

**Terms of Reference for National Consultant
Preparation of Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS)
for Food Security in Bhutan(Agriculture and Livestock sector)**

1. Introduction

The Paris Agreement requires all parties to submit an updated NDC periodically with increasing ambition and in 2020 parties are to submit their updated and enhanced NDCs for the period 2025-2030. Based on the decisions for transparency and clarity, it is expected that the NDCs would be submitted before the session of COP 26 in 2021.

The Kingdom of Bhutan submitted one of the few Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) that was rated as sufficient towards the Paris Agreement goals in 2015. Bhutan reiterated the pledge to remain carbon neutral that was first made in 2009 at the Copenhagen Climate Summit. Bhutan is now in the process of preparing its second NDC and several rounds of consultations at various levels has been conducted, including a stock take and gap assessment. In the past few years a few sectoral Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) and other elaboration of climate change actions in the form of programs and projects were also prepared. The review and consultation process this far have resulted in the prioritization for the development of an integrated LEDS for the agriculture and livestock sector.

As revealed in the latest draft Third National GHG Inventory, the agriculture and livestock sector continue to be a significant sector in terms of total GHG emissions and is also an important sector for the population of Bhutan as an important source of livelihood for the majority of the population. In terms of mitigation options, this sector has the least readiness to identify well defined mitigation actions despite having the highest GHG emissions as there has not been any comprehensive assessments of mitigation potential, besides the ongoing projects on household-level biogas plants.

The stock take process and consultations has revealed that there are several activities that can be included in the 2nd NDC. A major area of opportunity is the focus and commitment of the royal government in pursuing organic agriculture at both the household farm level and also through intensive commercial production systems. However, a comprehensive LEDS and mitigation assessment of the sector would provide a clearer scope of the emission reductions and strategic direction for low emission development activities for the sector. Given the current situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic and disruptions in the supply chain system, food security, building resilience and building back better in the post pandemic situation.

In addition, the report on Gender and Climate Change in Bhutan(2020) assessed the gender-climate nexus in Bhutan with a focus on agriculture, energy (including transport) and waste sectors. The findings and recommendations also identified opportunities to integrate gender and climate issues and action in the agriculture and livestock sector.

Towards this objective of preparing an integrated LEDS for the agriculture and livestock sector in Bhutan, an international expert with the assistance of a national expert is to be recruited.

2. Main Task of National Consultant

The objective of this consultancy is to develop a Low Emission Development Strategy for the Agriculture and Livestock Sector in Bhutan. The approach will include the integration of national priorities for food security and promotion of organic agriculture.

The main task for the *national consultant* is to be fully engaged to support and assist the lead international consultant in preparing the LEDS for the agriculture and livestock sector including:

- a) desk review of key/relevant document, collect additional national documentation/literature on agriculture and livestock sector
- b) facilitating consultations and training workshops with key national stakeholders in the country and acting as the intermediary between the international consultant and national stakeholders,
- c) collecting and reviewing necessary national information and data for the mitigation assessment led by the international consultant,
- d) reviewing the information and reports prepared by the international consultant and provide inputs and recommendations in order to provide proper local and national context and relevance,
- e) maintaining and preparing records of all consultations.

3. Timeline

The engagement will be for **33 days** staggered over mid Oct- 31 December as per the anticipated timeline and workplan.

	Activity	# days (estimate)	Oct	Nov				Dec				
			Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4
1	Desk review (Data collection and review of relevant national priorities, plans, programs and reports).	5 day										
2	Inception meeting w/ national stakeholders and inception report submission	2 days		V/D								
3	Consultations with sector task force members + stakeholders & analysis. (online workshop + follow up meetings with focal persons)	11 days assisting			V	V	V					
4	Training on GHG inventory & mitigation assessment (agri& livestock) (online workshop)	5 days assisting			V/D							

6. Station

The *national consultant* will be stationed in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Given the current restrictions on travel presented by the CoVID-19 Pandemic, it is anticipated that most of the work of the consultants will be conducted remotely. This working arrangement will include regular small focused group meetings and video conferencing with lead focal persons from UNDP, NEC and MOAF, the Sectoral Task Force members and other stakeholder representatives. UNDP-Bhutan will arrange and provide online meeting facility through Zoom teleconferencing.

If the situation evolves and so permits, at least one visit to Bhutan by the *international consultant* may be necessary to validate national and local circumstances and relevance of information and recommendations

7. Payment Modality

Payment	Milestones & Deliverables
1 st payment – 20%	Contract signing & inception report
2 nd payment – 30%	GHG inventory and mitigation assessment training workshop completed. Submission of report on training and consultation workshops including recommendations for improvements in data collection.
3 rd payment – 30 %	Submission of Draft LEDS
4 th payment – 20%	Submission of final draft LEDS

8. Qualifications

- Hold an advanced degree in agriculture, agriculture-economics, food production systems or animal husbandry.
- Minimum 10 years of working experience in above field in Bhutan.
- Proven experience in sectoral strategy development
- Experience in GHG inventory and mitigation assessment will be an advantage.
- Experience with Bhutanese farming systems is a plus.
- Strong communication, written and presentation skills.

9. Criteria for the Selection of the Best Offer

The selection of the best offer will be based on Combined Scoring method – where the qualifications and methodology will be weighted a maximum of 70% and combined with the price offer which will be weighted a maximum of 30%

Annex I: Indicative Outline for LEDS for Food Security

The LEDS for Food Security (Agriculture and Livestock Sector) should include at a minimum the following elements:

- An Introduction including overview of relevant policies and programs and institutions and rationale for LEDS.
- Mitigation scenarios (BAU and different emission scenarios) for the sector. The methodologies used to project emissions as well as mitigation assessment must be described. The time frame should cover priority actions in short, medium and long term from 2020-2050. The assessment should cover different farming systems, and also opportunities from farm machineries and improved technologies as well as commercializing agriculture and livestock sectors in Bhutan.
- Prioritized mitigation options with estimated mitigation potentials and costs. The approach and criteria leading to the selection of actions through a multi-criteria analysis including costs and benefits, should be described.
- An implementation plan and strategy for the short, medium to long term, including suitable improvements in programs, market and value chain system, financing mechanisms (international), national policy measures and institutional arrangements.
- Identify and include any potential synergies such as:
 - Opportunities for integration with any post CoVID-19 recovery programs and the 21st Century Roadmap (being prepared as part of a separate process).
 - Synergies with climate resilience and ongoing co-benefits with adaptation programs such as the National Adaptation Plan.
 - Synergies with other sectors such as forestry and industries.
 - Integration of findings and recommendations for integration of gender issues as identified in the report on Gender and Climate Change in Bhutan (2020).