



SOIL VALUES PROGRAM GESI ANALYSIS



July 2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Summary Assignment Information:

Project Name and SP nr:	Soil Values Programme
Assignment Name:	Consultancy
Advertisement launch date	2nd August 2024
Deadline for submission of proposal	1st September 2024
Start Date:	16th September 2024
End Date:	15 th December 2024
Duration (estimated):	It is expected that the consultancy will take a total of 2.5 months.
Location of Assignment:	Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.
Reports To:	Multi Country GESI Advisor and supported by national GESI advisors in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Northern Nigeria. Overall technical support from GESI Global Advisor
Additional Comments:	-

Overall Project Background

At SNV, we envision a world where, across every society, all people live with dignity and have equitable opportunities to thrive sustainably. We apply our strong foundations and technical expertise within and across three inter-related sectors of agri-food, energy, and water, which are critical to enabling people to lead dignified lives and thrive. Within and across these sectors, we work on three core themes: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance. Across these sectors and themes, we also focus on impact driven finance, digitalisation, systems change, and youth.

Soil Values, a 10-year program (2024-2033) financed by the Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), is a transformative initiative unfolding across Burkina Faso, Mali, Northern Nigeria, and Niger, where the primary objective is to establish sustainable soil fertility management as a cornerstone within the farming systems of the Sahelian and Guinea Savanna regions. The program's approach focuses on Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) in the context of participatory landscape management to catalyse viable business cases and incentivize adoption by farmers, market actors, and policymakers. To ensure regional coherence, the neighbouring corridor countries of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire will actively participate in dialogues concerning the south-north trade of fertilizers and regional food security.

SNV is seeking a GESI consultant or consulting firm to support the Soil Values project in conducting a research-based multi-country GESI analysis using the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) and developing an accompanying project level GESI strategy. The consultant will be supported by four full-time national GESI advisors in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Northern Nigeria as well as a Multi-Country GESI Advisor based in Nigeria who will oversee the consultancy. The consultant must demonstrate the ability to hire and oversee local organisations, consulting firms, and enumerating teams across the four Soil Values countries for the purposes of primary data collection.

Consultancy Objective :

The purpose of the SNV-led multi-Country GESI analysis is to conduct GESI analysis across the four target countries in a minimum of ten (10) watersheds **Nigeria:** (i). Yar Titi, (ii). Fajewa, (iii) Gamafoi, (iv) Dobi, (v). **Bukina Faso :** Boucle du Mouhoun Inferieur, (vi), Kou, **Mali :** (vii). Sikasso (Bani) (viii), Segou, **Niger:** (ix)



Maradi (Goulbi Maradi), (x) Taoua (Maggia) of the twenty-one (21) targeted watersheds of the program. Where accurate, consistent, comprehensive, and credible GESI data exists within similar contexts, the findings of some watersheds would be extrapolated to other watersheds to ensure cost and time efficiency of the process. Specific states and regions across the four target countries are Kano and Jigawa states in **Nigeria**, Maradi and Tahoua in **Niger**, Boucle Mouhoun Inferieur, and Hauts-Bassins (Kou) in **Burkina Faso**, and Segou (Niono excluded) and Sikasso in **Mali**.

The study will examine the following domains of analysis: Patterns of decision making, social norms, beliefs and practices, Access to and control over resources including access to and ownership of land, Laws, policies, regulations, and institutional practices, (including stakeholder and governance structure, Role’s responsibilities and time use, and how they relate to Soil Values communities in terms of soil health, sustainable land development and integrated watershed management and other soil health-related areas (e.g., landscape management, inclusive markets, policy development) and to:

- (1) Ensure a Do No Harm approach to activity design and implementation to prevent negative unintended consequences to communities,
- (2) Identify context specific gender and social gaps, roles, culture, and norms that must be taken into consideration during activity design and implementation to ensure that interventions are equitable and aim for sustainable impact for all project participants regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic level, ethnic/religious status, immigration status, disability as well as other social determinants,
- (3) Identify the major challenges limiting the participation of specific groups (including women and youth, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and farmers, etc.) in the adoption of innovations, technologies, practices related to integrated management of soil fertility as well as their participation in local governance of landscapes and watersheds.
- (4) Provide practical recommendations and a strategy/action plan document to help project staff and partners to reach project targets in a GESI-responsive manner while aspiring to GESI-transformative approaches whenever possible.
- (5) Identify and address gaps in the global knowledge base related to GESI and soil health in sub-Saharan Africa using rigorous research methodologies.

Activity Details:

Task	Task Detail	Target audience	Expected # participants	Expected Results	Suggested Time Allocated
Onboarding /orientation meeting with SNV team	The consultant will have physical and virtual meetings with relevant team members and partner on the planned consultancy, security briefings, expectations etc.	GESI technical team, Operations team, security focal person, partner staff.	GESI technical team, Operations team, security team, partner staff	Understanding of SNV procedure, Standard Operating Protocols and familiarization with team.	First week after signing of contract.
Develop Inception Report	The inception report will detail the research methodology with description of Pro WEAI tool, work plan, timeline, budget, and research tools for mixed method data collection data based on the Soil Values selected	Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Northern Nigeria contexts	Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Northern Nigeria contexts	Inception report	Three weeks



	geographical areas. The report will explain the consultant’s approach to working with SNV’s local staff and partners and local organisations, target communities and government ministries departments and agencies.				
Conduct literature Review/analysis.	Consult with relevant project and partner staff, review existing project documents, reports from relevant projects, studies, policies, and literature on GESI to gain understanding of project Theory of Change (ToR), objectives and expected outcome. It also aims to identify gaps in information and focus the data collection plans. Through the literature review and in consultation with the project team, the consultant will identify key stakeholders for primary data collection in the four countries with emphasis on members of marginalized groups (with an emphasis on women and youth) and individuals who work with or support them, such as civil society organizations (CSOs), and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), as well as local government officials, and community members.	Relevant project documents	Relevant project documents	Literature review completed	Three weeks
Recruitment/selection of data collectors	The consultant will outsource the data collection to local organizations/individuals in the targeted countries who understand the local context and nuances.	Local organization, CSOs, individuals in Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Northern Nigeria.	Local organization, CSOs, individuals in Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Northern Nigeria.	Contracts with local firms/organizations/CSO completed.	Three weeks



Training of data collectors	The training is to familiarize the research team with the research methodology, tools, ethics of research and GESI	Research team (male, female, youth, and other marginalized groups)	Research team (male, female, youth, and other marginalized groups)	Research team have knowledge of research methodology, tools, research ethics.	Four weeks
Oversee quantitative and qualitative data collect from primary sources	The research team will collect data at landscape and watershed levels using relevant local languages. Applying a mixed-methods approach for field research, which will be informed by the initial literature review. The field research will include semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions taking into considerations gender norms and cultural sensitivity. Data collection tools will be tailored to each country context/province as appropriate. Data collected from various stakeholders will cover the GESI domains.	Government institutions, CSOs, Community, government stakeholders, farmers, traditional and religious leaders	Government institutions, CSOs, Community, government stakeholders, farmers, traditional and religious leaders	Data collection completed	Four weeks
Data cleaning and analysis workshop	The consultant in collaboration with research team will clean the data, review the interview notes and identify key themes. Analyze and interpret the data and draw conclusions around the main research questions. and write the analysis findings.	Research team, partners	Research team, partners	Data analysis completed	Three weeks



Conduct research findings and validation workshop	The activity will present findings to relevant stakeholders for validation	Government institutions, CSOs, Community, government stakeholders, farmers, traditional and religious leaders	Government institutions, CSOs, Community, government stakeholders, farmers, traditional and religious leaders	Validation workshop completed	Four weeks
Drafting of final GESI analysis report using SNV's reporting template and updated GESI strategy	Final report incorporating stakeholders and partners feedback during validation workshop				three weeks

Expected Deliverables:

Deliverables	Context of Deliverable	Due by
Inception report with a research methodology and approach	Electronic Microsoft word document with detailed methodology, detailed work plan and timeline. Report should be maximum of 10 pages	September 2024
Presentation of final report findings	The consultant will present the final report findings to SNV and soil values team virtually and or physically.	First week of December
Research report of publishable quality that addresses gaps in the current knowledge base of GESI and soil health.	Report must not exceed 20 pages in length (without including the executive summary, appendices, lists of key informants, etc.). Font is Times New Roman; font size is 12 and 1.5 single spacing. The report should include infographics, tables etc, etc.).	Mid December 2024



Project-level GESI Strategy	The strategy outlines the objectives, guiding principles, actions, and mechanisms to promote gender equality and social inclusion within the soil values program. It will provide practical and context specific recommendations for SNV staff and partners and M&E framework for monitoring the strategy. Document must not exceed 10 pages.	Mid December 2024
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Selection Criteria:

Technical	Score
M.Sc. in sociology, anthropology, or other related topic with at least 10 years of demonstrable experience working in a multi-cultural context especially in the Sahel region or Ph.D. in sociology, anthropology, or other related topic with at least 5 years of demonstrable experience working in a multi-cultural context especially in the Sahel region.	10
Experience with gender equality and social inclusion analysis or related work in Africa and the Sahel region.	15
Experience in Natural resources/landscape management, local governance and community development in rural areas.	15
Experience in rigorous data collection and GESI analysis (qualitative and quantitative methods)	15
Ability to follow a strict time frame.	15
Strong evidence of experience using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) domains of analysis is an asset.	20
Demonstrable ability to hire and oversee local organisations, data collection services and enumerators in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Northern Nigeria.	10
Fluency in French and English	15

Financial	Score
Financial proposal including fee and list of key persons who are part of the delivery team should reflect Value for Money ¹ .	15

Key persons and team roles to play in the project:

No.	Key Persons and Full Name	The role they play in the project
1.	Multi Country GESI Advisor	Provide leadership for GESI implementation in Northern Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. The MC GESI Advisor will work closely with the consultant to ensure timely implementation of activities and submission of deliverables, provide technical support including reviewing deliverables.
2.	Country GESI Advisors	The National GESI Advisors will provide support to consultant at the country level including overseeing field implementation and coordination. The teams will also review deliverables to ensure nuanced findings and conflict sensitivity.
3.	Global GESI Advisor	The Global GESI Advisor will provide strategic and high level technical support and guidance to the team throughout the process, including review of deliverables.
4.	Multi- Country Project Manager	Provide oversight on the GESI analysis including and ensuring effective and efficient process and resources.

¹ The financial proposal and study approach will be subject to review and evaluation at SNV's discretion.



5.	Multi-country Finance and Operations	Oversee budget spending and provide operational support to the team, recruitment and compliance.
6.	Wageningen University & Research (WUR), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)	To provide technical inputs throughout the process including review deliverables.

Associated Costs:

The consultant will submit a financial report with detailed associated cost of the assignment.

Payment Terms:

Deliverable	% of Payment
1. Inception report with a research methodology and approach	40%
2. Research report of publishable quality that addresses gaps in the current knowledge base of GESI and soil health.	40%
3. GESI strategy/submission of study data	20%

Note that deliverables must be approved as satisfactory before clearance for payment will be given.

Application/Proposal Requirements

The consultant/firm should prepare both Technical and Financial proposals. The financial proposal should be in Euro or USD. This should include daily cost of research team including Local NGOs, consultant or Civil Society Organization (CSOs) to be consulted, travel and logistics, and all related research costs. It should also state budget justification for each budget line item, explaining why the expense is necessary and how the cost was estimated. Financial proposal should also reflect value for money.

Format for Financial proposal

Items Description	Unit Cost	Frequency	Total	Justification/additional comments
1. Cost of Research Team				
2. NGO/Consultant/CSO				
3. Travels				
4. Logistics				
5. Other Related cost				

The narrative proposal should include the methodology, detailed workplan, risks and mitigation measures to address potential challenges foreseen during the activity, sustainability plan that explains how the findings of the GESI analysis will be used to inform and sustain future GESI initiatives and how GESI principles will be embedded into the organizational culture and practices. CVs of the research teams should be included in the proposal annex. Applicant should submit samples of similar work previously conducted.



Shortlisted consultant would be invited to discuss their proposals in more detail and would be selected based on SNV's selection process. SNV can decide to accept the whole, or part of any proposal.

Submission Criteria:

Proposals should be sent to NG-Procurement@snv.org with subject line “**Soil Values Multi Country GESI Analysis**”.

Deadline for submission: 1st September, 2024. Consultant should note that applications will be reviewed on rolling basis. It is advisable to proposals early.

Additional Considerations:

- This TOR will be subject to the following blanket policies that guide all SNV's consultancies:
 - Ethical Standards
 - Security
 - ICT
 - Country Social Distancing Plan