THE GAMBIA CHARTER AHC-STAFF STATUS REPORT

Introduction

This report highlights all the activities undertaken during the period under review. It will also indicate the level of implementation of each of the activities as well as the way forward. Thus after the LOA which is annexed 1 of this report is the signing of the contract agreement between the **consultants and the MoA/Project Coordinator a**s follows:

1.0 A Mission by Dr. Ousman Ndoye of CORAF and Gambia Government (NARI leading) to present the project and identify the structures of the Project in June 2015

2.0 **LOA signed by PS Ministry of Agriculture and Executive Director CORAF in August 2015**

3.0 Contract agreements signed between the consultants and the MoA/Project Coordinator

3.1 A Meeting/presentation of the CORAF studies to potential consultants and consultancy firms was held at the Planning Services Unit on 19th August, 2015. The purpose was to discuss a few consultancies (TORs, potential consultants and groups and timelines). Interested consultants were asked to express interest by sharing their CVs and indicating which studies they are willing and able to conduct based on their expertise.

3.2. CVs were submitted and shared with CORAF for their selection as initially agreed; that countries will nominate three consultants for each and CORAF will then carry out the selection.

3.3. After the recruitment of Prof. Sangare, we were advised to carry out the recruitment at country level for the local consultants. This was immediately followed by a request for the names of selected consultants to be sent for methodology training.

3.4. From the CV of consultants, The National Project Coordinator and the NAIP focal person nominated names of consultants for each study.

3.5 After a detail briefing of the MoA Contracts Committee a general approval was reach to complete the award/signing of the contracts for the identified consultancies. The contract agreements for the following three studies were signed on the 19th January, 2016 between the project coordinator CPCU who is now the coordinator for the AHC-STAFF Project in the Gambia:

a. Review of the GNAIP, sector strategies and country/institutional reports to identify gaps in Human Capital requirements;
b. Assessment of Human Capital requirements along technology and value chains;
c. Assessment and forecasting of Qualitative Human Capital Requirements in Agriculture,

1. An initial Inception reports were submitted by each consultant to the project coordination unit.

The inception reports were received by end of February 2016 one month's when the contract were signed, due to the consultants absence as they were attending the Regional methodology training workshop at the end of January organized by CORAF at Abijan Ivory Coast.
The inception reports after been received by the Ministry of Agriculture have tried to organize a technical validation by the M&E working group who are supposed to have their inputs on the report in relation to the consultant TOR.

4.0 GNAIP Steering committee meeting

In an effort to successfully implement the AHC-STAFF the Ministry under the dynamic leadership of the coordinator has organized the Gambia National Agricultural Investment Plan. The proceedings and outcome of the meeting are as follows:

4.1 A reflection of the GNAIP Steering Committee and the plans for its successor

Having reached the quorum needed for the meeting to proceed, the Chairperson of the GNAIP steering committee Mr. Sait Drammeh who is also the Permanent Secretary 1 of the MoA requested for the meeting to start with the traditional opening prayers. In his opening remarks, the chairpersons first thank all those who make it a religious duty to attend the meeting despite it being done during the weekend.

He quickly recalled that the last time he participated in GNAIP Steering Committee meeting was during the days of designing of the first NAIP. Since then, the committee has not been meeting for almost 3-4 years meaning that the committee has been moribund for the past years. Therefore this meeting is long overdue taking into account that the GNAIP has already expired and a successor investment plan spanning for 10 years is needed for the agriculture sector.

He thanked the CPCU/GCAV/AHC-STAFF Coordinator Mr. Mbye Jabang for the foresight of re-energizing and revitalizing the GNAIP Steering Committee. In buttressing the Chairperson's view point, the CPCU/GCAV/AHC-STAFF Coordinator indicated that people who are around the table were at one time part of the GNAIP development process. Thus the institutional memory is still around. He reminded the committee members that the GNAIP is linked to the regional plans such as the CAADPP and The Gambia was in fact congratulated for being part of the few African countries that completed flying agricultural investment plan. Based on this, projects like FASDEP, Nema, GCAV becomes the babies of the GNAIP.
Two strong conclusions were reached during the meeting:

- To review the current GNAIP steering committee to expand the membership with a renew mandate
- Not to lose track of the current and urgent deliverables of the AHC Staff milestones, the meeting agreed to hold monthly meetings until the process of the AHC staff process is completed.

5.0 Meeting with the Consultant

This meeting was reconvened to inform the consultants on the outcomes of the GNAIP steering committee meeting and they can also inform the project coordinator and the GNAIP focal person on the status of their work and the challenges they have since the commencement of the their work. The main challenge highlighted was the letter of introduction to be written by

the Ministry and sent to major stakeholders and a copy to the consultant for smoothing implementation of their assignments.

6.0 Letter of Introduction for the Consultants to Kick Start their Assignments

To solicit the cooperation and collaboration in these studies by our partner institutions a letter of introduction was sent which was followed up with a courtesy call to all the offices for further discussion on the studies by consultants. This letter is required as most of the institutions were not collaborating until they got the letter from the Ministry hence facilitate the administration of checklist and or designed template for their assignments.

Conclusion

Generally, some significant achievements have been made since the LOA was signed. The signing of the LOA has led to the commencement of key activities such as the completion of the most of the procurement activities such as the recruitment of the consultants. This has made it possible for the recruited Consultants to undergo a methodology training held at Abijan in Ivory Coast. An inception report detailing the methodology of the various assignments has also been submitted and reviewed by the M&E Technical Working Group. A very important achievement registered as a result of the AHC-STAFF was the revitalization of the GNAIP Steering Committee which has been dormant for the past 4 years. The importance of this committee cannot be overemphsised as it has already helped in mapping out the road to not only providing an oversight for the AHC-STAFF but will guide the formulation process of the major agriculture sector policy documents such as the Agriculture and Natural Resources ANR policy and the GANIP successor plan.

Annex 1: A Letter of Commitment by MoA in August 2015 was written below is detailing the structures:

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
Ministry of Agriculture
The Quadrangle
Banjul

24th August 2015

The Executive Director
The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
7 Avenue Bourguiba,
BP 48 Dakar-RP (Senegal)

Dear Sir,

RE: AFRICA HUMAN CAPITAL IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & AGRIPRENEURSHIP FOR FOOD SECURITY FRAMEWORK (AHC-STAFF)

On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of The Gambia, I wish to express our profound gratitude for the selection of The Gambia as one of the countries for the implementation of the CORAF/WECARD project on Africa Human Capital in Science, Technology & Agripreneurship for Food Security Framework (AHC-STAFF).

We believe that this project will have a synergetic impact on enhancing capacity of value chain actors towards the overall realisation of food and nutrition security and enhanced rural livelihoods as enshrined in the Gambia National Agriculture Investment Plan (GNAIP, 2011- 2015) and the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE, 2011 – 2015).

Sequel to the CORAF/Gambia government mission in The Gambia in June 2015 which culminated into a meeting of relevant stakeholders, I am pleased to inform you of the following;

1. The AHC-STAFF project will be coordinated by the Central Projects Coordinating Unit (CPCU) of The Ministry of Agriculture. The CPCU shall be the National Lead Implementing Agency.

2. Dr. Raymond Jatta, The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of the CPCU has been identified as National Project Coordinator.
    a. His contact details; Email: raymondjatta@yahoo.co.uk, Tel No. +220-9950141

3. The National Implementing Team (NIT) is constituted by relevant functional senior staff of
    a. Ministry of Agriculture,
    b. Directorate of Research Science and Technology, Ministry of Higher Education, Research Science and Technology
    c. National Agricultural Research Institute,
    d. Department of Agriculture and
    e. The University of The Gambia

4. The GNAIP Steering committee which is instituted within the CPCU will serve as the National Implementation Support Team (NIST). This committee is broad based and constituted by public and private sector institutions and other relevant Ministries/Departments within the Agriculture and Natural Resources sector.

We would like to assure you of The Ministry of Agriculture's commitment to providing all the support and logistics for the smooth implementation of the projects and the realisation of its objectives in The Gambia.

We herewith attach the signed Letter of Agreement for your signature. Kindly share with us the final signed copy for our records.

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Falalo Touray

Permanent Secretary (PS)

Ministry of Agriculture

5. Annex 1 Financial Report

STRENTNING NATIONAL	MONITORING INDICATOR	BUDGET TOTAL	AMOUNT SPEND	BALANCE
Review of GNAIP and ANR Policy	Consultancy Report	9,000	1,800	7,200
Access Qualitative AHC requirement in Agriculture	Consultancy Report	6,000	1200	4,800
Access Human Capital Requirement along technology and value change	Consultancy Report	6,000	1,200	4,800
Yield Gap Assessment		4,000	0	4,000
Validation Report		7,800	0	7,800
Allowance for Project Coordinator	Number of Months (3)	1,500	500	1,000
Allowance for GNAIP Focal Point	Number of Months (3)	1,200	400	800
Allowance for Financial Controller	Number of Months (3)	1,200	400	800
Operation Cost	Number of Months (3)	3,300	2170	1,130
TOTAL		**40,000**	**7,670**	**32,330**