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WASAARADDA BEERAHA & WARAABKA



جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
وزارة الزراعة والري

Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

Terms of Reference for Consulting Services

for

International Nutrition Expert to Support Climate-Resilient Nutrition-Sensitive
Agriculture Interventions in Somalia

Ref NWB&W/HR/039/2026

Submission date: 24 April 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Despite ongoing improvements in agricultural productivity, nutrition outcomes in Somalia remain poor, largely due to weak integration between food production systems and nutrition-sensitive programming. Increased food availability has not consistently translated into improved dietary diversity or better nutritional status, particularly among vulnerable populations. These challenges are further compounded by climate variability and recurrent shocks, which disrupt food systems, limit access to safe and diverse foods, and heighten the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) is increasingly prioritizing a food systems approach that links production, access, utilization, and consumption. However, gaps remain in effectively embedding nutrition and food safety considerations within agricultural interventions, limiting the overall impact of the sector on national nutrition outcomes.

1.2 Ugbaad Project (GCF-Funded)

The Climate Resilient Agriculture in Somalia (Ugbaad) Project is a seven-year programme (2024–2031), funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by FAO in partnership with the Federal Government of Somalia.

The project aims to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods and food security through:

- Restoration of productive landscapes
- Improved access to water and irrigation
- Climate information services
- Strengthening institutional capacity

Under Output 2.2, the project focuses on enhancing nutrition-sensitive, climate-resilient agricultural practices, ensuring that food production translates into improved nutrition outcomes.

1.3 Rationale for Nutrition Expert Support

There is a critical need to transition from production-focused approaches toward integrated food system pathways that ensure the availability, accessibility, safety, and utilization of nutritious foods. Strengthening the linkage between agriculture, nutrition, and food safety is essential to improve dietary diversity and public health outcomes.

To achieve this, the Ministry requires specialized international expertise to support the development and operationalization of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. This includes promoting climate-resilient and nutrient-dense crops, strengthening value chains for safe food, and integrating agriculture with key initiatives such as school feeding programs.

Furthermore, institutional capacity needs to be strengthened through the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), technical guidelines, and coordination frameworks. Leveraging international best practices will ensure that interventions are aligned with global standards while being adapted to Somalia's context, thereby enhancing effectiveness, coherence, and long-term sustainability.

1.4 Purpose of this Terms of Reference (TOR)

This TOR defines the scope of work, deliverables, and qualifications required of an International Nutrition Expert to support the integration of nutrition-sensitive approaches within climate-resilient agriculture interventions under the Ugbaad Project.

2. Objective of the Assignment

2.1 Overall Objective

To strengthen the integration of nutrition and food safety within Somalia's agricultural systems to improve dietary diversity, food utilization, and resilience.

2.2 Specific Objectives

- To design and promote nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions that enhance the availability of diverse and nutrient-rich foods.
- To support the integration of agriculture into national food and nutrition initiatives, including school feeding programs.

- To develop and institutionalize standard operating procedures (SOPs) and technical guidelines for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food safety.
- To strengthen institutional capacity for planning, implementation, and monitoring of integrated food and nutrition programs.
- To align national approaches with international best practices and standards for food systems, nutrition, and food safety.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) and relevant stakeholders to strengthen the integration of nutrition, food safety, and food systems approaches within agricultural interventions. The assignment will include, but not be limited to, the following tasks:

a) Nutrition and Food Systems Assessment

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of nutrition gaps within agricultural and food systems.
- Analyze dietary diversity, food consumption patterns, and food utilization practices across target populations.
- Identify vulnerable groups, key nutrition risks, and systemic bottlenecks affecting access to safe and nutritious food.
- Map existing initiatives, policies, and programs related to agriculture, nutrition, and food safety to identify gaps and opportunities for integration.

b) Integration of Nutrition into Agricultural Systems

- Develop practical strategies to integrate nutrition considerations into crop, livestock, and value chain interventions.
- Promote diversification through climate-resilient, nutrient-dense crops and livestock systems suited to local contexts.
- Recommend and contextualize nutrition-sensitive and food safety-compliant agricultural practices for adoption by farmers and extension systems.

- Strengthen linkages between agriculture and food-based interventions, including school feeding and community nutrition programs.

c) Development of Guidelines and Frameworks

- Develop national guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for nutrition-sensitive and food safety–integrated agriculture.
- Provide technical inputs for the design of climate-resilient and nutrition-focused agricultural programs.
- Ensure alignment of all frameworks and guidelines with FAO standards and relevant global best practices, while adapting them to the Somali context.

d) Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

- Design and develop training modules and tools for government staff, extension agents, and key stakeholders.
- Conduct capacity-building sessions to strengthen knowledge and skills in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food safety.
- Support institutional strengthening by enhancing coordination mechanisms and technical capacities for sustainable implementation.

e) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Support

- Develop and refine nutrition-related indicators aligned with the Ministry’s Results Framework (including OPA Results Matrix where applicable).
- Support the integration of nutrition and food safety indicators into existing monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Provide guidance on data collection methodologies, reporting systems, and learning mechanisms to track progress and inform decision-making.

f) Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

- Facilitate effective coordination between agriculture, health, education, and nutrition sectors.

- Support the organization and facilitation of technical workshops, stakeholder consultations, and validation meetings.
- Provide ongoing technical advisory support to MoAI and partners to ensure coherent and harmonized implementation of food and nutrition interventions.

4. Deliverables

5. Duration

Deliverable / Milestone	Description
Inception Report	Detailed work plan, methodology, stakeholder engagement approach, and implementation schedule for the assignment
Nutrition and Food Systems Assessment Report	Comprehensive analysis of nutrition gaps, dietary patterns, food system constraints, and identification of vulnerable groups, including key findings and preliminary recommendations
Training Modules and Capacity Building Materials	Development of structured training packages, tools, and guidelines for government staff, extension workers, and stakeholders on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food safety
Draft Integration Framework and Guidelines	Practical framework and draft SOPs/guidelines for integrating nutrition and food safety into agricultural systems and programs
Final Report	Consolidated report including assessment findings, finalized integration framework, policy and programmatic recommendations, and implementation roadmap

The consultant will be engaged for an initial period of twelve (12) months, with the possibility of annual renewal based on satisfactory performance, project needs, and availability of funding, for the duration of the Ugbaad Project.

6. Consultant Qualifications

The consultant shall demonstrate the following qualifications and competencies:

- Advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in Nutrition, Public Health, Food Systems, Agriculture, or a related field.
- Minimum of 10 years of relevant international experience in nutrition programming and food systems.

- Proven expertise in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and integrated food systems approaches.
- Strong knowledge of climate-resilient nutrition and food security interventions.
- Demonstrated experience in developing policies, guidelines, frameworks, and SOPs.
- Experience working with donor-funded programs (e.g., FAO, IFAD, World Bank, AfDB, or similar).
- Proven experience in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, preferably in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Strong experience in capacity building, training, and institutional strengthening.
- Excellent analytical, communication, and report-writing skills.

7. Reporting and Supervision

The consultant will report directly to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) through the designated focal point and will work closely with the Ugbaad Project team and relevant stakeholders across agriculture, nutrition, and food safety sectors.

The consultant will be required to submit periodic progress reports (monthly/quarterly) and key deliverables for review and approval by MoAI.

8. Payment Schedule

Payments will be made on a **monthly basis**, subject to satisfactory performance and submission of agreed deliverables, as certified by MoAI.

9. Evaluation Criteria

9.1 Technical Proposal Evaluation (70%)

Criteria	Points
Understanding of the ToR and proposed methodology	20
Relevant experience and technical expertise	20
Qualifications of the consultant	15
Work plan and timeline	15

9.2 Financial Proposal Evaluation (30%)

Financial proposals will be evaluated based on cost-effectiveness using the following formula:

$$\text{Financial Score} = (\text{Lowest Price} \div \text{Bid Price}) \times \text{Maximum Score}$$

10. Submission of Applications

Interested candidates are invited to submit **both technical and financial proposals** in line with these Terms of Reference.

Applications should include:

- Technical proposal (methodology, approach, and work plan)
- Financial proposal (monthly professional fee)
- Updated CV

Applications must be submitted via email to: projectcoordinator@ubgaadgcf.gov.so with a copy (CC) to: hr@moa.gov.so

Deadline for submission: 23 April 2026

Late submissions will not be considered.