

## TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Technical assistance to develop detailed project proposal for securing land on lease (for large scale organic farming) for long term sustainability of HIV and LGBT programme

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### **1. Background and rationale**

Socio economic development in Bhutan began late with the dawn of first five-year plan in 1961. Since then, the government has been receiving external grants in various capacities including in the health sector. By 2010 CSOs began to surface, yet encountering limited financial resources. Because external donors have slowly begun to withdraw financing attributed to growth of economy and increase in per capita income. Soon by 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan (2019-2023), almost all donors including the bilateral agencies in Bhutan will have withdrawn their support in financing.

The GFATM since 2013 has graded Bhutan into Band 4 Country and now negotiating their transition, with every grant cycle gradually reducing the allocation for the country. The domestic financing for HIV program including the development partners is near absent. On the other hand, the country's need and obligation to achieve its commitment made in the recent 2016 United Nation General Assembly Special Session for reaching 90-90-90 by 2020, three years from now, is urgent, and ending AIDS by 2030 needs to be also taken seriously. It remains a big concern for the Nation, particularly for Lhak-Sam.

As a recognized contributor from civil society to achieve global and national goal of ending AIDS, Lhak-Sam stand strong to ensure that no one is left behind, in particular the marginalized groups of people. Considering the shrinkage of financial and technical assistance and situation of long-term sustainability of the organization, Lhak-Sam ventures into large-scale organic commercial farming targeted towards pursuing HIV intervention sustainability, employment opportunities, and livelihood. Through this project, it is expected to generate income to meet pressing 80% operational and programmatic finance gaps, in responding to AIDS in a more comprehensive and efficient manner.

On the other hand, the project intends to create a job opportunities and establish livelihood skills and provide micro-credit loans to the disadvantaged PLHIV and KAPs, in particular MSM and TGs finding difficulty to adjust and lead a normal life. Currently Lhak-Sam comprises of 171 PLHIV in 16 of the 20 districts of Bhutan, and 101 LGBTIQ members including commercial sex workers and drug users who choose to remain hidden. The fear and prejudice is still very eminent resulting into jeopardizing scenario, driving the risks populations away from the services and thereby posing potential risk of underground epidemic outbreak. Currently, Lhak-Sam is the only civil society organization in Bhutan that works closely with its relevant partners in addressing the social, health and legal aspects of our KAPs for ensuring wellbeing and achieving equity.

This sustainability plan is aimed to contribute to almost all the SDGs by sharing country's economic burden of responding to the epidemic that causes fear, prejudice, isolation, drugs and alcohol use, suicides, and frequent sickness and AIDS. This initiative can be an exemplary to many aspiring organizations in the country as well as in the region.

Lhak-Sam, therefore anticipates to secure 1200 acres (100,200 decimals) of land on lease from the land commission of Bhutan to generate income through cultivation of high revenue agricultural products such as potatoes and cardamoms.

## **2. Goals**

- To sustain independent and robust long term HIV response in absence of external donors.
- To create enabling environment for the key beneficiaries and KAPs through institution of inclusive care, treatment and rehabilitation and establishment of livelihood opportunities, employment, etc.

## **3. Objective**

To develop a project proposal for submission to the government for securing 1200 acres of land for starting mega commercial organic farming of potatoes and cardamoms. Upon the approval of land on a lease amend/elaborate the same project proposal and submit it to the relevant agencies and donors interested in supporting Lhak-Sam with equipment's, fertilizers, seedlings, materials and fund and technical support.

## **4. Scope of work**

To meet the above objective, consultative dialogue with relevant stakeholders will be conducted on the activities to be undertaken including, but not limited to; desk review, meeting with key stakeholders, the Board Members and Executive Committee of Lhak-Sam, and development of the concept note document and related analyses.

## **5. Deliverables /Methodology**

While Lhak-Sam in collaboration with the relevant agencies is making major strides in its effort to preventing HIV and mitigating its impacts in Bhutan and the region, further advancement, completeness and efficacy in fast-tracking responding to AIDS can be enabled through ensuring Lhak-Sam's long term sustainability.

The consultant will develop detailed project proposal along with concept for seeking 1200 acres (100,200 decimals) of land on a lease from the government, feasible for starting mega organic commercial farming of potatoes and cardamom.

The consultant shall:

1. Consult Lhak-Sam executive committee and the Board Members for in-depth understanding of Lhak-Sam plan of venturing into mega commercial organic farming of potatoes and cardamoms.
2. Work closely with a staff dedicated from Lhak-Sam for the completion of the assignment in a more comprehensive and in a timely manner
3. Seek appointments with the relevant personal in the land commission of Bhutan and Ministry of Forestry, share Lhak-Sam's plan of sustainability and seek the commission's suggestions and guidance for obtaining the required land on a lease in a feasible location.
4. Consult with relevant focal persons in the Ministry of Agriculture to establish linkages and avail necessary technical and capital support available.
5. Visit the UN country offices and relevant bilateral agencies, and embassies to share Lhak-Sam's plan of mega commercial organic farming project, and learn their interest, seek their suggestions, guidance, and explore the possibility of technical and capital support through their links with donor agencies in the region and around the world.

6. Meet with the individuals and organizations who have been, and who are presently into large-scale commercial organic farming (potatoes and cardamoms) to learn their positive and negative experiences, and seek their suggestions and recommendation.
7. Present the relevant suggestions, recommendations and advice received from the relevant stakeholders to the executive committee and the Board Members for comments and inputs. All these inputs are expected to support the Consultant in developing a comprehensive project proposal report with a budget forecast
8. Conduct a desktop review of necessary documents related to assignment and also conduct a market feasibility research
9. Justify adequately to why Lhak-Sam need the required land and how the land will be utilized efficiently for sustaining Lhak-Sam.
10. Present the draft project for further inputs and comments to Lhak-Sam, and submit the final project proposal to Lhak-Sam as per the set deadline
11. Lhak-Sam will see the good day of the calendar and submit it to the land commission of Bhutan for their kind perusal and approval

## 6. Client Input (Lhak-Sam)

The Client (**Lhak-Sam**) shall provide and make available to the Consultant, free of charge, the following facilities, services, documents and information required by the Consultant to carry out the works specified in the TOR:

- a) Provide documents required for desk review both in hard copy and soft copy
- b) Provide the list of relevant stakeholders to meet and facilitate their meeting & appointments
- c) Provide office space, internet and communication facility when required
- d) Nominate one staff from Lhak-Sam as the focal point,

## 7. Expected Outcome:

Development of a Comprehensive Project Proposal for Land Commission of Bhutan using the Commission's project proposal format for seeking land on a lease

## 8. Time schedule: September 10, 2017

The consultant should complete the assignment within two months from the date of signing the contractual agreement. However, the program officer with approval from the Executive Director of Lhak-Sam may extend the duration if the cause of the period extension is beyond the control of the consultant.

## 9. Payment Terms:

No	Stipulated Deliverables	Percentage of payment
1.	Upon submission of counter signed contract	-
2.	Upon submission of the 1 <sup>st</sup> draft report	-
3.	Upon submission of final draft report and certified financial statement	100%

**10. Qualification:**

- a) The consultant should hold a Masters degree in Agriculture
- b) The consultant should preferably be one who had worked in the past in the agriculture sector either in the government or private sectors and have directly engaged in agricultural development of cardamoms and potatoes in the country
- c) The consultant should possess good knowledge about Organic Commercial Farming of Cardamom and Potatoes including the market feasibility in South East Asia
- d) Excellent written and oral communication skills in English & Dzongkha (other local dialects will be an added advantage)
- e) Consultant must also demonstrate his/her skills in carrying out the desired assignment

**For the Lhak-Sam**

**For the Contractual Partner**

Dated Signature:  
(Mr. Wangda Dorji)  
**Executive Director**  
**Lhak-Sam, Thimphu**

Dated Signature:  
**(Consultant)**  
**Thimphu, Bhutan**