**Terms of Reference**

Monitoring and Assessment of Impact of Production Innovations in Wheat and Faba Bean Production in the Arsi Zone

1. Background

Despite notable progress made, Ethiopia remains structurally food insecure with widespread poverty in rural areas. Underlying reasons are the largely traditional smallholder based agricultural production methods, with limited use of modern agricultural inputs, low mechanisation rate, limited access to agricultural finance and quality advisory services, insufficient market information and infrastructure, an only slowly emerging agro-processing industry and a weak agricultural training and vocational education system.

In order to close the prevailing productivity gap, innovations and best practices have to be up-scaled for application by smallholder farmers, private and public service providers. Field trials in Ethiopia have shown that substantial productivity gains can be achieved, when appropriate solutions are introduced and the support infrastructure and framework conditions for new, modern agricultural technologies and practices, including the upstream and downstream sectors, are conducive.

The German-Ethiopian development cooperation has launched the *Green Innovation Centre for the Agriculture and Food Sector in Ethiopia* initiative to improve incomes of smallholder farmers, create employment opportunities and improve food security. The project aims at enhancing productivity in the wheat and faba bean value chains through identification, introduction and upscaling of innovations and best practices in five innovation clusters: (1) Good agricultural practice; (2) Agricultural inputs; (3) Mechanisation and technology; (4) Limited and targeted investments in value chains; (5) Farmers’ / value chain actors’ organisations. In its first phase, the project maintains a geographical focus on 5 woredas (Tiyo, Digalo Tijo, Hetosa, Lode Hitosa and Arsi Robe) in the wheat belt of the Arsi zone.

The project will strengthen existing structures and will specifically support three innovation agents towards the planned objectives: (1) Government (namely extension services); (2) Farmers’ organisations; (3) Private sector.

The executing agency is the federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources – Agricultural Extension Directorate. The main implementation partner is the Office of Agriculture and Rural Development (OoARD) of the Arsi zone. The project contributes to the objectives of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) 2015/16-2019/20 and the Agricultural Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) 2010-2020. It is closely aligned to the Agricultural Growth Program (AGP), as well as the work of the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), amongst others.

Initially, the project will introduce about 10 on-farm innovations, ranging from improved farm mechanisation (soil preparation to harvesting), seed varieties, fertiliser use, plant protection to post-harvest treatment. One single innovation (mono-factorial approach) will be tested and demonstrated on 500 pre-selected smallholder farms during the coming season (10 farms per innovation in each of the five woredas). On about 50% of the respective farm’s arable land one innovation will be practiced, the remaining 50% of the area will be managed using common practices and will thus serve as a control sample. This allows to directly assess the impact of the variable tested, compare results and demonstrate effects on productivity.
Host farmers, service providers, Development Agents, NGOs and other stakeholders will be trained and instructed in the proper application of innovations.

2. Scope of Work and Objective

The objective of this assignment is to enhance understanding and build evidence of the impact of improved agronomic innovations (mechanization and crop management technologies) by comparative analysis of with and without intervention scenarios based on collected field data.

3. Tasks of the Consultant

The consultant will implement the following activities:

- Conduct two field visits to the 500 host farmers, one to monitor implementation of the respective innovation and one to collect final impact data.
- Implementation monitoring will comprise an assessment of the degree of proper application of the respective innovation by the farmer measured in comparison with traditional practices, any challenges faced (e.g. logistics of inputs provided, timeliness, quality, instructions provided to farmers and their understanding of the approach, support measures by the project and Development Agents etc.), as well as any lessons learned from the exercise and recommendations.
- The final field visit will be used for comparative data collection (with and without intervention) on yields.
- Describe impacts of the various innovations and compare with traditional practices (control group) in terms of productivity.
- Make recommendations on the suitability of the different innovations for further up-scaling and prioritise them. This should inter alia be based on impact, an assessment of the appropriateness in the context of smallholder production, the accessibility by farmers and level of technical support needed.
- Compile monitoring monthly and final reports for each of the introduced innovations throughout the season and as field work progresses.
- Submit inception report clearly stating the methodologies and strategies to be employed for implementation of the project.
- Compile a final assessment report based on comprehensive data analysis with comparison of with and without innovations.
- Throughout the assignment, liaise with relevant stakeholders, partners and representatives of the Green Innovation Centre.
- Participate in a workshop and present data at the end of the study.

4. Company Profile

Interested national consulting firms are asked to present their professional experience in particular in the subsequent areas:

- Strong background in and profound understanding of agriculture, rural development and farm economics in Ethiopia.
• Ability to set up effective field monitoring tools and experience in monitoring of on-farm demonstrations of selected innovations and best practices.

• Ability to develop and implement appropriate and robust data collection methodologies for specific interventions.

• Track record in data analysis, economic calculations and development of strategic recommendations.

• Ability to work with different local partners including farmers, cooperatives, public agencies and private enterprises, various service providers and extension agents in target woredas.

• Ability to deploy and manage experienced technical staff for the various tasks.

5. Timeframe and Resources

The study will be conducted from 1st May to 30 November 2016, which is the deadline for the final report (Draft report should be presented on 15th November, 2016). The Green Innovation Centre will provide comments on the report within two weeks, which will be incorporated by the Consultant into the final report within another two weeks.

The Consultant will submit the final report and other data, documents and information in hard and soft copies. Ownership (incl. copyright) of the final report, all findings and subsequent publications of results rests with the Green Innovation Centre - Ethiopia.

The deadline for submitting the full proposal for implementing the above assignment is Friday 8th April 2016.

The submission should include the proposed methodology for data collection and analysis, expected results, proposed personnel and their responsibilities, a detailed activity schedule and backstopping concept.