe vegetables, fruits and other crops using modern technology including ICTs, AI and IoT to eliminate information asymmetry;
- v) identify and devise holistic strategies for implementation of ecological farming for farming community, govt. and non govt. agencies and development organization in Bangladesh.

### 3. Scope of study:

Exploring the evidence of agroecological farming practices for crop husbandry in local and abroad and identify the good practices for production and pest management system to be fitting in non-declining crop yield. The consultant may review the existing policy of agroecological or associated farming extension in Bangladesh to identify the gap and propose strategic direction for overcoming the bottlenecks in extension of sustainable farming. A rampant use of chemical fertilizers is causing soil degradation, it is expected to find out the alternative application of organic inputs or bio-means for regenerating the soil health. The consultant may need to review and compile international research documents and evidences for supporting in promotion of agroecological farming in Bangladesh. The consultant may explore and quantify risk, hazard and economic losses in conventional farming and compare to benefit with agroecological farming. The consultant shall chalk out the real discourse of agroecological farming with scientific tie-up and distinction from contemporary organic food movement/campaigning globally. In this regard, it is necessary to explore the works and documents of multilateral, international development and research

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organizations. The consultant may find out the behavioural pattern of farmer in application of synthetic inputs for crop production and protection and propose way forward of nudging to shift their behaviour so that farmers get incentive to reduce dependency on use of external synthetic agro-inputs and crop protection measures.

### 4. Methodology:

- a. **Collecting data and information from primary and secondary sources:** The consultant may collect required information from primary and secondary sources. He/she needs to visit the selected farming community to understand the farming practices and behavioural pattern of farmer. He/she will have to interview producers, farmers, input suppliers, intermediaries and other stakeholders to collect necessary information. The consultant will have to collect documents, publications of different organizations and government agencies for secondary data and information.
- b. **Review of policies:** The consultant will have to review existing policies regarding the crop production, marketing and subsidies in agro-inputs and pest control measures. He/she should communicate with different departments/ministries to collect existing acts and policies regarding agroecological or associated farming principles.
- c. **Consult with private sector stakeholders:** The consultant will have consult with the business people and organization works under the private sector which is somehow involved with safe farming and commodities marketing in the country. They may provide the consultant valuable information about prospects and challenges of the business. They also may provide information relating to the policy interventions.
- d. **Discussions with trade associations:** The consultant will have to discuss with the concerned associations of producers, traders to understand their views in promoting agroecological farming in Bangladesh.
- e. **Discussion with farmers and concerned POs:** The consultant will have to collect information from RMTP farmers and concerned POs regarding the flow of financial services and constraints in availability of credit in the respective agro farming.



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- f. **Logical analysis of information and findings:** The consultant will have to analyze the data, information, findings logically to identify the issue and suggest solutions. The whole process should be documented systematically to prepare a detailed report.
- g. **Strategic policy paper preparation:** Finally on the basis of the findings and analysis, the consultant will prepare the policy paper. The consultant may consult with PMU regarding the format of the policy paper.

### 5. Deliverables and Timelines:

- a. The consultant will have to submit inception report within seven working days of signing the agreement.
- b. The consultant will have to give a presentation at PKSF on the draft policy paper along with a detailed report of the whole activities done under this assignment within 45 days from the date of signing contract.
- c. The consultant should submit final policy paper within 15 days from the date of presentation given on the draft policy paper along with a detailed report on the assignment. The policy paper should be written in plain English. The final report must have the reflections of the comments made by the PKSF officials on the draft policy paper and include narratives based on the objectives.
- d. Five hard copies of the final policy paper (with a detailed report) and two soft copies of the policy paper and report (DVD) must be submitted to PKSF.

### 6. Contract Period:

The policy paper should be completed within 90 days from the date of signing the contract. The draft policy paper with other documents (report on analysis) will have to be submitted within 60 days from the date of signing the contract.

### 7. Qualification and Experience of Individual Consultant:

- a. **Education Qualification:** The consultant should have minimum master degree in Agronomy/Horticulture and advanced degree in Environmental Science/Soil Science/Toxicology/Bio-environmental Science/Economics/Ecological Economics or any another relevant subject.





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### b. Experience:

- i. The consultant must have at least 10 years of crop management related professional experience, including 5 years of experience in Agricultural Research specially in agroecological farming/on farm research activities.
- ii. He/she should have minimum 10 publications related to agroecological or organic farming published in journals or books.
- iii. He/she should have adequate knowledge and engagement or experience in implementing projects and policy document preparation on organic/ agroecological/ permaculture/ sustainable/regenerative farming.
- iv. The consultant with a leading role in above-mentioned areas at the national/regional /international level will be given priority for this assignment.

c. **Computer Skills:** The consultant should have necessary computer skill required for this assignment

d. **Language:** Excellent writing and oral communication in English is required.

### 8. Client's input and counterpart personnel:

- **Facilities provided by client:** The client will provide relevant documents and other related facilities to perform the assignment.
- **Counterpart personnel:** The client will engage an official to support the consultant to implement the assignment.

### 9. Institutional arrangement:

The consultant will report to the Deputy Managing Director-2, PKSF regarding the scope of services, deliverables and other assignment related issues.

### 10. Consultant (National) Selection Process:

The consultant will be selected conforming to the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method guided by the Public Procurement Rules-2008 of the Government of Bangladesh. The type of contract is lump-sum.



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### 11. Mode of Payment:

Payment to the consultant will be based on the invoice submitted to the PKSf. Applicable VAT and income tax as per Govt. rules will be deducted at sources. Payments will be made based on the following percentages and milestones:

- a. 1st Payment (10% of total contract value): The 1st payment will be made upon submission and acceptance of the inception report by PKSf.
- b. 2nd Payment (40% of total contract value): The 2nd payment will be made upon submission and acceptance of the draft report by PKSf.
- c. Final Payment (50% of total contract value) will be made upon acceptance of the final report by PKSf.

