

**Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King**

**Ministry of Economy and Finance
Project Implementation Unit
Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade Project (SAAMBAT)
IFAD Loan No. 2000003102 & Grant No. 2000003102
(MEF-PIU/SAAMBAT)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Technical Specialist in Agriculture Value Chain
(Technical Specialist # 1)**

Project:	Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade (SAAMBAT)
Duty station:	MEF-PIU/SAAMBAT within Component 2.2
Section/Unit:	MEF-PIU - Component 2.2
Contract/Level:	National Consultant
Report to:	MEF-PIU's Project Director (PD)
Supervisor:	MEF-PIU's Chief of Digital Technology and Enterprise for Rural Value Chains Unit
Mode of Contract:	Rolling 12 months' contract with a probation period of 03 months. The contract will be extendable up to the project period based on satisfactory performance in the preceding contract assessed by the project.

1. General Background

Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade (SAAMBAT) is a project of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia (GC). The total project cost is estimated at US\$ 95 million of which International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) has committed loan financing of US\$ 54 million and RGC has committed US\$ 11.3 million from domestic resources. The Project Development Objective of SAAMBAT is to "Increase productivity of rural youth, enterprises and the rural economy" which in turn contributes to the Goal of "Reduce Poverty and Enhance Food Security." SAAMBAT is implemented through two Components: (1) Value Chain Infrastructure; and (2) Skills, Technology and Enterprise. These components are designed to deliver two key outcomes: (1) Poor rural people's benefits from market participation increased; and (2) Poor rural people's productive capacities increased. The Financing Agreement was signed on 12th September 2019 and became effective on the same date. The Project Completion Date is 30th September 2025 and the Financing Closing Date is 31st March 2026.

2. Overall Project Management.

The Executing Agency for SAAMBAT is the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Project Management Unit (PMU). MRD-PMU is responsible for overall project coordination, planning, financial management, procurement and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). MRD-PMU directly implements Sub-Component 1.1: Public Market Linkage Infrastructure. Key outputs of SC1.1 are 225 km of bitumen or concrete surfaced roads; 100 km of laterite surfaced farm access roads; 25 rural market areas (Economic Poles) improved and 10 other types of infrastructure facility which may include ferry crossings and commodity collection points. Component 2 is implemented by Ministry of Economy and Finance, Project Implementation Unit (MEF-PIU) Sub-Component SC2.1: Skills for Rural Youth, will assist 5,000 rural youth to improve their employment opportunities and about 330

rural youth to start small enterprises. SC2.2: Technology and Enterprise for Rural Value Chains, will support development of digital technology applications for the rural economy and will assist about 10,000 farmers and other value chain actors to increase their use of digital technology for economic purposes. SC2.3: Policy Research and Strategic Studies, finances research and knowledge generation to support policymaking for rural economic development, including financing a major study on the feasibility of establishing regional wholesale markets for the safe / organic vegetable value chain.

SAAMBAT is not designed as a stand-alone project but works in synergy with ongoing initiatives with IFAD financing including Agriculture Services Programme for Innovation, Resilience and Extension (ASPIRE) and Accelerating Improved Markets for Smallholders Project (AIMS). This program approach is extended through partnership agreements with projects financed by other development partners.

About 200,000 rural households are expected to benefit from services supported by the project. These households will be located in 50 agriculture production areas known as Economic Poles. The Economic Poles may be in any rural area of Cambodia with ongoing activities of ASPIRE and / or AIMS. Currently, ASPIRE and AIMS support activities in 20 of the 24 rural Provinces of Cambodia.

Accordingly, MEF-PIU is now seeking to recruit a Technical Specialist in Agriculture Value Chain to support implementation of SAAMBAT - Component 2.2.

3. Objective of the Assignment

The **Technical Specialist in Agriculture Value Chain** will work closely with government officials and consultants of SAAMBAT Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at MEF, at Techo Startup Center (TSC) and with Project Management Unit (PMU) at Ministry of Rural Development, other implementation agencies and other relevant ministries and departments. Technical Specialist in Agriculture Value Chain specialist will serve a key technical lead for the project. He/she will supervise the technical and field-based researches and activities, including but not limited to market linkages, improvement of the entrepreneurship among the value chain actors, and engagement of the related stakeholders. He/she will advise on the key commodities to be intervened under the project scope.

4. Main responsibilities

- Work with Chief of Digital Technology and Enterprise Unit of MEF-PIU at Techo Startup Center (TSC) to manage implementation of Sub-component 2.2 (Digital Technology and Enterprise). This would include ensuring timely and quality deliverables in implementing digital agriculture value chain activities of Sub-Component 2.2;
- Manage and lead researches on agriculture value chain and translate into requirements and specifications for Khmer Agriculture Suite (KAS) platform;
- Map out the value chain actors in the potential agriculture products and convince them to be actively participated in the KAS platform;
- Identify the market gaps of each of the potential commodities and advise innovative solutions to unleash the gaps;
- Contribute the development of the interventions and its implementation of the KAS platform and its satellite innovative applications;
- Carry out periodical monitoring and produce monitoring reports;
- Facilitate and coordinate meetings, training, workshops with the key partners;
- Contribute to the reports write up;
- Manage and oversight the innovation program of Sub-Component 2.2 and mentor startups;

- Contribute to the recruitment of consultants, including preparation of Terms of Reference, Work Programs, Budgets, and other project management support under Sub-Component 2.2;
- Model and encourage a culture of innovation, continuous learning, adaptive management, high performance, effective communication and collaboration;
- Compile stock knowledge and update regularly on digital agriculture value chain in Cambodia;
- Prepare periodic project implementation progress report for submission to IFAD and RGC; and
- Perform other duties relating to SAAMBAT operation as requested by the MEF-PIU Project Director and Manager.

5. Supervision and Reporting

The Consultant will report to Director of the Project through the project manager of MEF. He/she will prepare and submit monthly performance reports on the tasks performed by him/her to the project director.

6. Qualifications

- Advanced academic degree in agriculture agricultural economics, business administration, international development, sociology, or related fields;
- At least 5-year working experiences in agriculture value chain;
- Experience in identifying opportunities for value chain development which promote market linkages, improve access to markets, and positively impact the entire value chain;
- Be “bridge builder” – demonstrated ability to facilitate and coordinate key chain actors;
- Ability to operate in a proactive, result-oriented manner, with high degrees of autonomy;
- Proven ability to develop and maintain result-focused stakeholder relationships with MRD-PMU, MEF-PIU, Governments, donors and other key partners;
- Ability to do basic research and compile report on agriculture value chain;
- Demonstrated understanding and commitment to principles of adopting technology to empower rural economy; and
- Exceptional communication, writing and presentation skills in Khmer and English, and have passion, perseverance, and innovation.