

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT

A. Objectives and Purpose of the Assignment

1. The Agricultural and Natural Resources Research (ANRR) Policy Paper (1995) articulated the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) approach to supporting research in the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) sector. A Special Evaluation Study was conducted in 2000 (SES-2000) on the implementation and impact of the policy. The study concluded that the policy objectives were generally relevant and modalities used in supporting the ANR research were effective towards achieving the overall objective of poverty reduction. The ADB's Audit Committee accepted the findings and recommendations of SES-2000 and asked ADB management to implement them fully.

2. It has been over 8 years since the completion of SES-2000. There have been several changes in the ANR sectors of the developing member countries (DMCs). Emerging concerns include increasing scarcity of land, labor and water for agriculture, the likely impact of trade liberalization, global climate change, and bio-fuels development. How agricultural sector adjusts to these changes and what interventions in the ANRR would contribute more effectively to the achievement of ADB's objectives of poverty reduction and inclusive growth while conserving the natural resources are important questions.

3. ADB has also made several changes in policies, institutional set-up and operational guidelines since 2000 in relation to ANR sector approaches. Currently, it is in the process of developing the Long-Term Strategic Framework 2008–2020 (LTSF 2008–2020),¹ in which, sustainable management of natural resources is placed high in the agenda for addressing concerns arising from climate change, among others. Further, recent emphasis among donor community in making aid more effective makes it appropriate to evaluate if support to ANRR is in conformity with the Paris Declaration commitments.² Hence, the Operations Evaluation Department (OED) management considers it to be an opportune time to carry out an update of the previous SES-2000. The broader purpose of the proposed update evaluation is to reassess the relevance of the findings/recommendations of SES-2000, assess performance of regional technical assistance (RETA) projects supported since 2000 and modifications needed in ANRR policy particularly in the context of the LTSF 2008–2020.

B. International Agricultural and Natural Resources Specialist

4. The position requires expertise and experience in the following areas: demonstrated sound knowledge of ANRR, well-versed in topical issues on ANR sector and impact on agricultural productivity, and expertise in evaluation approaches and methods, both quantitative and qualitative. A consultant will be recruited intermittently for a total of 60 days.

5. The tasks of the international consultant are the following:

- (i) assist in the study design and developing questionnaires;

¹ ADB. 2007. *The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank (2008-2020)*, Document Stage: Working Paper, Manila.

² The international community, including many leaders from across Asia and the Pacific, resolved under the Paris Declaration to take far-reaching actions to reform the ways development assistance is delivered and managed. ADB. 2008. Draft Special Evaluation Study on the *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Paris Declaration at the Asian Development Bank: A Development Partner's Study for an OECD-DAC Joint Evaluation*. Manila.

- (ii) review documents on the impact of ANRR, particularly those conducted by national and international agricultural research centers in recent years;
- (iii) review ADB's policies and strategies towards the support for ANR sector;
- (iv) conduct of interviews and discussions with various stakeholders as identified in the evaluation approach paper;
- (v) in cooperation with the national staff and the Mission Leader evaluate the performance of regional technical assistance in terms of relevance, and effectiveness;
- (vi) assess overall implementation arrangements and practices;
- (vii) identify problems in project design and implementation to ensure the sustainability of project outputs;
- (viii) in collaboration with the mission leader, assist in addressing the major issues of concern of the operations evaluation mission (OEM), as indicated in the approach paper, including the conduct of the economic reevaluation of projects, where needed, using recent data;
- (ix) identify key issues and lessons and formulate recommendations for future ADB assistance in the sector;
- (x) prepare assigned sections of draft report including relevant appendixes to support OEM's findings; and
- (xi) undertake other project-related assignments as required by the mission leader, including the provision of clarifications after OEM, revision of the draft report using feedback obtained from internal reviews at ADB, and possible external reviews.

6. **Qualifications and Experience Required.** The Consultant should have a masters or PhD degree in agricultural science, agricultural economics, or related disciplines, with at least 10 years of practical experience working in the area of ANRR and agricultural development. He or she will have recent experience in evaluation work of international and national agricultural research centers for the Asian and Pacific region. Proven ability to collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data together with excellent writing skills are essential.

7. To avoid conflict of interest, the Consultant should not have had prior involvement in ADB's support projects for ANRR.

8. **Deliverables.** The consultant will submit a draft report according to the specifications of the TOR within an agreed period. The consultant will also assist in the finalization of the report by providing timely response to any additional queries arising from ADB-wide and possibly external reviews.