



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
NATIONAL OIL PALM PROJECT

NATIONAL REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For the recruitment of
**PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A REGULATORY IMPACT
ASSESSMENT FOR A NATIONAL OIL PALM POLICY**

MAAIF/NOPP/SRVCS/21-22/00002

1. Background

The Government of Uganda (GoU) received a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to finance a ten-year National Oil Palm Project (NOPP). The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and other partners including other Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Local Governments, farmers and private sector players, are implementing the project. The project has strong public and private sector partnerships. NOPP is being implemented in five hubs namely Kalangala, Buvuma, Mayuge, Mukono and Greater Masaka.

The overall goal of the NOPP is inclusive rural transformation through oil palm investment. The development objective is to sustainably increase rural incomes through opportunities generated by the establishment of an efficient oil palm industry that complies with modern environmental and social standards. NOPP implementation is via three components: 1) Scaling-up smallholder oil Palm development; 2) Livelihoods diversification and resilience, and; 3) Oil Palm Sector Development Framework.

NOPP component two aims at promoting livelihoods diversification and resilience of the project beneficiaries through supporting alternative economic opportunities and the mitigation of social risks in the larger communities in the Oil Palm production areas. As part of Government's support to regulatory and institutional frameworks, NOPP/MAAIF intends to use part of the proceeds to hire a

consulting entity to facilitate the process of developing the National Oil Palm Policy and establishment of an institutional framework.

A. Objectives of the consultancy

The main objective of the RIA is to assess the policy and regulatory environment in the country, so as to establish the extent to which it provides for adequate regulation of all aspects (especially environmental) in the oil palm subsector. In so doing, the RIA will determine whether there is need for further intervention in the policy and regulatory environment for the subsector. The overall objective of the assignment is to develop an enabling framework for the regulation of the oil palm subsector. Specifically, MAAIF/NOPP will undertake a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), and based on the results of the RIA, develop recommendations for how best to develop a framework to regulate the oil palm subsector.

B. Scope of Work

This assignment will entail a desk review of the existing documents in order to establish the existing policy and legal frameworks and arrangements for oil palm development. The review will also assess the extent to which government complies with the regional and international legal frameworks and protocols governing the oil palm subsector. At the same time the assignment will assess existing oil palm programmes in the country, review their effectiveness and impact and accordingly make recommendations for improvement. Any gaps in the existing policies and regulations shall be clearly documented.

The assignment will also involve conducting consultations with smallholder farmers, contracted out growers, who typically have exclusive offtake arrangements with BIDCO, third parties, such as independent farmers not under formal contract with BIDCO; corporate groups who control processing and the crude palm oil trade, regulators, financial institutions, Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as Local Governments. All engagements shall be in compliance with the Ministry of Health Standard Operating Procedures for COVID-19. The draft regulatory documents will be reviewed and cleared by various stakeholders before submission to Cabinet for final approval.

C. Methodology and Specific Tasks

Adhering to the formal Policy development process of the Government of Uganda, MAAIF/NOPP shall facilitate a consultant(s) to develop a RIA for oil palm policy. A Technical Working Group shall be constituted to supervise the work of the consultant(s).

The RIA methodology should be simple and flexible, ensuring key features are covered (OECD best practice principles for regulatory policy: Regulatory Impact Assessment, OECD 2019). Without necessarily implying the need for a fully-fledged quantitative cost-benefit analysis, sound data collection strategies are a must.

Qualification and Evaluation Criteria

Item	Criteria
	The selected firm should possess the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal status recognized by the Government of Uganda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Certificate of incorporation; b) A transactional income tax clearance addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF); c) A valid trading license; d) Registered powers of attorney.
	2. Demonstrated financial capacity evidenced by 3 Year audited accounts of 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019-2020
A.	General experience
i	Recognised expertise in conducting research or assessment studies in agricultural or other socio-economic sectors particularly in developing countries with relevant professional experience in the regulatory or legal framework related areas in sub-Saharan Africa;
	Past experience working with Parliament or Cabinet Secretariat is an added advantage;
	Demonstrated prior experience in agricultural or related policy development processes;
	Experience working with private sector, civil society organization and farmers' associations;
B.	Specific experience
i	Experience in RIA development process in Uganda, with preferable proven understanding of the agriculture and crop subsector.
	Demonstrated prior experience in conducting RIA and or Program/Project Assessments for government and recognizable large organization.

Please note: Details on this request for Expression of Interest is contained in REOI document that can be accessed from the NOPP Offices upon a written request.

Prospective firms are requested to submit Expression of interest proposals in accordance to above criteria upon which 3-6 firms will be shortlisted and issued with a request for proposal (RFP) to submit a combined technical and financial proposal. The address for submission of written expression of interest proposals is:

The Project Manager NOPP: JOCASA House 1st Floor Plot 14 Nakasero Road, P.O Box 12041 Kampala, Tel: 0414-230690

Deadline: 10th February, 2022 by 11.00 am

Planned Schedule for Evaluation of EOI

Publication of Expression of Interest	18 th January, 2022
Submission of Expression of Interest and Closing of Expression of Interest	10 th February 2022
Shortlisting of Consultants	4 th March 2022
Notification of Successful Consultants	25 th March 2022