

Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Conduct of Feasibility Study of ATASP-II

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

In 2010 Nigeria was faced with critical challenges in food security occasioned by low productivity and production and sub-optimal harvested area. In addition, opportunities for jobs and wealth creation in rural areas through value addition to agricultural commodities had only been sparingly harnessed leading to high unemployment among rural populations. In response to these the Federal Government of Nigeria rolled out its Agriculture Sector policy, Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) 2011-2015 which was operationalized through AfDB financed Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Programme - Phase 1 Project (ATASP-1) and other projects.

ATASP-1 aimed at transforming agriculture into a commercially viable and inclusive sector capable of driving rural development, reducing poverty, and enhancing food security. The program was implemented in four (4) out of the then twenty (20) planned Staple Crop Processing Zones (SCPZs) that had been identified in the country: Adani-Omor (in 7 LGAs Anambra and Enugu States), Bida-Badeggi (in 7 LGAs Niger State), Kano-Jigawa (in 11 LGAs Kano and Jigawa States), and Kebbi-Sokoto in 8 LGA in Kebbi and Sokoto States), which were selected based on their agricultural potential and strategic importance.

Upon completion of the project, more than 3 million jobs were generated across the rice, cassava, and sorghum value chains. Additionally, farmer incomes increased by 38%. It empowered more than 40,000 women and youths in agricultural enterprises, enhanced the productivity of rice from 1.8 to 6.56 mt/ha; sorghum from 1.0 to 2.12 mt/ha; and Cassava from 10 to 34.12 mt/ha.

1.2. Proposed ATASP-2 Intervention

The Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Program - Phase II Project (ATASP-II) is a proposed follow-up to ATASP-1, which was implemented by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The operation will be aligned with the FGN's Renewed Hope Agenda and the Nigeria First Policy which were launched in 2023 and 2025 respectively.

It will consolidate the gains made by ATASP-1 and expand to other areas including locations in the North-East, South-South, and South-West geographical zones of the country, which did not participate in the earlier phase. It will be guided by the Federal

Government's efforts to drive agricultural transformation, stimulate economic diversification, and reduce poverty through agribusiness development. Agriculture, which is still a critical sector of Nigeria's economy, contributing about 25% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing over 70% of the rural labor force is still characterized with low agriculture sector productivity due to poor access to quality inputs (seeds and fertilizer), poor land tenure systems, low levels of irrigation farming, climate change, land degradation, and weak industrial value chains. Insurgency, armed banditry and perennial crop farmer-herder conflicts further impedes optimization of the country's agricultural potential, making Nigeria a net importer of food.

ATASP-II is also informed by the National Economic Transformation Plan, which emphasizes infrastructure development, inclusive growth, and sectoral productivity. The program aligns with key components of Nigeria's medium-term economic strategy, including food and nutrition security, access to rural infrastructure, and income generation. It will be aligned with African Development Bank's Country Strategy Paper (2025-2030) which aims at supporting economic transformation to build resilience and broaden economic development for prosperity.

Specifically, ATASP-II will build on emerging opportunities arising from the establishment of State-based Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs). The programme aims to enable smallholder farmers and other value chain actors to competitively integrate into the SAPZs by producing priority agricultural commodities for the zones. To achieve this, ATASP-II will support the provision of critical public production infrastructure, including irrigation schemes, rural access roads, and bulking and primary processing facilities. In addition, it will deliver complementary value chain services such as technology dissemination and extension, mechanization support, input supply systems, and business development services, all of which are designed to enhance productivity and promote competitive, market-oriented production.

SAPZ is being implemented in Phases and Tranches in the following States:

	On-going (Phase 1)	Approved in 12.2025 Phase 2 (Tranche 1)	At Appraisal Stage Phase 2 (Tranche 2)	To be decided Phase 2 (Tranche 3)
1	Kaduna	Anambra	Abia	
2	Cross River	Niger	Akwa Ibom	
3	Oyo	Delta	Bauchi	
4	Ogun	Plateau	Jigawa	
5	Imo	Ekiti	Yobe.	
6	Kano	Enugu	Benue	
7	Kwara	Kebbi	Ebonyi	
8	FCT	Borno	Kogi	
9		Gombe	Nasarawa	
10		Katsina	Taraba	
11			Zamfara	
12			Ondo	

The priority commodities identified for the respective SAPZs include Cereals (wheat, rice, maize, sorghum and millet); oilseeds and legumes (cowpea, soybeans, groundnuts, and sesame); roots and tubers (cassava, potato and yam); horticultural crops (tomato, ginger, onions etc.); industrial/tree crops (cocoa, oil palm and cotton); livestock (poultry, small and large ruminants); and fish (aquaculture). ATASP-2 is expected to be implemented for the duration of 5-year.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The overall objective is to assess undertake i) a comprehensive review of the relevant feasibility studies provided by the respective states for SAPZ and other existing studies to select and validate respective value chain analysis, ii) identify relevant infrastructural gaps needed enhance productivity of the selected key value chains and iii) prepare preliminary designs for the identified infrastructure to inform the costing of ATASP-2.

2.1 Specific Objectives

The assignment will be undertaken in two phases:

Phase 1: Review of Existing Studies (4 weeks)

- a) Comprehensive review of existing SAPZ feasibility studies and other related studies.
- b) Identify the selected value chains; actors along the chain and specific measures required to enhance production competitiveness for processing in the SAPZs.
- c) In consultation with the management of the sector, select tentative participating states for the ATASP-2 operation.

Phase 2: Identify of Infrastructure for Development and Preliminary Designs (8 weeks)

- a) Identify and assess, in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, a training facility to be transformed into Centres of Excellence in Agripreneurship Training including existing Federal Civil Service Training Centres.
- b) In consultation with the State Authorities, select participating senatorial areas/ Local Government Areas and identify required production infrastructure including rural roads, irrigation schemes, bulking and primary processing facilities to be developed to enhance the production and handling of the selected commodities.
- c) Provide preliminary designs and costing for the infrastructure identified.
- d) Prepare draft feasibility study report and undertake a validation meeting with stakeholders.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work outlines the key areas to be assessed in the feasibility study for ATASP-II. It includes technical, financial, institutional, environmental, and social analyses across proposed intervention zones. The study will evaluate infrastructure needs, value chain potential, capacity gaps, and risks to inform program design. Findings will provide evidence-based recommendations for implementation, coordination, and sustainability, aligned with national priorities and AfDB strategic goals. The key activities are summarized below:

- i. Inception and Preliminary Reviews (2 weeks)**
 - Assemble existing studies and identify gaps;
 - Undertake initial consultations with key stakeholders (AfDB, FMAFS Management, SAPZ, ATASP Secretariat and others)
 - Prepare and submit an inception report outlining consultations made, and validated methodology, work plan, timelines for review and acceptance by Technical Review Team
- ii. Agro-Commodity Value Chain Analysis (2 weeks)**

- Undertake a comprehensive review of sector policies and programme, existing project feasibility and related studies;
 - Identify and prioritize commodities for the SAPZs, including the selection of viable commodities that are well-suited and endemic to the target areas for ATASP-II support;
 - Map the value chains for each selected agro-commodity, including existing and potential actors (e.g., EGS producers, seed companies, agro-input suppliers, farmers, mechanization and extension service providers, aggregators, and off-takers), and assess inherent risks, constraints, and opportunities for promoting the commodities;
 - Propose appropriate measures to mitigate identified risks, address constraints, and leverage emerging opportunities
 - Produce Agro-Commodity Value Chain Analysis Report for review and validation by the management of the sector represented by Technical Review Team
- iii. Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary (Technical) Design (8 weeks)**
- Identify and prioritize critical infrastructure: (Irrigation systems; Rural access roads; Bulking Facilities e.g. packhouses and warehouses and primary processing facilities, etc.)
 - Conduct site reconnaissance visits and undertake technical suitability analysis
 - Prepare preliminary engineering designs and cost estimates
 - Produce Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary (Technical) Design and Indicative Costs Report for review and acceptance of Technical Review Team
- iv. Economic Analysis (1 weeks)**
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis and estimate Economic Rate of Return (ERR)
 - Quantify socio-economic benefits (employment, income, food security, inclusivity etc.)
 - Produce Economic Analysis Report for Review and Acceptance of Technical Review Team
- v. Report Preparation and Validation (2 weeks)**
- Prepare Draft Consolidated Feasibility Study Report
 - Undertake validation workshop with key stakeholders
 - Finalize and submit report

4.0 DELIVERABLES

- i. Inception Report outlining consultations made, and validated methodology, work plan, timelines *(2 weeks after signing contract)*
- ii. Interim / Progress Report 1: Agro-Commodity Value Chain Analysis Report for review and validated by sector management *(4 weeks after acceptance of Inception Report)*
 - Interim / Progress Report 2: Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary (Technical) Design and Indicative Costs Report validated by states and sector management. *(8 weeks after acceptance of Agro-Commodity Analysis Report)*
- iii. Interim /Progress Report 3: Produce Economic Analysis Report *(1 week after acceptance of Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary Design Report)*
- iv. Draft Feasibility Study Report for Stakeholder Validation. *(1 week after submission of Economic Analysis Report)*

Final Feasibility Study Report, (*1 week after validation workshop*): The report will include: Executive Summary (for Decision Makers); Agro-Commodity Value Chain Analysis Report; Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary (Technical) Design and Costing Report; Economic Analysis Report; and Annexes (maps, data tables, organograms)

5.0 DURATION AND TIMELINE

The assignment is expected to last 8–9 weeks, with specific milestones as follows:

S/N	Deliverable	Timeline
1	Inception Report (<i>Reviewed and Accepted by SAPZ/ATASP team</i>)	Week 2
2	Agro-Commodity Value Chain Analysis (<i>Reviewed and Accepted Technical Review Team</i>)	Week 4
3	Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary (Technical) Design (<i>Reviewed and Accepted Technical Review Team</i>)	Week 13
4	Economic Analysis (<i>Reviewed and Accepted Technical Review Team</i>)	Week 15
5	Draft Feasibility Report (<i>for validation</i>)	Week 17
6	Validated Feasibility Report	Week 20

6.0 TEAM COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATION

The consulting team must include:

S/N	Key Expert	Academic Qualification	Professional Registration	General Experience	Specific Relevant Experience
1	Team Leader	MSc. Agric. Economist	Registered member of NAAE	12 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
2	Agronomist	MSc. Agronomy	Registered member of NAAE	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
3	Livestock Experts	MSc. Animal Science	Registered member of NAAE	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
4	Fisheries Expert	MSc. Fisheries	Registered member of NAAE	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
5	Irrigation Engineer.	MSc./ M.Eng in Irrigation	Registered with COREN/NSE	10 years	Experience in design of irrigation schemes
6	Rural Infrastructure Engineer	MSc./ M.Eng in Civil Engineering	Registered with COREN/NSE	10 years	Experience in design of rural roads, and or other rural / agric. infrastructure

7	Value Chain Specialist	MSc. Agri. Economics/ Agribusiness	Registered member of NAAE	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
8	Quantity Surveyor	B.Sc. in Quantity Surveying	Registered with QSRBN; Member of NIQS	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
9	M&E Expert	MSc. Agri. Economics/ Agribusiness/Economics/Statistics	Registered member of NAAE	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design
10	Financial Analyst	MSc. Accounting/ Economics/	ICAN/ANAN	10 years	Practical experience in agricultural sector project design

7.0 Key Staff and Estimated Man-Month Allocation

S/N	Key Staff	Phase 1 (1 man-month)	Phase 2 (3 man-months)	Total
1	Team Leader / Agricultural Economist	1	3	4
2	Agronomist (2 persons)	2	2	4
3	Livestock Experts	1	1	2
4	Fisheries Experts	1	1	2
5	Irrigation Engineer.	0	3	3
6	Rural Infrastructure Engineer	0	3	3
7	Value Chain Specialist	1	2	3
8	Quantity Surveyor	0	2	2
9	Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	1	3	4
10	Financial Analyst	0	1	1

8.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

The shortlisted firm will submit copies of the Technical and Financial Proposals in separately sealed envelopes that can be delivered to the following address in the attached request for expression of interest.

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The technical proposal shall include but not be limited to:

1. Technical Proposal Submission Form / Cover Letter
2. Understanding of the Assignment
 - o Background and Objectives
 - o Scope of Services
 - o Key Issues and Challenges
3. Proposed Methodology and Approach
 - o Technical Approach
 - o Work Plan and Timeline
 - o Deliverables

4. Team Composition and Key Experts
 - Organizational Structure
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - CVs of Key Personnel
5. Relevant Experience of the Firm
 - Similar Assignments Undertaken
 - Experience with Donor-Funded Projects
6. Quality Assurance and Capacity Building Approach
7. Annexes
 - Detailed Work Plan (if required)
 - References / Completion Certificates

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal shall comprise:

1. Financial Proposal Submission Form
 - Cover letter confirming the total contract price.
 - Statement that the financial proposal is valid for the period specified in the RFP.
 - Confirmation that the price includes all costs required to deliver the assignment.
2. Summary of Costs
 - A summary table showing Total Professional Fees, Reimbursable Expenses and Total Financial Proposal Amount
3. Detailed Breakdown of Fees
 - The breakdown could be by expert, level of efforts (man-days/ man-months), Daily/ Monthly Rates, Total Amount per Expert as shown in the example below:
4. Breakdown of Reimbursable Expenses:
 - Itemized list of anticipated reimbursable costs, such as: Travel (airfare, local transport), Per diem and accommodation, Fieldwork costs (enumerators, survey tools), Workshops / stakeholder consultations, Data processing and software licenses (if applicable), Communication and logistics, Printing and report production
 - Each item should indicate, Quantity, Unit, Unit Cost and Total Cost

9.0 PROCUREMENT METHOD AND ELIGIBILITY

The Consultant shall be selected in accordance with the Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations (2015, as amended) of the African Development Bank. The selection method shall be: Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS); Technical Proposal: 70% and Financial Proposal: 30%. Eligibility shall be in accordance with AfDB Rules on Eligibility.

Evaluation Criteria (Technical Proposal)

The technical proposal will be evaluated based on:

- Firm's general experience (15%)
- Specific experience in similar assignments (25%)
- Adequacy of methodology and work plan (30%)
- Key personnel qualifications and competence (30%)

Minimum technical score to pass: 70%.

10.0 REPORTING AND COORDINATION

- The consultant will report to the SAPZ National Coordination Office.
- The consultant's coordination at the State and Local Government Agencies levels will be facilitated by the SAPZ National and State PIUs and others

11.0 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

To be specified by FMAFS or donor agency. Payments may be tied to deliverables:

S/N	Milestone	% payment
1	Upon submission and acceptance of Inception Report	20%
2	Upon submission and acceptance of draft feasibility report(Agro-Commodity Value Chain Analysis, Infrastructure Selection and Preliminary (Technical) Design, Economic Analysis	50%
3	Upon submission and acceptance of Final Report	30%