



Call for PARM Country Liaison and Support Officer

PARM Terms of Reference

September 28, 2023

Overview

As G20-initiative, the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) was created in 2013 with the mandate to enable the integration of a holistic agricultural risk management (ARM) approach into policy planning, institutional capacities and investment in the agricultural sector of Least Developed Countries and Lower Middle-Income Countries to move away from a culture of coping with disasters towards a smart management of risk, and support building resilience in the agricultural sector. The Platform (hosted and co-funded by IFAD) represents a unique and strategic global multi-stakeholder partnership in the area of agricultural risk management guided and supported by the EC, AFD, Italy, IFAD and Germany (through NEPAD of the AU for Africa). It also benefits from the technical assistance of a pool of international and regional multilateral partners (World Bank Group, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), African Risk Capacity (ARC); knowledge partners (Agrinatura, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), etc.); farmers organizations (ROPPA, EAFF); and private sector (CARGILL, MUNICH RE), among others.

PARM implementation is done in phases, with phase one (PARM Horizon 1) spanning over 2013-2020. The objective of this phase was to mainstream ARM at global level and enable the integration of a holistic agricultural risk management into the policy planning and investment plans in 8 African countries from Sub-Saharan Africa. The very positive results achieved by PARM during the first phase brought to the development of PARM Horizon 2 (2019-2025). During that time frame PARM will continue to bring evidence and build capacities on ARM at global and country level, but investing more resources in the design of ARM programs for investments, with a more structured involvement of public-private-partnerships and in direct support to meso-level players (extension services, financial intermediaries, women's and youth's groups, NGOs, farmers' enterprises and organizations).

During the phase 2020 – 2025, the PARM process in a given country takes place in several phases: 1) establishment of an action plan approved by the government through an Aide-Mémoire; 2) agricultural risk assessment study based on the holistic approach developed by PARM for the value chains identified jointly with the government or agricultural risks assessment with a territory approach; 3) identification of risk management tools in response to the priority risks identified; 4) design of a fundable project/program submitted to donors by the government and 5) support to the government in mobilizing resources to implement the risk management project/program.

In this frame a consultancy is requested to support the implementation of the PARM process in Ghana and support IFAD Ghana programme implementation.

PARM's Engagement in Ghana

Having taken cognizance of PARM's mandate, which is aligned with the Government of Ghana's policy, the latter has expressed interest in mobilizing the technical assistance services offered by the platform in order to contribute to better integrating agricultural risk management into policies, institutional capacities and investments in sustainable development in the country.



On 24 August 2023, the Government of Ghana submitted an official communication to IFAD requesting the mobilisation of the platform's expertise and resources to assist the Government of Ghana in its commitment to reduce, transfer and adapt to agricultural risks.

Objective of the consultancy

Under the overall guidance of PARM Lead Technical Specialist and the Head of IFAD Multi Country office and IFAD Ghana Representative, the consultant will directly report to the PARM technical Specialist. In his role as PARM country liaison officer, the incumbent is expected to strategic coordination, networking and operational work required to implement PARM activities in Ghana. He/she will be responsible for interacting with national and international partners to assist in the implementation of the joint PARM - government action plan. In addition, the Liaison Officer will provide technical-strategic support during the course of studies, analyses and design of investment project carried out by the platform.

The consultant will deliver on the following main tasks:

A. Facilitation and coordination

- Facilitate communication and engagement with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, affiliated institutions, and other functional Ministries such as fisheries and aquaculture, and Finance as well as other Ministries and strategic/technical offices relevant to the mission and activities related to ARM. This includes regular visits and meetings as needed, calls and other modes of communication with focal points within PARM's partner Ministries such as Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Rural Development, Environment, Finance, Planning, Gender, etc.
- Ensure that PARM's work is aligned with government priorities and programmes, and that the agricultural risk management (ARM) is integrated into national policies and programmes.
- Organise regular meetings with the technical and financial partners (TFP) focal points, in particular the members of the PARM strategy committee (NEPAD, AFD, EU, IFAD, Italy, KFW) and technical committee (WFP, FAO, WB, etc.), in order to share and collect the necessary information (existing programming, development of new strategies/plans, etc.) for the development of technical and financial synergies in the area of ARM.
- Ensure communication with the IFAD Ghana Multi Country Office for smooth coordination and integration of ARM into the IFAD Ghana's portfolio.
- Participate regularly in sectoral and coordination meetings organised in the country that are of interest to PARM's activities in Ghana and, if necessary, in West Africa.

B. Logistical and technical support

- Support the administrative and logistical organisation of events and missions organised during the process. This includes identifying and contacting the various representatives of organisations to be met during PARM Secretariat missions. The liaison officer will provide invaluable assistance during the organisation of events and workshops in Ghana, in formulating the budget (estimating costs, identifying suppliers, booking rooms, contacting participants, panelists, etc.).
- Provide technical support to experts recruited by PARM to carry out studies and other activities implemented by PARM in Ghana. He/she will identify and contact local officials, experts, private sector players, farmers' organisations (FOs) and institutions active in agricultural risk management and priority areas for investment (ARM tools), in order to speed up work in the country and ensure the smooth and timely delivery of results and the organisation of events.
- Search for locally available data and information required for the technical studies carried out by PARM and its experts. This involves working online and through meetings with the PTFs and the Government.
- Propose solutions to ensure the link between the actions organised by PARM (studies, workshops, training, etc.) and the main players in the private sector, including financial operators and investors both at national level and along the value chains identified.

C. Knowledge management, Partnership, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Identify the most active public, private and development players in the agricultural sector (both urban and rural) with regard to PARM's activities, update the list of these players and organise meetings with them, if necessary.
- Identify local initiatives potentially linked to Capacity Building (CB) and knowledge sharing activities organised by PARM and its partners.
- Identify initiatives and partners potentially linked to PARM's "risk transfer" component (Insurance-INSURED);
- Identify national sectoral bodies (thematic and coordination meetings/working groups, etc.) relevant to PARM and the agricultural sector. He/she will endeavour to make PARM's work visible within these organisations and at these events and, where appropriate, participate in these activities on behalf of PARM.
- Ensure that the social inclusion dimension (gender equality, young people, people with reduced mobility, etc.) is integrated into all levels of activities.
- Ensure the development and maintenance of a database and mapping of the main GRA partners and initiatives.
- Provide support for the creation and management of a network of local experts and stakeholders to promote the exchange of knowledge and facilitate new partnerships.
- Provide support for monitoring and collecting the results of PARM activities in the country.

D. Support to Ghana implementation programme

- Coordinate and support the Ghana Country team in the complementarity of PARM activities in the country to the existing country portfolio.
- Support the development of the new COSOP (expected in 2025).
- Ensure that the Country team is aware and apprised of the activities under the PARM.

Technical Background/Experience of the expert:

- University degree (Master/PhD) in economics, agriculture or a subject related to Agricultural Risk Management.
- At least 8 years' experience in public policy, working with governments and/or international organisations.
- Very good knowledge of the socio-economic and political context of Ghana, particularly the agricultural sector.
- A very good ability to work with international interlocutors and technical-financial partners in international development.
- Professional experience of working with or within international organisations is desirable.
- A good command of spoken and written English.
- Good understanding of agricultural risk management and related topics will be considered an asset.
- Good and demonstrated team and project management competences.

Contractual details

Tentative Start date of assignment: October 15th, 2023

Contract duration: 6-month period (with possibility of extension, based on performance)

Location: Accra, Ghana

Interested candidates are invited to send their CV and motivation letter to parm@ifad.org.