

ILSA Project: Investing in Livelihood Resilience and Soil Health in Liberia

Terms of Reference (TORs) for the recruitment of an Agroecology Specialist

Context

The “**Scaling-up agroecology approaches in Liberia**” is a project funded by the European Union under its action “Investing in Livelihood Resilience and Soil Health in ACP countries (ILSA)”. This intervention is part of the “Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P)” and is implemented by the Minister of Agriculture, through its Project Implementation Unit (PIU). It is supervised by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The ILSA project aims to improve the livelihoods and resilience of farmers by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, particularly through scaling up agroecological practices, improving irrigation and post-harvest systems, supporting local seed systems, and promoting the production and use of bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides. The project is expected to reach over 5,000 smallholder farmers in Liberia, with a special focus on women and youth.

Mandate and key responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the STAR-P Operations Manager, the Agroecology Specialist will be a key staff to ensure the efficient technical implementation of the ILSA intervention. More specifically, he will lead the implementation of all agroecological related activities under the project. His/her main responsibilities will include:

1. Plan and implement the establishment of model farms that demonstrate key agroecological practices such as intercropping, integrated pest management, crop rotation, and the use of cover crops to improve soil health and productivity
2. Organise and coordinate the training of farmers and lead trainers on agroecological principles, also through developing training materials that address local agroecological challenges
3. Ensure knowledge sharing among farmers, through a training-of-trainers approach
4. Coach, plan, and implement capacity development training sessions for the project staff
5. Document best practices and success stories based on beneficiaries’ feedback and own observations from the field related to animal production and contribute to the preparation of periodic reports
6. Support the preparation of the project Annual Work Plan and Budget, providing inputs on all agroecological activities
7. Work closely with the Project Agronomist, M&E and KM officers, to ensure proper reporting on information related to project activities and the documentation of best

practices and success stories based on beneficiaries' feedback and own observations from the field

8. Support the Project Coordinator in coordinating the activities performed by project' implementing partners
9. Work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to promote agroecological innovations and support the co-creation of knowledge at the model farms.

Qualification and experience:

- University degree (Master's Degree or equivalent) in agronomy or soil science;
- A minimum of 8 years' experience in the agronomy sector, of which at least 5 in agroecology or soil science;
- Proven knowledge of latest agroecological practices and their application in the Liberia context, and willingness to introduce innovations;
- Relevant experience in project implementation, planning, monitoring, and reporting;
- Teamwork and strong soft skills including interpersonal, ethical, and communication skills are essential;
- Proactivity, problem-solving, self-organizing, planning, and efficient time management;
- Working knowledge of English language.