

GREEN, AGRI-FOOD TRANSFORMATION FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY - GATE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SENIOR CONSULTANT- SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISER (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE)

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Republic of Lebanon represented (The Borrower) represented by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) as a representative to the Borrower will implement the Green, Agri-food Transformation for Economic Recovery (the “GATE” or “Project”), funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or the World Bank or the Bank). The total project cost is Two Hundred Million United States Dollars (US\$ 200,000,000).

GATE Project aims to improve the resilience of farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Lebanese agri-food sector. The project is designed to facilitate access to finance, support climate-smart investments, and restore critical infrastructure services to sustain and enhance the agricultural value chain. Through targeted interventions, it seeks to increase agricultural productivity, strengthen food security, and promote sustainable economic growth. The project is structured into key components focusing on value chain investments, infrastructure development, enabling regulatory improvements, and knowledge management.

The Project is structured into five main components, each designed to strengthen the resilience of Lebanon’s agri-food sector and support farmers and SMEs.

Component 1: Climate Smart Investments in Agri-food Value Chains (US\$71 million):

The objective of this component is to provide access to finance to strengthen the resilience and improve the competitiveness of farmers and SMEs involved in agri-food value chains. The component will promote climate smart practices, create higher value addition, improve links between farmers, agribusinesses and markets, and unlock diversification opportunities. The project will finance activities specifically designed to benefit women and seek to contribute to reducing some of the gender gaps identified in terms of access to finance, inputs, markets, technical capacity building activities, improved confidence and negotiation skills as well as addressing social norms through a carefully designed behaviorally informed outreach campaign, also targeting men.

Component 2: Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Services for Agri-Food Sector Development (US\$100 million):

The objective of this component is to restore service delivery, build operational capacity and ensure the sustainability and climate-resilience of public infrastructure underpinning the agri-food sector. It will be structured across two subcomponents: Subcomponent 2.1. Improving rural community infrastructure for agriculture; and 2.2. Restoring access and protecting agency-managed infrastructure and services underpinning agriculture.

Component 3: Improving the Enabling Environment and Restoring Support Services (US\$21 million)

The objective of this component is to restore and strengthen the capacity of sector institutions to support the recovery and transformation of the agri-food sector.

Component 4: Project and Knowledge Management (US\$8 million)

This component will support the coordination and management of the implementation of the project. It will finance overall project management, including inter alia: (a) coordination among different stakeholders; (b) monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including reporting climate benefits to the MoE to comply with the Paris Agreement reporting requirements; (c) project Environmental and Social Standards (ESS); (d) hiring of a gender specialist; (e) project fiduciary administration, internal controls, and audits; (f) communication and information activities, and (g) the establishment and maintenance of a grievance mechanism (GM) and a citizen's engagement mechanism. timely communication of results. This component will also finance a third-party monitoring (TPM) mechanism, as well as timely communication of results. In addition, the project will recruit a Service Provider (NGO) specialized in child labor prevention and response and who will be responsible for supporting the project in preventing, mitigating, monitoring, and responding to such risks during implementation. It will finance the development of an action plan to combat child labor and a roadmap to improve social protection for farmers.

Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US\$0 million allocated initially)

This component will have zero funding allocation at the onset and will only be triggered in emergency circumstances; the project will support the preparation of a procedure manual governing the CERC operations.

Each component is designed to work together, ensuring a holistic approach to strengthening Lebanon's agri-food sector and supporting economic recovery.

In order to facilitate project implementation, the CDR is establishing a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), to be staffed by professionals, who will lead or support the achievement of the respective project component objectives.

Subcomponent 1.2 of the Project will be implemented by Kafalat which shall provide loans to eligible agribusinesses to finance investments, working capital, and technical services. Kafalat will maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU), staffed with financial and risk management experts, to handle loan disbursement, monitoring, and compliance with World Bank guidelines.

Subcomponent 2.1 of the Project will be implemented by the Green Plan. This sub-component involves investments in climate-smart infrastructure and services. It will work closely with municipalities and stakeholders to develop and prioritize projects such as hill lakes, road rehabilitation, and irrigation improvements. Green Plan will establish a dedicated PMU to oversee implementation and ensure proper coordination.

Consequently, CDR will be responsible for coordinating with both Kafalat and Green Plan and consolidating fiduciary aspects. While Green Plan and Kafalat will manage their respective components independently, CDR will facilitate alignment and coordination to ensure coherence across the project.

II. SCOPE OF WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure effective alignment of the GATE project and other ongoing programs and projects under the Ministry of Agriculture broader portfolio, the Senior Technical Adviser will work in close coordination with MOA Focal Point and assigned teams to:

- Ensure technical coherence and complementarity between the GATE Project and ongoing MoA projects.
- Align GATE interventions with MoA's national strategies, programs, and policies.
- Strengthen coordination and communication between GATE, other MOA projects, and development partners.
- Ensure quality and technical backstopping

The Senior Technical Adviser will focus on ensuring strategic alignment of GATE activities with MoA policies and national priorities, providing high-level technical backstopping to the Minister, and safeguarding quality and coherence across project outputs. The Adviser complements, but does not duplicate, the operational and coordination role of the MoA Focal Point.

The Senior Technical Adviser will carry out the following duties:

1. Program Alignment & Policy Integration

- Map linkages between GATE interventions and existing programs and policies in areas such as value chains, agri-food systems, rural development, contract farming and natural resource management.
- Provide recommendations for synergies, avoiding overlaps, and leveraging resources across projects and policies
- Ensure that project outputs contribute collectively to national agricultural development objectives.

2. Technical Support for Project Activities & Oversight

- Provide technical guidance to align methodologies, approaches, and outputs across MoA projects including GATE.
- Provide technical input in designing and developing MoA-related project activities under GATE, ensuring consistency with the Project Development Objectives (PDOs) and MoA strategic priorities in close coordination with the MoA Focal Point.
- Support drafting and/or prepare Terms of Reference (TORs) for consultants, service providers, and technical assessment studies linked to MoA components, ensuring clarity of scope, deliverables, and alignment with project objectives.
- Ensure quality assurance of project outputs and that they reflect best practices and innovation.
- Support the MoA Focal Point with technical analysis and inputs for decision-making in the Steering Committee and Project Coordination Unit.

3. Stakeholder Engagement & Partnerships

- In coordination with CDR, engage with implementing partners, donors, and stakeholders to promote complementarity and reduce duplication.
- Support the organization of joint planning, technical meetings, and review sessions.
- Support the Minister in promoting synergies with development partners and reducing duplication across initiatives. Daily coordination with GATE stakeholders remains the responsibility of the Focal Point.

4. Monitoring and Coordination

- Track alignment of GATE activities with MoA's broader portfolio of projects within MOA Projects Monitoring Dashboard.
- Contribute to project reports, evaluations, and sectoral reviews with analysis on program synergies and alignment.
- Identify challenges and propose corrective measures for improved coherence.
- Advise the MoA GATE team on technical requirements, ensuring complementarity between project activities, existing MoA programs and on-going projects.
- Maintain close coordination with the MoA focal point to ensure coherence of activities, reporting, and communication.

III. QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Advanced university degree in agriculture, agricultural economics, development, or related fields.
- Minimum of 12 years of professional experience, with proven expertise in strategies development, institutional strengthening, or project management.
- Strong knowledge of the National Agriculture Strategy, familiarity with agriculture development partners, and institutional frameworks.
- Demonstrated experience in coordination with multi-national and international stakeholders.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, facilitation, monitoring skills.
- Proficiency in Arabic and English.
- Strong communication, negotiation and report-writing skills.

VI. DELIVERABLES

- Technical review notes on key ToRs and outputs, highlighting quality gaps and recommendations.
- Contributions to MoA/PCU reporting through high-level analysis and strategic inputs, without duplicating the Focal Point's reports.
- Progress reports on quarterly basis.

V. REPORTING LINE

The Senior Technical Adviser (Ministry of Agriculture) will report directly to the Minister of Agriculture and will work in close coordination with MOA Focal Point to ensure complementarity and avoid overlap of functions. Copies of the reports will be submitted to CDR. Activity reports and time sheet will be submitted to CDR on monthly basis.

VI. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The initial contract duration is 11 months, renewable subject to performance review. The role requires full-time engagement with flexibility to participate in meetings, missions, and consultations as needed.

Renewal of the contract will be contingent upon satisfactory performance, assessed against measurable outputs such as timely submission of reports, demonstrated alignment of GATE activities with other partners' projects and in line with MoA strategies.

Performance Indicators (for contract renewal):

- Technical Notes: At least 4 high-quality briefs/notes per year delivered on time to the Minister, addressing alignment of GATE with other MoA Partners' projects

- Quality Assurance Inputs: No. of drafted TORs, Documented reviews/comments on all major ToRs, studies, and technical outputs, with clear recommendations for improvement.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Active contribution to at least 3 high-level coordination initiatives per year (with development partners) to promote synergies and reduce duplication.
- Number of progress reports duly submitted.

VII. LOCATION

The position will be based at the Ministry of Agriculture Main Offices in Beirut, with occasional field visits as required.

VIII. ACCOUNTABILITY & ETHICS

The Senior Technical Adviser is expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and professionalism, ensuring that all actions and recommendations serve the public interest and the objectives of the GATE Project.

- The technical Adviser must maintain the highest standards of integrity, impartiality and confidentiality.
- Must declare any potential conflict of interest prior to contract signature and on a rolling basis.
- Must adhere to World Bank and Government of Lebanon rules regarding procurement, safeguards and data privacy.
- Must declare any work or consultancy undertaken outside of the assignment that could pose a conflict
- Must ensure that all actions and recommendations serve the public interest and the objectives of the GATE Project.