

Terms of Reference
for expert consultants for a research paper on
Transformative Adaptation Options for Irrigation and Water Management
under the *Transforming Agriculture for Climate Resilience* Project

Position Overview

WRI's Climate Resilience Practice is partnering with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on a three-year project, *Transforming Agriculture for Climate Resilience (TACR)*. The project aims to better define transformative approaches to adaptation in the agriculture sector, and provide global adaptation funders, policy makers and national governments with guidance on how to include transformative elements in adaptation projects and plans. In the project's first year, a framework paper on transformative approaches to adaptation in agriculture was drafted and reviewed. It will be launched in October 2018.

In the project's second phase, WRI will produce four technical working papers that apply the findings of the framework paper to the specific issues, trends, challenges and opportunities in crop research and development, livestock production, irrigation/water management, and farmer information services, as per the project schedule below. The crop research and development and livestock production papers are currently being developed. **WRI is now seeking expert consultants to lead the research and writing of the irrigation and water management and farmer information services papers, working with project staff and a lead technical consultant.** Expert consultants will be responsible for reviewing relevant literature, synthesizing the main issues, practices, opportunities and constraints, and summarizing these findings in an accessibly written technical working paper of approximately 15-20 pages.

The four technical working papers will be combined and refined, along with the transformative adaptation framework paper, into a comprehensive publication to be completed by the project's end in September 2019. **This TOR outlines the tasks and expectations for the expert consultant specific to the irrigation and water management paper, as well as the application process.**

Applicants may submit their interest in leading the development of more than one paper, if they have expertise across multiple topics. Consultants are not expected to directly work on this synthesis report but are encouraged to work with the team to develop articles for submission to peer reviewed journals.

Overall Project Timeline – papers completed by:

- **Paper 1: Crop research and development – November 12, 2018**
- **Paper 2: Livestock production – November 12, 2018**
- **Paper 3: Water management & irrigation – April 19, 2019**
- **Paper 4: Data and information provision for farmer decision making – April 19, 2019**
- **Final Report – Late 2019**

Expert Consultant Role in Project

The expert consultant will act as lead researcher and writer for a technical working paper on transformative ideas and methods for irrigation and water management as per specifications listed below, in close collaboration with project staff and the lead technical consultant. The consultant will follow the guidelines below in the production of the paper:

- **General Format:** The technical working paper will be presented in the form of an approximately 15-20 page working paper for sharing and discussion with key audiences.
- **Target Audiences:** Multilateral and bilateral funding entities, national and sub-national governments, UNFCCC and other global institutions, agriculture and adaptation experts, and the private sector, including smallholder farmers and commercial enterprises.
- **Language and Style:** Because our target audiences include non-agricultural experts and readers may not be native English speakers, language should be straightforward and free of jargon – roughly equivalent in complexity and vocabulary to the New York Times or Washington Post.
- **Links to the framework paper.** Paper must link the key findings of the transformative framework paper to ways governments can design, seek funding for and implement projects and plans, and funders can encourage and prioritize proposals, to improve irrigation and water management in transformative ways. The expert consultant will work with the project manager and lead technical consultant make these links.
- **Economic analysis.** The expert consultant will collaborate with WRI Economics Center on an economic analysis it will conduct to supplement key findings of transformative irrigation and water management paper. The consultant will review the design of the analysis and incorporate the results into the draft technical working paper.
- **Literature review.** The project team is developing literature reviews for each technical working paper. The expert consultant will collaborate with the project Research Analyst to review existing literature reviews and use the findings in the technical working paper. These reviews will also be used by the project team to contribute to knowledge products (e.g. presentations, reports, briefs, data products, etc.) for use in internal and external meetings, workshops, conferences and other dissemination activities.
- **Gender and Social Equity:** The technical working paper will consider the gender and social equity dimensions of transformative adaptation and incorporate those considerations into policy recommendations that are put forward by the project.
- **Adaptation-mitigation win-wins:** Particular attention should be paid to transformative adaptation options that sequester or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Regular communication and planning.** The consultant will work with the project team to develop an annotated outline of the paper within the first 15 days of accepting the assignment along with a work plan aligned with the overall project work plan, to be discussed with the project manager. The expert consultant will also submit short monthly progress reports for project manager approval as per schedule below. Throughout the assignment, the expert consultant will engage in regular communication and collaboration with team members working on this project area and other components, including the project manager, lead technical consultant, research assistant and relevant WRI field staff.

- **Networking and dissemination.** The expert consultant will contribute ideas and potential contacts for networks, workshops and events to share research findings, gather feedback and input to ensure that work is relevant and useful to developing country governments, international funding entities, global policy makers, and relevant agricultural and adaptation research organizations.

Timeline for Deliverables

The working paper needs to be completed in time to inform agriculture discussions at the UNFCCC Intersessional in June 2018. Before this date, the papers must go through WRI's internal review process and be presented to WRI's in-country teams and partners in Ethiopia and India, the project's in-country locations. Therefore, production of the paper should follow this timeline:

September 28, 2018:

- Consultant selected and notified

October - November 2018:

- Discussions with project staff and lead technical consultant on vision for paper and broader project.
- Consultant drafts annotated outline of working paper on farmer information services and submits them to project manager for approval, along with a draft work plan for approval.
- Provide recommendations for further research assistance based on literature review prepared by Research Analyst and working paper outline.
- Begin working with WRI's Economics Center on economic analysis to supplement paper's findings.

November – December 2018:

- Initial draft of farmer information services paper submitted to WRI by November 2, 2018.
- Comments on initial draft provided by December 15, 2018.

January-February 2019

- Collaborate with Research Analyst and lead technical consultant on one-page policy brief and infographic slide based on initial draft for workshops in Ethiopia and India, UNFCCC Intersessional side event and other outreach events; submit to project manager for approval.
- Project management team conduct workshops in Ethiopia and India for key agricultural experts and government officials to review and discuss findings of draft irrigation and water management and farmer information services papers, gather additional examples, feedback and inputs on the findings and their appropriateness and applicability.
- Revisions to initial draft and refinement of economic analysis

March 2019:

- Revisions to initial draft submitted for WRI internal and Gates Foundation review by March 4, 2018.
- Comments from WRI internal and Gates Foundation review provided by March 18, 2018.

- Revisions to and broader internal review of initial working paper to incorporate internal, Gates Foundation and Ethiopian/Indian comments, and economic analysis.

April 19, 2019

- Final working draft due by April 19, 2019.

Qualifications:

- PhD or Master's degree required in agricultural sciences, climate change with a focus on adaptation and agriculture, or relevant environmental science or policy required.
- At least five years of experience with agricultural adaptation required, preferably in developing countries.
- Strong research and writing skills.
- Knowledge of the agricultural adaptation landscape, including agricultural and/or climate adaptation research organizations.
- Great time-management skills and a flexible attitude.
- Proven ability to take initiative and responsibility and deliver high quality results.
- Strong communication skills, willingness to work with teams and ability to produce materials focused on diverse external audiences.
- Excellent inter-personal communication skills, including the ability to encourage collaboration with other programs, international offices, and partners.
- Ability to think creatively and collaboratively about all elements of communications work.
- Adaptable to rapidly changing priorities and able to manage multiple deadlines and deliver high quality work products.
- A proven track record of searching for and implementing innovative approaches focused on achieving results or amplifying impact.

Payment:

The consultant will receive up to a total of \$20,000 USD. This amount will be broken into two equal payments of \$10,000 USD each.

The first will be scheduled for October 15, 2018, after acceptance of work plans, outline and initial working paper.

The second will be scheduled for March 15, 2019, after review and acceptance of final working paper.

How to apply?

Please submit a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and expertise, an updated CV including publications highlighting relevant past work and a relevant writing sample to Tyler.Ferdinand@wri.org, by September 21, 2018.

