



Federal Republic of Somalia

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

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Terms of Reference for Consulting Services

for

Seed Certification and Verification

Ref No: WB&W/HR/041/2026

Submission date: 26 April 2026

Terms of Reference (TOR) Consultant for Seed Certification and Verification

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Service (SARIS) is the national authority mandated to regulate plant health, seed systems, and agricultural inputs in Somalia under the relevant national legislation, including the Seed and Plant Variety Release Law (No. 35/2024), Plant Protection and Quarantine Law (No. 34/2024), and Agrochemicals Control Law (No. 33/2024).

As part of its institutional development, SARIS is operationalizing a national seed system to ensure seed quality, varietal identity, and compliance with international standards.

To ensure technical consistency, quality assurance, and alignment with international frameworks, SARIS requires a consultant to provide technical guidance, quality assurance, and validation of all technical outputs related to seed certification and verification.

1.2 Rationale

Seed certification is a critical regulatory function that ensures:

- Genetic purity and varietal identity
- High germination and physical quality
- Compliance with national and international standards

Effective implementation requires not only technical development but also strong supervision, harmonization, and quality control of all consultant outputs.

The consultant function ensures alignment with international systems such as:

- International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD Seed Schemes)
- Regional frameworks (COMESA, EAC, IGAD)

2. Objective of the Assignment

2.1 Overall Objective

To provide high-level technical support, quality assurance, and strategic coordination for the effective development and implementation of Somalia's national seed certification and verification system, in alignment with national regulations and international standards.

2.2 Specific Objectives

- Ensure technical quality and consistency of all deliverables produced by seed certification consultants

- Align outputs with international best practices and regulatory standards
- Strengthen SARIS capacity to institutionalize a sustainable certification system
- Provide expert guidance on inspection, sampling, testing, documentation, and quality assurance systems

3. Scope of Work

The Consultant will undertake the following:

a) Technical support

- Review all technical outputs produced by seed certification officers
- Ensure harmonization of methodologies, SOPs, and tools
- Provide technical guidance and corrective recommendations

b) Quality Assurance and Standardization

- Ensure all outputs align with:
 - ISTA seed testing rules.
 - OECD certification schemes
 - Regional harmonized seed regulations
- Establish quality benchmarks and compliance criteria

c) Review of SOPs and Technical Tools

- Review SOPs for:
 - Field inspection
 - Seed sampling
 - Laboratory testing
 - Certification procedures
- Ensure clarity, practicality, and regulatory compliance

d) System Integration and Traceability

- Guide the integration of certification processes into SARIS systems
- Ensure traceability mechanisms for:
 - Seed lots
 - Inspection records
 - Certification documentation

e) Risk Management and Compliance

- Identify gaps, risks, and inconsistencies in implementation
- Recommend corrective actions and improvement measures

The Consultant shall ensure continuous alignment of all technical outputs with national regulatory frameworks and international best practices.

4. Deliverables

The Consultant will produce the following deliverables:

1. Quarterly Progress Reports
 - Summary of activities, technical outputs, findings, challenges, and recommendations
2. Technical Review Reports
 - Review and assess technical outputs produced by certification officers
3. Review SOPs and Technical Tools
 - Endorsed procedures for seed inspection, sampling, testing, and certification
4. Quality Assurance Framework
 - Standards, audit procedures, and compliance mechanisms
5. Final Report
 - Consolidated findings, gaps, and strategic recommendations

5. Duration of Assignment

The assignment will be conducted over a period of twelve (12) months, aligned with the implementation timeline of the national seed certification and verification system.

6. Consultant Qualifications

The Consultant should have:

- A Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science or a related field, with additional relevant experience, will be considered.
- At least 5 years' experience in seed certification systems.
- Proven expertise in:
 - ISTA and OECD seed certification standards
 - Seed inspection, sampling, and laboratory testing
 - Quality assurance systems

7. Reporting and Supervision

- The Consultant will:
 - Report to Seed Certification & Plant Variety Protection Department of SARIS

8. Payment Schedule

Payments shall be made on a quarterly basis, subject to the satisfactory completion and formal approval of agreed deliverables by the Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Service (SARIS).

Payment Stage	Deliverables	Percentage (%)
1st Quarter	Quarterly progress report including technical reviews and quality assurance findings	25%
2nd Quarter	Quarterly progress report including technical reviews and quality assurance findings	25%
3rd Quarter	Quarterly progress report including continued technical reviews, and recommendations	25%
Final Quarter	Final report, including consolidated technical reviews, system gaps, and strategic recommendations	25%

9. Evaluation Criteria

9.1 Technical Evaluation

- Understanding of assignment and methodology.
- Relevant experience in seed certification systems.
- Experience in technical coordination and quality assurance.
- Qualifications and expertise.

9.2 Financial Proposal

- Cost competitiveness
- Value for money
- Compliance with TOR requirements
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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@ubgaadgef.gov.so with a copy (CC) to: hr@moa.gov.so

Deadline for submission: 26 April 2026

Late submissions will not be considered.