OCS-APO-01

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Consultant Category B *

Name:	
Job Title:** Statistician and Economist (rural poverty)	
Division/Department: ESS	
Programme/Project Number:	
Duty Station: Rome, HQ	
Expected Start Date of Assignment:	**Duration:** 6-12 months (may be extended up to 2 years)
Reports to: *Name:* Piero Conforti	*Title:* Senior Statistician and Deputy Director a.i.

* Please note: If this TOR is for Consultant / PSA.SBS contract, the minimum relevant experience required **for the assignment** is as follows:

1 year for a category C	5 years for a category B	12 years for a category A

** Please enter a short title (max 25 chars) for this assignment.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

The objective of FAO's Strategic Program 3 is reducing rural poverty. The improvement of rural incomes and productivity, together with the diversification and enhancement of livelihoods sources and living conditions, plays a fundamental role in tackling food insecurity and poverty around the world. Statistical information is fundamental to design policies that can effectively accompany transformation in rural areas, and enhance productivity, incomes and wellbeing. A proper understanding of short-, medium- and long-term trends in the structural transformation of agriculture and rural economies, is the necessary basis for developing tailored programs and projects that can effectively reduce rural poverty and food insecurity. Yet, despite the importance of statistics for policy formulation, information on rural livelihoods, incomes and living conditions is sparse and scarce. Most information is collected through surveys, which are scattered in time and largely heterogeneous across countries. Rural poverty indicators are among those for which heterogeneity and the lack of information is particularly pronounced. There is no unified and coherent conceptual framework that defines rural poverty, and the extent to which it differs from urban poverty. The application of national-level poverty measures, such as monetary poverty lines can prove problematic, as conditions in rural areas do differ systematically from those prevailing in urban areas. Moreover, rural areas are defined on the basis of heterogeneous criteria across countries.
Under the general supervision of the leader of the ESS Social Statistics Team, the expert will work with the Social Statistics Team in ESS and its internal and external partner to develop and operationalize indicators of rural poverty to be adopted by Strategic Program 3 of the Organization. In particular, the consultant will carry out the following duties.

1. Establish strong partnership with key FAO external partners, particularly the World Bank and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and internal teams, notably FAO's Strategic Program 3 and other relevant teams of the FAO Economic and Social Development Department
2. Work in collaboration with the above mentioned partners to develop a conceptual framework that defines and characterizes rural poverty, highlights and discusses the multidimensional character of poverty, and specifically of rural poverty; and spells out its difference with urban poverty.
3. Based on the conceptual framework, work in collaboration with the above mentioned partners to develop a measurement framework that allows measuring rural poverty starting from available micro data; and specifies how data collection can be optimized in view of obtaining coherent and sound measure of rural poverty.
4. Based on the measurement framework, work in collaboration with the above mentioned partners to compute harmonized and coherent rural poverty measures for different countries, using available micro data. For this last task, the consultant will liaise with the Rural Livelihoods Information System (RuLIS) project, which will provide a library of data and syntax files.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
- Review of literature and technical materials in the area of rural poverty and its measurement - Draft relevant sections of the conceptual framework and the measurement framework in agreement with partners - Computation of different rural poverty measures - Paper, to be jointly drafted with partners, reporting results	6-12 months from starting date of the initial assignment

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REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

Academic Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in statistics, economics or a related technical field
- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or Arabic, Chinese, Russian

Technical Competencies and Experience Requirements:

- At least five years of experience in applying statistical methods for the compilation and analysis of social statistics, particularly on poverty related matters and in rural areas
- Experience in using and managing micro data collected in surveys
- Proficiency in the use of Stata and or equivalent software