

Terms of Reference (ToR) for Consultancy Services
For
Gender focus Context Analysis to understand policy environment for Farmers' Field Business School (FFBS) scaling in Nepal with a focus on local governance and FFBS focusing sectoral governance

Background:

CARE started its operations in Nepal in 1978 and is one of the first international aid agencies to work in the country. During the last 4 decades, CARE Nepal has been working with the most vulnerable communities of Nepal to address the issues of poverty and social injustice, along with challenging harmful social practices, building capacities and empowering livelihoods. CARE Nepal works to address systemic and structural causes of poverty and social injustice such as discrimination based on gender, caste, class, economic status, ethnicity or geography. CARE supports humanitarian actions to address vulnerabilities from climate change and natural disasters. CARE works with marginalized women and adolescent girls to ensure their empowerment, wellbeing and dignity through social transformation and access to quality social and economic services. To achieve this, CARE partners with a range of stakeholders, including local NGOs, people's organizations and other civil society organizations, social movement, government agencies, research and academic institutions, private sector, business membership organizations and donors to support the most vulnerable communities and populations. CARE Nepal aims to ensure that 2.5 million women and girls of Nepal have economic, social and political power and resilience to overcome poverty and social and economic injustice by 2025. CARE has identified poor governance as an underlying cause of poverty and social injustice. CARE recognizes that poverty is created and sustained through unequal power relation and the resulting unjust distribution of resources and opportunities, often with a damaging and disproportionate effect on women and girls. Challenging the root causes of poverty and social injustice, at all levels, requires efforts that promote good governance; that is, the effective, participatory, transparent, equitable and accountable management of public affairs.

Madhesh Province is one of the most food and nutrition insecure regions of Nepal. And livelihoods of the landless and smallholder women farmers of Madhesh Province are extremely insecure mainly because of factors such as limited marketable skills, lack of employment opportunities, poor financial literacy, lack of access to production resources such as land, water and production inputs (access to finance, seed, fertilizers, technology, tools etc.). This situation of low endowment related to the agricultural production, skills and knowledge has impacted their ability to foresee future socio economic risks. These factors have contributed to their low nutritional consumption, nutritional malpractices, and poor and harmful livelihood choices.

Since 2014, CARE's gender equity focused Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS) have tested an innovative, integrated farming model through 28 projects across 17 countries, improving the

lives of more than 2.5 million farmers and their families. With the support and partnership of the Sall Family Foundation (SFF), CARE is scaling-up FFBS which involves four pathways that are seeking to expand the FFBS model. The scale up will expand its targets from only farmers to include pastoralists and coastal communities, refugees, and internally displaced people. The Programme engages farmers with global markets via a certification model with accreditation bodies, which will specifically help women farmers be more productive, and promotes the adoption of FFBS by host governments.

For CARE Nepal, scaling of the model should be based on a sound context analysis of the sectors relevant to FFBS, which comprises of agriculture, food security, climate change adaptation, nutrition, and markets. For this purpose, CARE Nepal will commission a governance context analysis to look specifically at the aforementioned sectors and at local governance structures (rural municipalities and municipalities). The context analysis will inform future decision-making about how to best scale the FFBS model. Given that gender equality is a central pillar of CARE's work, it is expected that this analysis also covers gender dimensions within the sectors with the aim of strengthen gender equity through the FFBS scale up. The analysis will inform CARE Nepal about how to best engage and undertake effective advocacy, mainly at the local level to sustainably scale the FFBS model, and with the potential to scale out and scale up to the provincial and federal levels.

Propose and Objective:

Purpose: To complete a governance context analysis of local governance and the associated sectors with the FFBS scale up, specifically agriculture, food security, climate change adaptation, nutrition, and markets. The objectives are to explore, analyze, and use a gender lens to assess:

- a) **Broader structures:** historical legacy; allocation and management of funding; corruption and rent-seeking; ideologies, values, and perceptions; sector/thematic area reform in the sectors that FFBS is promoting.
- b) **Institutions and governance arrangements**
 - Analysis of the formal and informal institutions regulating the sectors covered in the FFBS model: legal and regulatory frameworks; informal rules and de facto behavior; implementation issues and service delivery; decentralization of the sector/thematic areas
 - Analysis of the governance spaces in the sector: assessing spaces for interaction between actors.
 - Analysis of policy ecosystems related to the various sectors covered in the FFBS model, mainly at the local level to inform the policy opportunities and to undertake advocacy to adopt the FFBS model with the local governments where FFBS is anticipating to implement. The local governments where FFBS is being implemented in the Siraha and Saptari districts (5 Palikas). Additionally, a light touch policy ecosystems analysis will be completed at the provincial and federal levels where CARE Nepal and its partners should engage and influence to further scale the FFBS model.

- Identify the policy spaces to institutionalize, scale and sustain FFBS practices in government system.
- Analysis of Nepal government’s policy, legislatives and institutional context focusing; gender in agriculture and development policies and strategies, gender mainstreaming in plans and programs, international commitments and legal provisions relevant for gender equality promotion and institutional framework for gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- Assessment of gender inequalities in agriculture including prevalent gender and social norms, food security and nutrition, crop production and post-harvest, agricultural technology and agribusiness, agriculture extension services, finance and loan, agricultural cooperatives, climate change and disaster risk management, access to market.

c) **The main change agents/stakeholders:** Mapping and analysis of the players in the sectors covered by the FFBS model which need to be targeted to scale FFBS within the three levels of government, along with the key alliances and enabling platforms which need to be leveraged to undertake advocacy to sustainably scale the FFBS model.

Process/Methodology:

The desk review will be based on relevant acts, regulations, and policies associated with the sectors covered by the FFBS model. Additionally, consultants need to review the relevant CARE documents on FFBS models and approaches. The process should be participatory and include data collection from various actors, mainly FFBS programs already working with local governments, the National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) who are FFBS scaling partners, CARE Nepal’s FFBS technical person, and CARE USA FFBS advocacy person. Further, consultants will review the secondary relevant literature of provincial and federal governments to develop policy ecosystems where CARE and partners’ can engage to further scale up/out the models at both the provincial and federal level. This process will be supported and managed by a team that includes staff from CARE Nepal and CARE USA FFBS global advocacy. There will be discussions held around designing the process to be more participatory and effective. The main results of this analysis will be presented to a group of CARE staff during the debriefing that will take place after sharing the first draft of reports by the consultant. Additionally, the consultant will visit 5 local governments from Siraha and Saptari where CARE Nepal is implementing FFBS initiative. The consultant need to draft a comprehensive report with pragmatic recommendation for integration and scaling FFBS through government, CSO and private sector system.

District	Palika
Siraha	Dhangadhimai Municipality
	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural municipality
	Bhagwanpur Rural Municipality
Saptari	Agnisaira Krishnasavaran rural municipality
	Rupani rural municipality of

Time Frame (Duration):

The consultancy is for 22 days, spreading over 23 Dec, 2022 to 31 Jan, 2023. Out of 22 days, consultant has to do desk study, field visit to FFBS implementation palikas, consultation with diverse stakeholders and partners and finalization and sharing of report and debriefing the finding to CARE staff.

Roles and responsibilities:

(a) CARE: CARE Nepal and CARE USA FFBS team will be supporting the consultant, providing relevant CARE documents and guidance in both steps. CARE Nepal and CARE USA team will revise and provide feedback to the reports. FFBS implementing partner National Farmer Group Federation (NFGF) will support to coordinate with local government and other stakeholder at local level.

(b) Consultant:

- Prepare checklist for stakeholder consultation
- Review related policy documents
- Prepare outline of research, share with CARE Nepal team
- Prepare research plan including field visit.
- With support of local partner consult with local governments implementing FFBS and other relevant local stakeholders
- Preparing a draft study report and make a presentation of findings of the study
- Incorporating feedback finalize study report with policy gap, spaces for FFBS integration and scaling including concrete recommendations.

SN	Activities	days	Rate with tax	Total
1	Consultant will prepare a comprehensive research plan to be discussed and finalized with inputs from assigned CARE team.	2		
2	Doing a literature review of relevant documents	2		
3	Field visit and consult with FFBS implementing palikas, CSOs representative, elected representatives at local, sectoral line agencies at federal level, CARE staff, CARE	14		

	partners etc. (at least 5 local government from FFBS area ie Dhagadhimai, Bhagwanpur, Sakhuwanankarkatti (Siraha), Rupani and Agnisahir Krishna sabaram (Madhesh province)			
4	Preparing a draft study report and make a presentation of findings of the study and share CARE team for harnessing feed back	2		
5	Finalize report incorporating feedbacks	2		
6	Travel cost Kathmandu to Siraha and 5 municipalities of context analysis (Dhangadhimai, Bhgwanpur and Sakhuwanankarkatti of Siraha and Aginisair Krishnasabaram and Rupani of Sarlahi)	Lumsump		
	Total	22 days		

Qualification and Competency:

The consultant should have sound experience in governance and context analysis, especially in the social sectors. He/she has been involved in context analysis and governance-related programmes. He/she has an extensive understanding of the Nepali political systems and governance structures/context. He/she has a strong understanding of the politics and governance agreements underpinning local Governance and the sectors that FFBS aiming to promote. He/She should have prior experienced in the area of gender, specially, gender analysis, and governance and gender.

Logistic Support:

All relevant documents will be provided to the consultant. CARE Nepal will help to arrange field visit and meeting staff, partners and stakeholders at field but CARE Nepal will not provide any secretarial support. The consultant will manage all the associated cost (Air fare, Per-diem, accommodation and local transportation) from the consultancy packages provided from CARE.

Submission of Proposals

The proposal can be e-mailed by or before 5:00 PM 14th December 2022 to npl.carenepal@care.org

Evaluation and Award of Consultancy:

CARE Nepal will evaluate the proposals and award the assignment based on technical (70%) and financial (30%) criteria. CARE reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal received without giving reasons and is not bound to accept the lowest, highest or any bidder

Payment terms:

Full payment (100%) will be made after submission and approval of the final report.