

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DISTRICT TECHNICAL OFFICER – AGRICULTURE

Technical Officer (Agriculture)-one specialist is posted to DADOs in each of the project district.

Under the technical supervision of the Project Agriculture Specialist and operational supervision of the District Agriculture Development Officer and in close coordination with the district-level subject matter specialists – Agronomist, Plant Protection Officer and Horticulturist - and the Project Support Unit and district Technical Team, the Technical Officer (Agriculture) will primarily be responsible for the effective planning and implementation of crop production and farmers' field school-related activities of the project in the assigned district. H/she will supervise the activities of and provide guidance to the field-based Agriculture Technician. The Technical Officer (Agriculture) will spend considerable time in the field supporting and building rapport with the field-level staff, farmer groups and other development partners.

The specific tasks of the position include:

- Assisting the DADO in the preparation of farmer needs- based annual work and expenditure plans for the component related to dissemination of crop production and in implementing the project activities at district level.
- With guidance from Project Training Specialist and Agriculture Specialist identify training needs of targeted beneficiaries, support in design of FFS curriculum, lesson plans, guidelines and procedures related to crop development and provide backstopping support in the implementation of FFS trainings and follow up programs.
- Support DADO in identification and selection of appropriate groups to participate in FFS activities and participating in discussions and negotiations with Village Development Committees, and others involved in the establishment and facilitation of the FFS.
- In close coordination with the Project Training Specialist and Agriculture Specialist, assist in the selection of FFS facilitators and other resource persons, and provide backstopping support to the groups and FFS facilitators on smooth implementation of FFS activities.
- Providing adequate orientation and supervision to field based Agriculture Technicians on project activity implementation, timely implementation of crop production and farmer organization related activities at the VDCs and farmer Group levels.
- In collaboration with district level subject matter specialists especially the Agronomist, Horticulturist and Plant protection officers provide the technical support, facilitate, and backstop Agriculture Technicians and JT, JTAs as appropriate.
- Provide technical support to DADO and work as the bridge between DADO and Project Agriculture Specialist at the PMU level in solving the technical problems.
- Report to the DADO and Project Agriculture Specialist on the progress at the field level, issues encountered and suggestion on resolving the issues.

- Consult with the Scientists of NARC stations for technical issues and contribute to provide feedback on performance of crop varieties and management practices recommended by NARC.
- Contribute to monitor all the agricultural activities of the project in district.
- Monitor and supervise performance of Agriculture Technicians and supervise all the agricultural activities including FFS training programs. Attention should be given for the Seed Production Program as the seed is the very sensitive item and needs special care.
- In line with the Monitoring and Evaluation framework, monitor FFS activities and their facilitators and share information to the DADO and the Project Agriculture Specialist and M& E Specialist. Assist in compiling the progress report at district level and share with all partners and other stakeholders.
- Submit a work plan and monthly progress report as per the format developed by the Project.
- Undertake any other duties as assigned by Project Agriculture Specialist and the concerned DADO.

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture with a minimum of three years of experience in crop production projects. Experience of working with multidisciplinary team will be an advantage. The candidate should have adequate competence in communication, planning and reporting in English and Nepali languages. Experience with similar internationally funded development project will be an advantage. He/she will be based in the DADO.