

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY CONSULTANTS TO ASSESS THE APPROPRIATENESS OF EXISTING RURAL FINANCING MECHANISMS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN UGANDA

BACKGROUND

The realization of sustainable food systems is heavily pegged on sound financing mechanisms that are carefully crafted and rolled out for maximum outreach at grassroots level. This requires meticulous planning by service providers towards the realization of transformative growth at both national and especially the local level. Currently there exists various financial products and non-financial services geared towards increasing agricultural production. However, there are still some gaps especially in providing appropriate and affordable financial products that support small holder farmers and their institutions to optimize their productivity. Therefore, there is need to remain updated on the financing status, level of uptake of the various products and any gaps/challenges that remain in financial service provision.

INTRODUCTION TO UCCFS

Uganda Central Cooperative Financial Services Ltd (UCCFS) is an organization owned, controlled, managed by all types of co-operatives. It was registered on 28th July 2008 by the Registrar of co-operatives as a co-operative society limited by shares to provide co-operative financial services to all types of Cooperatives (Apexes, Unions, ACEs, SACCOs, RPOs and other Primary Co-operatives) in Uganda.

We Effect in partnership with Uganda Central Cooperative Financial Services (UCCFS) is promoting financial inclusion among partner organizations. Currently UCCFS and We Effect are in partnership to promote financial inclusion geared towards sustainable Rural Development partners and housing partners. Some of the services that UCCFS provides are; financial literacy, appropriate financial products and services, SACCO formation, Digitization of SACCOs, Organizational training for cooperatives, microinsurance and advocacy for conducive policy framework. For more information, www.uccfs.co.ug

INTRODUCTION TO WE EFFECT

We Effect is a development organization working in 25 countries in the world facilitating sustainable development through partnerships with member owned-member managed organizations. We Effect has vast experience in organizational development with emphasis on human rights-based approach, promoting inclusivity, gender equality and youth participation in development. We Effect has its regional office based at Nairobi, Kenya and country offices in Uganda and Tanzania. In its development cooperation, We Effect uses a variety of strategies and methods. They all aim at achieving the mission to, through a mutual partnership, strengthen local and democratic civil society organizations so that their members can improve their living conditions, enforce accountability of duty-bearers, defend their rights, contribute to a more just world with a vision of realizing a world free from poverty. For more information, www.weeffect.org.

PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The purpose of the proposed evaluation is to establish the appropriateness of the existing rural financing mechanisms towards

sustainable food systems in Uganda.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

- To provide an overview of the kind of financial products and services available to smallholder farmers in Uganda
 - To map out existing financial products available to cooperative members towards the realization of sustainable food systems.
 - To assess the gaps within financing mechanisms through engagement with cooperative member clients on attitudes and responses towards existing products
- To propose opportunities for UCCFS to develop and rollout of tailor-made rural finance products including microinsurance

METHODOLOGY

The consultant will propose a detailed research methodology including a comprehensive analysis of data collected and disaggregated by cooperatives/farmer groups targeted, including their age group and gender. Key approaches should include a review of existing literature on financing mechanisms within food systems, farmer experiences on their attitudes and responses towards financial products currently at their disposal and as well as probing cooperative member networks and clients on prevailing uptake of microinsurance, its successes and failures and how a turnaround can be realized.

DELIVERABLES

- i. An inception proposal which responds to the scope of work clarifying objectives, methodology, execution process and work plan
- ii. A comprehensive draft report detailing methods applied, stakeholders contacted, materials reviewed, and participatory methods applied. Beyond the standard components of a report, it will include a bibliography, annexures of lists of key informants, workshop participants, interviewees etc. and their contacts
- iii. Power point slides/ presentation templates that will be used to share the findings and recommendations
- iv. A final report incorporating comments made by stakeholders in the feedback workshop for UCCFS and We Effect
- v. A final report on findings and recommendations on existing financial products and gaps if any in contribution to food security.

DURATION

The Consultant team will be expected to start working from the 6th December 2021 and complete by **30th December 2021**.

Interested and qualified consultants should obtain detailed Terms of reference, send in their proposals, cover letter, a work plan including, a financial quote, a CV of directors detailing their experiences and qualifications to conduct the assignment. Bids should be submitted to info@uccfs.co.ug and copied to shadrack.otieno@weeffect.org not later than **2nd December 2021** before 17hrs. Hard copies be submitted at UCCFS Offices; Nkrumah Road, Uganda Cooperative Alliance Building, Room 01.