

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food

Modern Food Storage Facilities Project –MFSP

Terms of Reference for Consultant Services

Individual Consultant

Assignment Title	International Consultant for Food Policy Research Program
Assignment duration Contract period	42 person-months
Primary assignment location	Dhaka
Funding source(s)	IDA Project Cr. Number: 52650- BD for Modern Food Storage Facilities Project – MFSP
Contracting entity	Project Director Directorate General of Food

Content of the Assignment

The Government of Bangladesh is in the process of modernizing public grain storage and improving overall public grain management in the country. Publicly held grain is primarily used for meeting post-disaster emergency needs as well as supporting social safety net programs. The Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) of the Ministry of Food is the Government unit responsible for monitoring the food security situation in Bangladesh. Activities include collecting, storing and disseminating information for food security analysis and policy formulation, and delivering evidence-based policy advice to the Government on issues relevant to food security – on its own initiative or on demand by the Government of Bangladesh.

FPMU provides secretarial support to the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee and contributes to other Government committees relevant to food security, such as the Early Warning Technical Committee or the Safety Net Technical Committee. As the lead agency on food security issues in Bangladesh, FPMU is also responsible for enhancing inter-ministerial collaboration for the implementation of the National Food Policy and monitoring its Plan of Action. The agency also has a pivotal role in coordinating, monitoring and evaluating interventions under the Country Investment Plan.

The Government of Bangladesh is implementing the Modern Food Storage Project part of which relates to strengthening FPMU's capacity as well as addressing some major analytical gaps in public grain procurement, storage, and distribution.

The Modern Food Storage Project

The project's primary objective is to increase the grain reserve available to households to meet their post-disaster needs and improve the efficiency of grain storage management. Principal activities include:

Establishment of Modern Grain Storage Facilities. This primarily consists of construction of eight steel silos (six for rice and two for wheat) with a combined capacity of 535,500 tons (Component A1). Also, 500,000 specially designed 70-liter, food-grade plastic bins equipped with watertight lids will be distributed to households in disaster-prone areas for emergency grain storage (Component A2).

Supporting of Food Planning and Policies. This aims at developing, managing, and implementing of a food policy research agenda that covers grain storage, procurement and distribution (Component B2).

The Government of Bangladesh intends to hire under separate TOR a “Consortium” of a renowned international institution and a renowned national institution to assist with the implementation of Activity (Component B2) of the Project. This consortium will report to the Project Director in the Project Management Unit for general contract administration, and to the Director General of FPMU for technical oversight. It is in this regard that the Government of Bangladesh intends to recruit an international consultant under these TOR to assist the FPMU and DGoF accomplishing this task.

Objectives of the Assignment

As assigned carry out all the responsibilities for coordination of research activities relating to Plans, schedules, conduct etc.

The objective of the assignment is two fold: (i) assist the PD and DG, FPMU in supervising the Consortium contract; and (ii) enhance the institutional capacity of FPMU and DGoF to carry out their mandate relating to policy and strategic planning support to the Government.

Scope of the assignment

He will work in close association with the deputy project director with regard to the preparation and presentation Research documents and Management and supervision of the research contract. S/he will discharge his/her duties in a way that the contract management under the project are carried out in an effective and transparent manner in accordance with the applicable contract documents and/or codes.

The Key Responsibilities of the Consultant would include, but not limited to the following

- (i) Assist FPMU in overseeing the day-today implementation of the Consortium contract and ensuring its smooth execution, including resolving any issues that might arise;
- (ii) Assist PD and the FPMU in the periodic formal and informal reviews of the Consortium’s activities (completed, on-going, planned);
- (iii) To assist the PD, as well as DG, FPMU and DGoF to formulate a detail workplan for Component B of the project ;
- (iv) Develop modalities of implementation the same in him World Bank guidences, standard practices;
- (v) To assist DG, FPMU and PD to workout priority research topic (both policy as well as management research);
- (vi) Assist FPMU and DGoF in administering, monitoring and evaluating research activities under the consortium contract in a way to ensure quality at each stage and help bring effective outcomes;
- (vii) Work with FPMU and DGoF in identifying their own capacity building needs in food policy as well as management/ operations research;
- (viii) Assist in programming and execution of FPMU and DGoF capacity building activities (such as workshops, training programs);
- (ix) Share knowledge and expertise with FPMU and DGoF staff in order to fill identified analytical skill gaps;

- (x) Assist in distilling research results from the Consortium and from other sources into policy notes and briefs for policy makers;
- (xi) Assist FPMU in, and be primarily responsible for, establishing the Food Balance of Bangladesh;
- (xii) Ensure coordination of the activities under the Modern Food Storage Project and other on-going activities and projects, including the National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme;
- (xiii) Carry out any other activities as shall be agreed with the Director General of FPMU and DGoF;

IV. In carrying out the above activities, the consultant shall work very closely and share knowledge and expertise with 2 other consultants recruited under separate TORs.

Expected Outputs

The consultant shall produce a series of outputs as agreed with the Director General of FPMU and DGoF including, but not limited to:

- (i) Inception Report, to be produced no later than the first month of engagement, covering – *inter alia* – the first year’s work program (this program will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and adjusted as needed);
- (ii) Quarterly Reports on the progress of the Consortium contract;
- (iii) A series of policy notes and briefs as agreed with the Director General of FPMU
- (iv) A prioritized list of research areas to be implemented
- (v) A series of capacity building events and activities as agreed with the DG, FPMU and DGoF as part of the international consultant contract;
- (vi) An End of Assignment Report that, among other things, highlights key lessons.
- (vii) Any other report in support of efficient management and execution of the tasks

Consultant qualifications and expertise required:

The International Consultant should have the following academic qualification, skill and professional expertise:

- Masters Degree in Economics, Development Policy/ Development Studies, Food Science, Applied Chemistry, Agriculture or other relevant field.
- Minimum 15 (Fifteen) years of relevant work experience in the fields of food policy and management research, Public Food management, poverty analysis, policy advice and research & capacity building (a Ph. D may be a substitute for 2 years of work experience)
- Proven track record in working with multi-national consortium engage in respective field
- Must have work experience in developing countries with a specific work background in South Asia preferably Bangladesh

- Must possess excellent communication skills in English, both written and spoken.
- Experience in IDA funded project will be preferred.

Reporting and supervision arrangements:

The consultant shall report to the Director General of FPMU and DGoF on respective technical matters, and to the Project Director for matters related to general contract administration.

Responsibilities of the contracting party

MFSP will provide office space and institutional support. The contracting authority will provide all relevant reports, maps, data and studies as are available. The contracting authority will provide any other assistance not readily available that the consultant may reasonably request, including liaison with the Government and other agencies concerned.

Procurement Method

The individual panel members will be hired by the criteria based on the consultant's qualifications and expertise following the method of hiring the individual consultant provided in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers updated January 2011. After evaluation of REoI only the top ranked consultant shall be invited to negotiate a contract. The applicant must not apply through any firm and the contract would be signed with individual (not with the firm in any case).

Annex- 1

Brief Description of the Project Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)

Project Description

The major component of the project is an improvement of silo storage system to store milled rice (and wheat to a lesser extent) with a total capacity of around 535,500 tons. Subject to full compliance with the requirements in the publicly disclosed ESAMF and prior completion of all complementary site-specific studies and analyses required, the silos would be constructed at about eight sites in various strategic locations across the country. The eight sites proposed are on land currently owned by the DG Food, and no land acquisition will be required.

Overall Project Objective:

The overall project development objective is to increase the grain reserve available to households to meet their post-disaster needs and improve the efficiency of grain storage management

Specific Objective of the Project:

The following are the key objectives of the project

- (i) Increased availability of grain stocks immediately following a major disaster event;
- (ii) Increased number of households whose grain needs can be met immediately after the disaster;
- (iii) Improved efficacy of the grain storage system, and monitoring and management of the food stock in the country;
- (iv) Reduced loss in grain stocks relative to pre-project losses;
- (v) Reduced cost in storing foods and its transportation and distribution;
- (vi) Ensured better monitoring, and improved governance and management of food stocks;
- (vii) Achieved higher operational efficiency;
- (viii) Minimized Land area required;
- (ix) Ensured higher security against pilferage; and
- (x) Minimized insect pest infestation and grain moulds.

Description of the Project Components:

Component A – Construction of Modern Grain Storage Silo Facilities

The primary objective of this component is: i) to improve the storage capacity for grain at the country level by financing the construction of modern steel silos for rice and wheat, that will be built in accordance with social and environmental sustainability parameters and safeguards compliance criteria; and (ii) facilitate the access of households to domestic silos for food grain and seed storage, to improve household level food security during and after natural disasters. This component would include: (A1) Public storage facilities in the form of modern grain storage silos; (A2) Household level storage facility or family silos particularly in the disaster prone areas of the coastal zone; and (A3) Implementation of social and environmental management plans.

Component B – Support for Food Planning and Monitoring Program.

The objective of this component is three fold: i) enhance the institutional capacity of DG Food and FPMU and support these agencies in carrying out their respective mandates; ii) address analytical gaps and support the development of an evidence-based policy framework to improve the efficiency and performance of the country's overall food storage system and management of strategic grain reserves, and iii) improve the coordination of public agencies (in particular DG Food and FPMU with MoDMR) involved in procurement, public storage, and distribution of food grains, as well as disaster relief. FPMU is responsible for monitoring of the food situation in the country and the implementation of related policies, while DG Food is responsible for physical procurement and management of government food stocks in accordance with agreed food security policies including the supply of food to the disaster-affected population, through relief and rehabilitation programs. The component will contribute to reconciling policies and public interventions: i) on food distribution (taking into account short and longer term storage capacities), ii) in response to incremental demand for food grain in post-disaster situations, and iii) aimed at achieving price stabilization for coarse grains normally consumed by the poor and vulnerable.

Activities supported under this component will directly contribute to enhancing the coordination between MoFood and MoDMR agencies, and to improving the decision-making process on food storage, food distribution, and market intervention on the basis of up-to-date, sound and informed analyses. Subsequently, the Bank expects GoB to follow up on these policy recommendations with concrete policy actions and/or improvements to relevant regulations and institutional arrangements that address key questions around enhancing the efficiency and performance of the food storage and food distribution system. To that effect, a range of studies will be developed, undertaken and disseminated under Component B to answer the following strategic challenges: (a) the 'optimum' volume of grain to be stored and its implications on GoB's policies; (b) impacts of GoB food market interventions on price stabilization and broader food markets; (c) improvements in enabling environment to promote a sustainable participation of private sector; (d) strategy for disposing of the grain stored in the modern facilities; (e) current physical condition of the existing public storage facilities; (f) policy, legal and institutional framework, and technical requirements for nutrient fortification; and (g) introducing warehouse receipt system.

Component C- Project Management, Construction Supervision, Technical Assistance, Training and Strategic Studies.

This component will finance costs required to ensure adequate overall management of the project, monitoring and evaluation of the activities implemented, and capacity enhancement of selected stakeholders. It will include: (C1) project management of the task, incremental staff and expenditures of the DG Food in implementation of the project, the costs for implementing the Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP), including a panel of experts, as needed, a procurement panel, audit and other such costs; (C2) cost of consultants for preparation of bidding documents, construction supervision and updating of designs required during the construction; this would among others include costs for construction supervision, monitoring and evaluation of project impacts; (C3) provision of technical assistance, training, institutional capacity building, preparation of future projects, and any strategic studies needed during project implementation and not covered under Component-B.