

GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA
ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA PROJECT

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

AGRICULTURE POLICY SPECIALIST

1. BACKGROUND

1.01 Climate Change (CC) and disaster impacts pose significant threats to Dominica's agricultural sector, undermining its stability and sustained productivity. There is also increasing concern with the differential impact of CC and disaster risks on the lives and livelihoods of women, men, and their families, increasing the vulnerability of poor households. The country's economy relies heavily on tourism and agriculture, making it vulnerable to economic shocks and climate-related disasters such as those resulting from tropical storms, hurricanes, and floods. The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, along with recurrent CC impacts, are causing significant damage to crucial agricultural infrastructure and devastating crop production areas. This, in turn, undermines the stability and sustained productivity of the agriculture sector and, consequently, threatens Dominica's food security. The agriculture sector plays a critical role in Dominica's economy, contributing 16 percent (%) to the country's gross domestic product in 2022 and employing around 25 - 40% of the workforce. The sector has always been very important for Dominica, determining food and nutritional security outcomes and representing a key driver of economic activity.

1.02 The climate and disaster risks mentioned above can be better managed. Vulnerability assessments, hazard mapping, disaster risk management and adaptation measures, need to be better implemented to address these risks. Improved coordination and collaboration between community disaster organisations are also needed, including preparedness and response and mitigation capacity among public, private, and civil sector entities for local level management and response. Amidst pressing challenges related to climate and disaster risks, food inflation, and fiscal constraints, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica aspires to become the world's first climate-resilient nation. This ambitious vision is outlined in the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030 and the Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan, led by the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica. Achieving climate resilience necessitates securing financial resources for government services, productive sector investments, and post-disaster recovery.

1.03 Against this background, Dominica has obtained a grant from the Caribbean Development Bank for a technical assistance (TA) project to help address some of the pressing challenges confronting the country's agricultural sector. As designed, the TA project will foster positive transformation in the sector by improving agricultural practices, embracing climate-resilient technologies, and enhancing resilience building efforts.

1.04 The Project is now seeking an Agricultural Policy Specialist who is also experienced with climate and disaster risk management.

2. OBJECTIVE

2.01 The objectives of the consultancy are the following:

(a) Agricultural Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) Plan revised and draft Agricultural Transformation Roadmap finalised to address gaps in current programmes and strategies, and disaster risk management

and climate change considerations integrated into the budgeting and implementation of sub-sector programs.

(b) Readiness of agricultural sector agencies to implement CC and disaster risk reduction strategies assessed with necessary tools identified as well as legislative changes, to determine the extent of mainstreaming National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) within Dominica's agricultural sector.

(c) Tailored Model Farm Disaster Risk Management (FDRM) Plans for protected agricultural systems, fisheries, and livestock developed.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

3.01 The following are the main activities of the consultancy:

(a) Review, update and finalise the National Agricultural Transformation Roadmap as an Action Plan to implement the National Agricultural Policy framework, including review of key institutions implementation capacity, and policy/implementation initiatives, for the agriculture sector and identify any gaps with relevance to climate and disaster risk management.

(b) Review arrangements for implementation of relevant national sub-sector agriculture policies and plans, including review of key organisations implementation capacity, and policy/implementation initiatives and identify any gaps relevant to climate and disaster risk management.

(c) Review the ADRM Plan including any implementation modalities and performance of the plan to date, identify any gaps and make recommendations to fill them.

(d) Review the NDRM Plan in particular its application to the agriculture sector and identify any gaps in institutional capacity for its application (readiness) and mainstreaming (integrated into sector operations).

(e) Review any other existing relevant policy documents and legal frameworks such as the National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS) and Dominica Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2030 and the readiness of the agriculture sector to implement them. The latter focuses heavily on hurricanes; thus, the scope of work shall include incorporation of other climate events such as drought, and non-climate such as diseases like COVID-19.

(f) Meet with the relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security (MBGEANFS), and other relevant stakeholders to seek their views on the relevance (fit for purpose) of the Agricultural Transformation Roadmap, the ADRM Plan and other legal frameworks in the agriculture sector and any perceived gaps in relation to climate change and disaster risk management.

(i) Prepare draft recommendations for alignment of the Agriculture Policy and ADRM Plan and discuss with stakeholders in (d) above.

(ii) Prepare final recommendations for alignment of the Transformation Roadmap with the Agriculture Policy and ADRM Plan.

(g) Make recommendations for the integration of disaster risk management and climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations into the budgeting and implementation of sub sectorial programs under MBGEANFS.

(h) Assess the extent to which (DRM) is incorporated into the operational programmes of sub sector agencies in the agriculture sector.

(i) Assess the existence and performance of Warning Systems in the agriculture sector. (j) Determine the existence of any capacity building programs for extension staff and farmers in disaster risk mitigation and management and make recommendations for such capacity building.

(k) Make recommendations and prepare an Action Plan to improve readiness and mainstreaming of NDRM in the agriculture sector.

(l) Develop a Model Farm Disaster Risk Management (MFDRM) Plans tailored for protected agricultural systems, fisheries, and livestock.

(m) Conduct an on-the-ground demonstration of the MFDRM.

4. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

4.01 The ideal candidate for the position of Agricultural Policy Specialist should possess the following

qualifications and experience

- (a) A post graduate degree in a relevant sector (such as agriculture, water resources, environmental management, or a related discipline).
- (b) Experience of preparing or reviewing agricultural sector policies.
- (c) At least five years' experience in DRM and climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector.
- (e) Solid understanding of the main challenges facing farmers and agricultural stakeholders in Caribbean countries and the role of different actors.
- (f) Familiarity with key stakeholders involved in the agriculture sector in Dominica would be an advantage.

4.02 The ideal candidate for the position of Agricultural Policy Specialist should possess the following skills:

- (a) Proven track record in producing high-quality technical reports.
- (b) Strong organisational and leadership skills, with the ability to manage multiple tasks and stakeholders simultaneously.
- (c) Excellent presentation skills with written and oral communications are desired.
- (d) Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders.
- (e) Proficiency in English.

5. REPORTING AND DELIVERABLES

5.01 The Consultant will report to the Project Coordinator and is required to deliver:

- (a) An Inception Report including a work plan and methodology to undertake the assignment.
- (b) A Draft Report on the assessment of existing agriculture policy, subsector policies, NRDM and relevant policies.
- (c) A Final Report on the assessment of existing policies.
- (d) A Draft and Final revised recommendations for alignment of the Agriculture Policy and ADRM Plan.
- (e) A Draft and final Comprehensive Report on the assignment which shall include recommendations and a road map for implementing recommendations for strengthening the NDRM in its application to the agriculture sector.

6. DURATION:

6.01 The duration of the consultancy services is expected to be approximately 25 working days over a period of six months.