REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Farm System Analysis in Hlaingbwe Twp, Kayin State, Myanmar

A. Introduction

In March 2014, the international NGO PlaNet Finance began implementing the project Supporting Financial Access via Cooperative Upgrading and Enterprise and Farm Development in Kayin State, in partnership with the local NGO Community Development Association (CDA), the Ministry of Cooperatives and the government of Kayin State. The project area covers 35 villages in Hlaingbwe township in Kayin State, Myanmar.

The overall objectives of the project are:

1. To contribute to the alleviation of poverty and the reduction of economic vulnerabilities in selected conflict-affected areas in Myanmar
2. To promote financial inclusion among low-income rural households

The main outputs expected by the end of the project are:

1. Formal savings and credit cooperatives are established and registered, and provide sustainable access to financial services as well as acting as conduits for the delivery of enterprise development training to their members
2. Appropriate farm and non-farm enterprises, identified and developed based on a value chain approach, are adopted by members of the cooperatives

The main expected outcomes are as follows:

1. 2000 cooperative members have increased their savings by least 15€ in the newly established cooperatives by the end of the project;
2. At least 100 people who have adopted new or enhanced farm and enterprise activities have increased their monthly income by 20% by the end of the project.
B. Terms of Reference for Farm System Analysis

a. Overview

Hlaingbwe Township is in a rural area approximately one hour by car or motorbike from the Kayin State capital of Hpa-an. Most of the target beneficiaries are farmers, raise livestock, and/or are engaged in non-food agricultural activities such as harvesting latex from rubber trees.

In order to support the project’s goal of enhancing agricultural activities in the target area, PlaNet Finance is commissioning a farm system analysis (FSA). The output of the analysis is expected to provide the project with information necessary to identify feasible interventions that can contribute to increasing the productivity and income of the target beneficiaries.

The FSA has the following objectives:

1. To contribute to addressing the lack of socio-economic data in the project area

2. To determine the pattern of production in the area by identifying the main agricultural crops that have the potential for commercial production, and the integration of this production with livestock and off-farm livelihood activities

3. To map the availability of natural resources required for crop production, particularly land and water

4. To segment agricultural and livestock producers according to size of operations, income or other relevant characteristics

5. To determine the size of landholdings and the tenurial arrangements for each population segment

6. To describe the variety of production technologies currently used for the main agricultural and livestock activities—including an analysis of the quality of inputs, the level of mechanization, and farming practices—for each population segment, the level of mechanization and other inputs that contributes to the intensification of production

7. To determine the economics of current production technologies (costs and gross income) for each population segment

8. To identify feasible opportunities to upgrade or intensify production, whether by using improved inputs that are currently available, increasing mechanization, or adopting new farming practices (e.g., improved techniques, multi-cropping, sloping agriculture, reducing costs, etc.) for each population segment

9. To calculate the opportunity costs of upgrading or intensifying production, taking into account the availability of labor (family and hired), deployment of
resources (capital and land), and risks involved for each population segment, including financial risks and impact on food security

The expected output will be a report with the following format:

1. Executive summary  
2. Scope and framework of the study  
3. Approach and methodologies  
4. Findings  
  4.1. Geography of the area  
  4.2. Climate, ecology and natural resources  
  4.3. Overview of agricultural activities in the target area  
  4.4. Land Tenure arrangements  
  4.5. Segmentation of farmers by relevant characteristics  
  4.6. Existing farm systems employed by each population segment  
5. Recommendations for enhancement and intensification by population segment  
6. Conclusions

The FSA should be completed by the end of March 2015.

b. Request for proposals

PlaNet Finance seeks to hire either a firm or independent consultant(s) to conduct the farm systems analysis.

The applicants should previous experience conducting farm system analyses in Southeast Asia, and a particular expertise in analysis of rice production.

Interested applicants are requested to provide the following:

1. A study design that details the following:  
   • Framework of the study  
   • Methodologies and tools that will be used in the study  
   • Timetable of main activities (the final report should be delivered no later than 31 March 2015)  
2. A budget for completing the study (including travel and expenses)  
3. Organizational profile (if the applicant is a firm) and curriculum vitae of all consultants expected to be involved in conducting the analysis  
4. References from past similar work conducted by the consultant or organization, including complete reports

Applications should be sent to Jay Supetran, Myanmar Project Manager, at pfjsupetran@gmail.com by December 19, 2014.