



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF Cocoa Sector Liaison Officer - Cocoa Specialist

Reference Number:

Country	Liberia
Project	Tree Crop Extension Project (TCEP) & Tree Crop Extension Project II (TCEP-II)
Assignment Title	Cocoa Sector Liaison Officer - Cocoa Specialist

1.0 Context

Currently, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) portfolio in Liberia includes four (4) ongoing projects: (i) The Rural Community Finance Project (RCFP); (ii) The Tree Crop Extension Project (TCEP); (iii) The Tree Crop Extension Project II (TCEP-II); and (iv) The Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) Project.

The Rural Community Finance Project (RCFP). The project includes an IFAD loan of US\$5.5 million and a grant of US\$ 0.5 million and will improve access to rural financial services on a sustainable basis, enabling the development of the rural sector. It incorporates lessons-learned on financial inclusion from Sierra Leone, where the IFAD-financed RFCIP helped establish a large network of Rural Financial Institutions, including both Financial Services Associations and Community Banks. The project started implementation in the second quarter of 2019.

The Tree Crops Extension Project (TCEP). TCEP includes an IFAD loan of US\$13 million, Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) grant of US\$4.5 million and an additional amount of US\$9 million for rural roads. The project will work towards developing a viable and sustainable smallholder cocoa sub-sector in Liberia's main producing belt. The TCEP is intervening in Nimba County, in at least 8 statutory districts. Its duration is 6 years. The TCEP will adopt a value chain approach to link cocoa farmers, organized at grassroots level in traditional community-based labor groups and Farmers Field Schools (FFS), to markets and services through cooperatives and Private Sector Partners (PSPs).

The Tree Crops Extension Project II (TCEP-II). Additional financing of US\$23.8 million provided as part of the TCEP-II was approved by IFAD's Executive Board in December 2018 and was signed and ratified by the Liberian Government in September 2019. The TCEP-II financing will be prioritized in Lofa County with the possibility to include areas in other counties with comparable socio-economic and agronomic conditions. The TCEP-II will also adopt a value chain approach to link cocoa farmers, organized at

grassroots level in traditional community-based labor groups and Farmers Field Schools (FFS), to markets and services through cooperatives and Private Sector Partners (PSPs) building on the achievements and lessons learnt from the IFAD co-financed Smallholder Tree Crops Rehabilitation Support Project (STCRSP).

The Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) Project. The Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) project is a part of a programmatic intervention combining attributes from TCEP and TCEP-II to finance the procurement of additional inputs in line with what will be procured under TCEP and TCEP-II for Liberia's COVID-19 Response. RPSF includes an IFAD grant of US\$488,983 with possibility of additional financing.

TCEP and TCEP-II require a cocoa specialist who will support the project as well as the Ministry of Agriculture in its policy work, partnership building, knowledge management, etc. around the cocoa value chain. Financing for this position can be sourced from TCEP and TCEP-II jointly.

2.0 Objective of the recruitment

The main task of the Cocoa Specialist is to support policy work, partnership building, knowledge management and to help coordinate and facilitate improvements and efficiencies along the Cocoa value chain in Liberia.

Specifically, the Specialist will:

1. Serve as knowledge focal point on all aspects of the cocoa value chain and provide technical guidance in planning, development and implementation of various intervention activities for the cocoa value chain development in the Ministry as well as TCEP/TCEP-II;
2. Serve as the focal point and liaison between MOA and all public (including LACRA and CDA) and private agencies that work on issues that touch on the cocoa sector to identify joint planning and coordination mechanisms to achieve synergic interventions in the sector.
3. Provide technical support to the operational activities of the existing National Multi-Stakeholder Cocoa (including coffee) Platform or Innovation Platform (IP) for Cocoa, including contributions to the organization and participation in meetings, conferences, workshops, consultations and field visits whenever needed.
4. Ensure that all stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors, and should include companies, policy makers, researchers, a variety of forms of NGOs, development agencies, interest groups and stakeholders from local, national, regional and international governance regimes are represented and actively engaged in this structured alliance. The outcomes of the platform should include not only technological change at the farm level but also institutional change at higher levels. With it, stakeholders should begin to build shared interest in developing the cocoa sector, with each for their different motives.
5. Work with all stakeholders to dialog, identify, and categorize as well assist in finding innovative solutions to the main problems of the different segments of the cocoa sector in Liberia.
6. Work closely with public and private sector actors along with cocoa value chain to develop innovative approaches to extend and scale-out smallholder's access to new technologies and management practices
7. Contribute to the collection and dissemination of relevant data and information related to cocoa value chain, farmers' income and livelihoods

8. Understand and analyze farm productivity and business models to enhance cocoa farmers' access to the markets;
9. Assist in identifying diversified cocoa market actors, and conduct rapid market assessment, and identifies constraints, market-based solutions, and incentives to integrate small-scale cocoa producers into diversified supply chains and commercial distribution networks;
10. Lead reviews of the legislative and policy environment that govern cocoa to identify needs for modification and strengthening, leading to the development of a National Cocoa Policy and Action Plan for Liberia.
11. Follow the requirements for certification schemes, such as organic and fair-trade production schemes, and advise the Ministry on how the Liberian cocoa sector best can benefit from these schemes. Upon request from the Ministry and PIU, the incumbent can participate in concrete certification processes under TCEP and TCEP-II or other projects.

3.0 Management Arrangement

The cocoa specialist shall work directly from the Ministry of Agriculture in order to be more closely aligned with the Ministry to perform his/her duties in the best possible way. The details shall be agreed in the candidates work plan.

4.0 Qualification and Experience

The cocoa specialist is required to possess:

- a) Advanced university degree in agricultural economics or related field
- b) Demonstrable knowledge in policy matters and dialogs
- c) At least five (5) years of experience and working knowledge in agriculture production, value addition and value chain development

5.0 key Competencies

The cocoa specialist is also required to demonstrate:

- a) Proficiency in English language (oral and written)
- b) Excellent presentation, communication and research skills
- c) Experience in international best practices in agriculture sector
- d) Ability to present information in a clear, precise, and well-articulated manner

6.0 Procurement Method

Due to the specific needs of the projects and scarcity of specialists' / resource persons in-country, the procurement method for the recruitment of cocoa specialist will be by solicitation of CVs.

Annex 1:

Cocoa Value Chain in Liberia – Transformational Relationships (Source TCEP II PIM)

