



## JOB OFFER

for the AFD project „Food security and Agricultural Rehabilitation measures in Conflict-Affected Regions of Ethiopia - FARM“

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## Context of the mission

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous nation with around 115 million inhabitants in 2020, over 80% of whom live in rural areas. The overall economic growth of the country is highly dependent on the success of the agricultural sector. Smallholder farmers dominate agricultural land use in Ethiopia, making up 94 % of total cultivated land in 2013/14, and about 80 % of farmers (FAO, 2018). Smallholder farmers produce on small plots of land (i.e., 0.8 hectares of land on average according to FAO [2018]).

Food security is a major problem in Ethiopia with both structural and cyclical causes. The country had made a continuous progress, but in 2022, after more than two years of conflicts in the north and drought in the south, nearly 17 million people are in acute food insecurity, including 400.000 in a severe undernutrition.

Internal conflicts are affected the regions of Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and parts of SNNP. As elsewhere in Ethiopia, agriculture (crop and livestock production) is the main economic activity for about 80% the population (World Bank, 2021). In the said regions, before the onset of the conflict, nearly 17.3 million smallholder farmers were engaged in the production of grain crops (cereals, pulses, and oilseeds), vegetables, permanent crops, and livestock rearing (CSA, 2021).

A conflict impact assessment study report produced by the MoA (2022) portrayed that, as regards the crop production subsector, the conflict has caused destruction/damages and looting of crops in the field and grains and agricultural inputs in stock. Large number of animals perished, were looted and driven across the regional borders, or slaughtered and consumed by the conflicting parties. Considering that, according to CSA data (2020/21), nearly 80% of the cattle, 73% of the sheep, 67% of the goats, 20% of the camels, 80% of the donkeys, 95% of the poultry and 96% of the beehives of the nation are found in the conflict affected regions, the consequences of the situation appear obvious.

It has also damaged irrigation systems and pumps, causing interruption of irrigated production which was one of the many pathways designed to move to food and nutrition security. Furthermore, agricultural machineries and farm tools, agriculture offices and research center infrastructures, treated watersheds and pasturelands as well as fruit, coffee and tree nurseries, and established trees were all vandalized.

## The FARM project

### Overview

In the above context, based on an initial proposal developed by the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), AFD developed the Food security and Agricultural Rehabilitation measures in Conflict-Affected Regions of Ethiopia - FARM project, focusing on agriculture rehabilitation measures in the conflict-affected regions of Ethiopia and on laying the foundations for an agro-ecological transition of the Ethiopian agricultural sectors. The Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) was established in 2010 with the mandate to identify systemic bottlenecks through i) studies, ii) piloting innovative projects, iii) implementation support providing, iv) support to linkages & coordination, v) undertake action research on policies, and vi) design and provide capacity-building programs.

The FARM-project is co-financed by AFD and the European Union (EU), for a total of €32 million over 5 years from early 2023. EU funding (€14 million) is planned over a period of 45 months, while AFD funding (€18 million), will cover the total period of 60 months. The project is implemented under the responsibility of the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), which supports the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture in the implementation of various agricultural programs in the country, notably supported by international cooperation.

The project considers that agro-ecological and climate smart agriculture practices are critical for farmers and in particular smallholder farmers and women. Indeed, while increasing the agricultural productivity represents a priority issue for the country's development, in particular for agricultural areas and populations affected by the internal conflict, it is important that these productivity gains

are sustainable and do not lead to increased dependence on imported chemical inputs and increased vulnerability to exogenous climatic or economic shocks.

### Objectives and expected results of the project

The overall objective of the FARM project is to contribute to the reduction of food insecurity in Ethiopia by reviving resilient agricultural activity in the conflict-affected regions and improving agricultural productivity through sustainable strengthening of the seed sector and agro-ecological practices.

This overall objective will be reached through the attainment of the following 2 specific objectives (SO) and a cross-cutting objective (CCO):

- **SO1:** Support the most vulnerable farmers in the relaunching of diversified and resilient farming activities in regions affected by the conflict,
- **SO2:** Strengthen the seed sector, from applied research on improved seeds to their increased production, distribution and exploitation,
- **CCO:** Support the transition to more sustainable agricultural practices and the diversification of agricultural activities towards agroecology, in order to strengthen the resilience of farmers and the enhancement of gender equity.

These specific objectives will be reached through the implementation of two (2) distinct components of the project:

- A **short-term component** aiming at restarting agricultural activity in the regions affected by the crisis – **Component 1**
- A **long-term component** aiming at rehabilitating and enhancing the capacity to produce, multiply and exploit improved plant and bee genetic material, and promote agroecological practices – **Component 2**

**Component 1** "Rebuilding productive assets" is structured around 3 main results:

- R 1.1: Cereal and pulse production has been reinitiated
- R 1.2: Small ruminant and poultry breeding activities have been relaunched
- R 1.3: Small scale irrigation is promoted and horticulture production re-established

**Component 2** "Infrastructure rehabilitation and more productive and resilient farming system development" is structured around three additional results:

- R 2.1: Early generation seed, plant tissue and queen bee production capacity are rehabilitated and diversified
- R 2.2: Seed and plant tissue multiplication capacity is increased
- R 2.3: Farming systems become more productive and resilient through a better ability to exploit a diversified supply of quality seed, plant tissue and queen bees

A so-called **component 3** constitutes a budget reserve awaiting to be allocated to actions in Tigray, Afar and at a wider national level, pending a set of studies to be undertaken at the beginning of the implementation period. These studies must determine the most relevant actions, in line with components 1 and 2 and the project objectives, to be implemented in Tigray, Afar and at a national level, in support of the seed value chain.

### FARM implementation support

Given the complexity of the project, both thematically and in terms of its ambition to extend geographically beyond the Amhara region to other regions currently heavily affected by the conflict, AFD has recruited the Tero-Eco Consult consortium to provide both long-term resident expertise and short-term expertise, to support ATI in project coordination, undertaking studies and monitoring the FARM project.

In addition, to ensure that the project is managed in accordance with AFD and EU procedures, the consortium is mandated to i) support a coherent dialogue between AFD, ATI and all stakeholders, and ii) advise ATI on the methodological, conceptual, and strategic soundness of project implementation. Tero and Eco Consult are expected to support ATI in aspects related to systemic livelihoods analysis, participatory processes, the implementation of an agroecological transition, inclusiveness and the "do no harm" approach.

The recruitment of the expert is in line with these elements and should enable the Tero-Eco Consult consortium to fulfil its mandate.

**Job title:** Project Officer for the Food security and Agricultural Rehabilitation measures in Conflict-Affected Regions of Ethiopia - FARM project

**Work Location:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, AFD Agency office

**Contract Type:** Fixed term contract

**Duration:** 24 months

**Start Date:** July 2024

**Salary:** to be determined according to experience

**Supervisor:** AFD Project Manager in charge of Water, Sanitation, Agriculture and Biodiversity sectors from AFD Ethiopia office

### **Main Mission**

The project is implemented by ATI. The project is a 32 MEUR grant and a top up of 7 MEUR is under appraisal.

The Project Officer will provide administrative and technical supports and advice to ATI in the implementation of AFD and EU funded FARM project. The assistant will work closely with FARM manager & team, AFD managers, regional authorities (BoA, research centers, etc.), and stakeholders to ensure the project's success.

### **Responsibilities**

Under the supervision of the AFD Project Manager in charge of Water, Sanitation, Agriculture and Biodiversity sectors, and in close partnership with AFD Headquarters colleagues in Paris, the Project Officer 's responsibilities will include:

- 1. Participate in the coordination, development and monitoring of the FARM project:**
  - Monitor the implementation of the project (signature, procurement, disbursements, repayments, compliance with financial and non-financial articles and reporting and audit commitments) with the Addis Ababa AFD Agency and Headquarters teams.
  - Participate in informing the project team (including AFD Headquarters) and organizing the relationship between the project team and national/international stakeholders/partners in Addis Ababa,
  - Planning and Implementation: Contribute to the planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities, ensuring objectives are met within the set timelines.
  - Organize and participate in the monitoring missions of the AFD Country Office or Headquarters and participate in the technical meetings and debriefs of the missions,
  - Organize and participate in the missions of the technical assistance team (Tero/Eco-Consult consortium) and participate in the technical meetings and mission debriefs,

- Preparation of the implementation report, including the AFD's annual technical and financial report to the EU.
- 2. Administrative Support:**
- Assist with administrative tasks related to the project, including preparing technical documents, managing meetings, and coordinating field visits.
  - Provide administrative support to ensure compliance with French cooperation requirements, specifically regarding procurement procedures.
  - Assist in preparing procurement documents, ensuring transparency and adherence to established guidelines.
  - Facilitate and follow daily the NO processes in AFD office for the different contracting services, goods and works required by the project.
- 3. Ensure contacts with partners and stakeholders:**
- Establish and develop contacts with country office partners (Agricultural Transformation Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Agriculture Office, French Embassy, financial and technical partners, counterparts, NGOs).
  - Represent AFD in sector dialogue and relevant official meetings
  - Contribute to the visibility of AFD and the French partnership strategy in Ethiopia.
  - Facilitate dialogue with the EU delegation and the monitoring or identification of delegated funds in the sector.
- 4. Contribute to the overall communication of the country office:** website, events, social networks

### **Required Qualifications**

**Education:** University degree in agronomy, natural resource management, rural development, or a related field.

**Professional Experience:** At least 2 to 3 years of experience in a similar role in international cooperation. A previous experience in AFD projects is highly appreciated.

**Technical Skills:** In-depth knowledge of sustainable agricultural techniques, soil and water management, and agroecological approaches.

**Training Skills:** Proven experience in capacity building and institutional support.

**Language Skills:** Proficiency in French and English (written and spoken).

**Computer Skills:** Proficiency in computer tools (MS Office, project management software).

**Personal Qualities:** Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, ability to work in a team, flexibility and adaptability, diplomacy, organizational and time management skills.

### **Working Conditions**

**Mobility:** Willingness to travel to the field.

**Hours:** Full-time.

### **Application**

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application package including a cover letter, a detailed resume, and contact details of three professional references to [deborah.hocquel@eco-consult.com](mailto:deborah.hocquel@eco-consult.com) before 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.