

Terms of Reference (ToR)  
**for Consultant-Plant Agronomist**  
(Contract ID: GBCRP/NTNC/S/IND/1)

**PROJECT:**

Improving Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin, Nepal.

**BACKGROUND:**

The project 'Improving climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin, Nepal' or 'Gandaki Basin Climate Resilient Project (GBCRP)' in-short, aims to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change in the region.

The project is a seven-year undertaking developed to mainstream and operationalize a sustainable river basin approach for watershed management by building climate resilience of both vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin and has three components: community resilience; ecosystem resilience and climate governance. Each of the project components has an outcome which will be contributed by seven project outputs and yield number of deliverables.

It targets 19 districts in three provinces—Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini. Benefitting 1.9 million people and with over 847k tonnes of emissions avoided, the project is anticipated to be used as a model for showcasing how climate-resilient development in large river basins can occur successfully throughout Nepal.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as a GCF-Accredited Entity, is the implementing entity while the Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) under the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) are the executing entities of the project. The total budget of the project is USD 32.7 million, including a grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) of 27.4 million and a co-financing amount of USD 5.3 million from the executing entities. The field activities are executed through DoFSC's Field Execution Offices (FEOs) - Basin Management Centre Gandaki, Kaski and Federal Watershed Management Resource Center, Kulekhani, Makawanpur in collaboration with NTNC and IUCN Nepal. The Project Management Unit (PMU), housed at the DoFSC, is responsible for overall project execution under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The project focuses on developing a climate-resilient agro-ecosystem and improving livelihood for coping with extreme climate events. For this, NTNC will be recruiting a Consultant - Plant Agronomist to work at NTNC's office located in one of the areas of FEOs.

**JOB SUMMARY:**

Working under the overall leadership and guidance of the Head of Department-Climate Change and Knowledge Management, the consultant is expected to perform as Plant Agronomist to identify flood- and drought-tolerant crop varieties, demonstration sites and farmers in close coordination with Nepal Agricultural Research Council and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations. The expert is also expected to identify the demonstration sites and farmers.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Consultant Agronomist will be responsible to carry out the following tasks:

- Develop, review, update and oversee flood-tolerant paddy variety and other summer/rainy seasonal crops, drought-tolerant wheat variety and other winter-season crops.
- Promote the tolerant varieties in consultation with the relevant ministries, stakeholders and other line agencies.
- Transfer flood and drought-tolerant farming technology through trainings and extension programme to enhance the community's knowledge and skills in agronomy and sustainable farming practices.
- Consult and coordinate with the local government, relevant stakeholders and communities.
- Identify and ensure the intervention area and farmers in flood- and drought-prone sites.
- Identify a demonstration site for the promotion of tolerant varieties.
- Develop better planting, cultivation, and harvesting techniques, improving crop yield, and solving problems for farmers.
- Develop planting and irrigation schedules, budgets, and timelines.
- Advise on best practices for crop selection, planting, cultivation, irrigation, and harvesting, taking into account the local climate and environmental conditions.
- Regular coordination with field execution Offices, DoFSC, IUCN, and NTNC for activities implementation.
- Undertake any other task as assigned.

## **OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES**

- Study Report on identification of drought and flood tolerant varieties for hill districts and flood tolerant variety and demonstration sites for Tarai and plain areas in the Chure and Inner Tarai.
- Submit the periodic progress reports of the approved program and budget and as per the assigned task.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCES**

- Master's degree in Agronomy/ Agriculture, or a related field with at least 8 years of work experience;
- Professional experience working in climate smart solutions for the agriculture sector;
- Excellent understanding of the current and regional discourse related to climate smart agriculture;
- Experienced in training and capacity building activities in related fields;

- Excellent analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making skills;
- Effective communication and interpersonal abilities to collaborate with diverse project teams;
- Proficiency with computers, especially MS Office and diagnostic scientific software;
- Ability to work under pressure, prioritize tasks, and meet tight deadlines.

**Duty Station:** The work location will primarily be at NTNC's office located in one of the areas of FEOs, with occasional visits to other project-related sites.

**Travel Requirement:** Frequent Visit (as required) to NTNC Office along with travels to project sites. Travelling Costs will be as per the NTNC norms.

**Period of Involvement:** Six (6) Months subject to renewal based on performances and availability of the Funds. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing one month prior written notice in case of unsatisfactory performance, breach of contract, or any other compelling reason.

**Selection Criteria:** The applicants will be selected based on relevant work experience and qualifications. The consultant will be selected based on the approved criteria of NTNC. The main criteria for the selection will be relevant work experience, qualifications followed by interview.

**Application Submission Procedure:** Interested Consultants should email their updated CV and cover letter along with filled application form (refer website) mentioning job title at [career@ntnc.org.np](mailto:career@ntnc.org.np) before **31st August, 2023, 17:00 hrs.**