

Consultancy on Gender Equality, Water Governance and Food Security

Period of consultancy (When Actually Employed): November 2014 – October 2015

Total number of working days: 30 days

Home based with travels to New York (March 2015) and Rome (October 2015)

Background:

Water is key to food and nutrition security. Water of sufficient quantity and quality is an essential input to all types of agricultural production, and for food preparation and processing. Safe drinking water and sanitation are likewise fundamental for nutrition, health and dignity of all. Yet water is a resource under increasing environmental, political and economic stresses.

Enough water is available for our global future needs, but there are still large areas of absolute water scarcity that affects billions of people, many of whom are poor and disadvantaged. Major changes in policy and management across the entire agricultural production chain are needed to ensure best use of available water resources in meeting growing demands for food and other agricultural products.

Gender is a key social dimension to determine access, control and decision-making over water resources. In rural economies, women are deeply involved in the collection and management of water for domestic purposes. They also play a key role in agriculture production and carry out many rural economic activities in which water resources are essential. However, in most developing countries, rural women's entitlements and access to water remain limited, they continue to be excluded from decision-making processes about water management, distribution and allocation.

In October 2015, the 42nd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will be dedicated to Water and Food Security. The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) is working on a report that will present the main challenges related to water management and governance in the context of food security as well as recommendations to address them.

In 2015, the world will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. For this occasion, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will undertake a review of the implementation of the Platform, to outline progresses and challenges in the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

In order to meaningfully contribute to both processes, FAO will produce a background paper exploring the main gender issues in relation to water governance for agriculture and food security. The paper is expected to support policy-makers, FAO and other national and international partners in raising awareness on the importance of closing the gender gap in the access to and control over water resources to improve the performance of the agriculture sector and reduce food insecurity and rural poverty.

Purpose:

The paper aims to analyze the main gender inequality issues in the access to and control of water as a productive resource for agriculture and food security. The main purpose is to highlight persisting and emerging challenges in relation to women's access to and decision-making on water resources; assess the response of the international community (with particular attention to FAO's role); and identify the main achievements and gaps in promoting gender equality in water governance for food security.

The paper will critically examine gender issues in water governance at various levels:

- international frameworks, commitments, policies and approaches (e.g. MDGs, International Water Resource Management framework, SDGs)
- regional frameworks and strategies
- national water policies, strategies and governance mechanisms
- local institutions and user-based associations (e.g. Water Users' Associations; River Basin Organizations, etc.), in terms of their capacity and commitment to address gender issues in the water sector.

In line with the CSW's review for Beijing +20, the analysis will provide a historical overview of the global level, discussing how debates and approaches around gender, water governance and food security have evolved from the adoption of the Beijing Platform of Action in 1995.

The paper will proceed by reviewing the work of the international community (with particular attention to FAO's experience) and national governments in addressing gender inequalities in water governance for agriculture and food security, focusing on three regions: Near and Middle East, Southern Africa and South Asia.

For each region, the Paper will present (providing country-specific information):

- **specific gender issues** related to water governance for agriculture and food security at regional, national and local level;
- **achievements, lessons learned and good practices** in ensuring women's access to water as a productive resource, and in fostering their equal participation in water governance systems
- **remaining and emerging gaps**
- **specific actionable recommendations for countries/regions**, at both policy and technical levels, to reduce existing inequalities, and promote gender-responsive and effective water governance systems, policies and strategies.

On the basis of the analysis, the paper will highlight FAO's comparative advantage and priority areas for action to fill existing gaps and make progress towards the achievement of FAO's Gender Equality Objective 2, which specifically aims to ensure women's equal access to all productive resources, including water.

Content of the technical paper:

- Introduction
- Context: main gender equality issues in relation to water governance in the context of agriculture and food security
- Review of trends and shifts in development discourse on gender, water and food security at the global level since 1995
- For each Region:
 - Issues /Challenges
 - Achievements / Good practices
 - Recommendations
- FAO's comparative advantage and priority areas of action to contribute to Gender Policy's Objective 2
- Recommendations and Conclusions

Methodology:

The consultant will conduct a thorough literature review on gender and water governance in the context of agriculture and food security. S/he will review available secondary information on policies, programmes and approaches implemented by national governments, FAO and other development actors in the period and regions interested by the study.

A list of resource persons will be provided by FAO to conduct interviews and to collect primary information on FAO's work on gender, water and food security in different regions and countries.

Expected deliverables:

Deliverables	Timeframe
Work planning via Skype	1 Skype/phone call The Consultant will meet with FAO colleagues in HQ via Skype to discuss in detail the aims and audience of the background paper, possible literature sources, and the outline.
Annotated outline of the paper	3 days - by 20th December The Consultant will prepare an annotated outline of the background paper, in which s/he will explain the analytical framework through which the paper will be organized.
First draft of the paper	8 days - by 31st December 2015 Upon approval by FAO of the outline, the Consultant will write the first draft of the paper.
Second draft of the paper	10 days - by 31st of January Upon receiving a first round of comments from FAO, the Consultant will revise the paper and send it back for approval to FAO's team.
Final version of the paper	5 days - by 15th February Upon receiving a second round of comments from FAO, the Consultant will finalize the paper. The final version of the paper should include a detailed executive summary

	and specific actionable recommendations.
Travel days	2 days to New York 2 days to Rome

Technical requirements:

The length of the paper (excluding bibliography and annexes) cannot exceed 30 pages. The paper will need to be written in Cambria font and with 11 font size.

The final paper will need to meet the linguistics and editing standards of FAO, which will form part of the conditions of payment.

Minimum requirements:

- Excellent knowledge and internationally recognized expertise in issues related to gender, water management and governance, and food security.
- Minimum 7 years of relevant professional experience in the field of gender, water, natural resources management or food security.
- Advanced university degree in Gender and Development, Natural Resources/ Water Management
- Demonstrated excellent written and spoken English. Knowledge of any other UN language is an advantage.
- Demonstrated excellent research, analytical and writing skills.
- Demonstrated excellent ability to work independently and produce high quality reports in short time.

Remuneration and payment:

- The consultant's fee will be established on the basis of FAO's 'Guidelines on The employment of International Consultants under MS 317 and Subscribers to Personal Services Agreements under 319'.
- Payment will be made at the end of the assignment, upon successful accomplishment of all the tasks described in this Terms of Reference.