

Call for proposal for PIP implementation study (BRIGHT & CommonGround projects)

1. Introduction and Background

1.1. About the BRIGHT project

Building Resilience and Inclusive Growth of Highland farming systems for rural Transformation (BRIGHT) is a four-year project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) through the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is being implemented by IFDC, in collaboration with Agriterro, the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), district local governments, and private sector actors. The vision of the BRIGHT project is to promote inclusive economic growth and rural transformation through equitable integration into value chains. BRIGHT aims to build the resilience of 106,560 highland farm households in Kigezi, Mt. Elgon, and Rwenzori regions by improving the food and nutrition security and incomes of farmers, and transition subsistence-oriented farm households to a more market orientated approach. This is achieved by supporting them in integrated farm planning and inclusive decision-making, by introducing appropriate climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies to strengthen local farming systems, and by developing strategic value chains.

1.2. About the CommonGround project

The CommonGround project is a four-year project funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) through the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is implemented by Wageningen Environment Research (WENR) in partnership with Integrated Seed and Sector Development (ISSD) Uganda. CommonGround aims to restore resilience of farming communities in the watersheds of the highlands of Rwenzori, Elgon and Kigezi which are under growing degradation threats. The goal of the CommonGround project is “to build resilient farmer communities and agroecosystems in the highlands of Uganda, based on sustainable farming systems, restored watersheds and improved marketing opportunities”. The project will facilitate integrated household and community actions towards enhancing resilience, restoring degraded hotspots in the watershed and improve market access. The project targets 150,000 farming households in Kigezi, Elgon and Rwenzori regions.

1.3. Position Summary

The Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach is central for the BRIGHT and CommonGround projects. The approach empowers farm households to develop actionable visions for household development, based on internal household aspirations, strengths, opportunities, and available resources, and guides the household in inclusive decision-making. However, during the Peer Monitoring field visit, it was revealed that the two projects differ in their implementation of the PIP approach. In order to better understand these differences and their effects, IFDC and ISSD are seeking a competent consultant or firm to undertake a quick PIP study for the two projects. This study will use a mixed methods approach with both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis, engaging representatives of all major project stakeholders. The study will be conducted in

Rwenzori region in two districts, covering a total of 4 villages. This Terms of Reference (ToR) outlines the scope of the assignment.

2. Objectives of the study

The study objectives are to:

- Assess the differences in how the BRIGHT and CommonGround projects have implemented the PIP approach (i.e. different implementation strategies) and how it affects scaling of PIP.
- Assess the effects on the target group & stakeholders to date of both projects on soft skills promoted by PIP, including mindset change from living day-to-day towards long term planning, increased motivation for self-improvement, increased focus on self-reliance, collaboration within and between households, willingness to engage in collective action, and level of trust between various stakeholders.
- Assess trade-offs between short term goals (project impact targets) and long-term impact resulting from different PIP implementations, related to the resource allocations for PIP training versus other interventions on BRIGHT and CommonGround.
- Assess the target groups & stakeholders' perception of PIP in the two projects, including suggested changes, using key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions.
- Identify challenges and best practices in the implementation strategies of the PIP approach, drawing lessons and recommendations that could be incorporated into the planning and implementation of new initiatives.
- Provide recommendations for scaling and improvement of the PIP approach.

3. Study Approach/Methodology

The consultant is expected to collect data in 4 villages in Rwenzori region (2 BRIGHT villages and 2 CommonGround villages). The consultant will also interact with other project stakeholders, including local government officials.

The study methodology encompass:

- a) Review of existing PIP documentation and literature, the Project proposals and project reports to get a comparative summary of differences in implementation strategies, including any success factors and challenges as documented by both projects.
- b) Key Informant Interviews to gain insights from key project stakeholders, including project managers, field officers, Local implementing partners and Local Government staff.
- c) Focus Group Discussions with male and female farmers, as well as with Local Government officials to assess experiences and effectiveness of the implementation strategies, document successes, challenges and lessons learned and develop recommendations for improvement.

4. Reporting and Work Relationships

The consultant will report directly to the assigned supervisors for this study of both projects and will work closely with field staff for both projects. The BRIGHT and CommonGround team will support and provide:

- Relevant project documents
- Guidance and technical support as required throughout study
- Introductory meetings with key stakeholders on the project
- Comments and feedback on, and approval of, all deliverables within agreed timeline
- Timely feedback on the approach and methods to be used
- Internal review and feedback on the consultant report

The consultant will be responsible for:

- Submitting an inception report including the detailed methodology and survey
- Conducting all data collection
- Analyzing data and reporting in a clear and accessible format
- Producing deliverables within agreed timeline and in accordance with quality requirements
- Produce final study report with raw data sets for storage and use by IFDC and ISSD.

5. Requirements

To be considered eligible to conduct this study the consultant shall:

- Possess at least a master's in food security, Development studies, Natural Resources Management, Rural Sociology, Project Management or related field.
- Have experience in conducting similar evaluation processes with other development agencies.
- Have a strong knowledge of the Participatory Integrated Planning Approach (PIP) or comparable bottom-up participatory approaches to engage farmers in sustainable development.
- Strong knowledge of social research techniques, with excellent analytical and writing skills, demonstrated by previously written reports.
- Demonstrated ability to provide timely, evidence-based, quality-assured technical reports.

6. Expected deliverables and timeline.

The assignment is expected to take 25 working days from signing the contract, including inception (3 days), data collection and analysis (10 days), and report finalization (4 days). The consultant(s) will be expected to submit a detailed proposal outlining the approach and methodology, cost (broken down into as much detail as possible), workplan, and timeframe in response to this Terms of Reference. Any deviation from the proposed activity timeline above should be justified in the proposal submission.

It is anticipated that the consultant(s) will produce the above set of deliverables that includes the following details at each stage of the reporting:

- An Inception Report (to be submitted and accepted before commencement of fieldwork) including a detailed methodological approach (this will be reviewed and approved by a panel consisting of BRIGHT and CommonGround staff).
- A final report (accepted by BRIGHT, CommonGround & EKN)



7. Consultancy duration

The PIP implementation study is anticipated to start in November 2024 and should be substantively completed by December 2024.

8. How to apply:

Applications from Individual consultants meeting all the above requirements are invited to submit detailed proposals outlining the approach, methodology and cost break down, and clearly highlighting how the assignment will be undertaken to deliver the outputs of the task. proposals should be sent to hr@issduganda.org not later than **Friday 15th November 2024**.