TERMS OF REFERENCE

BASELINE STUDY ON SELECTED COTTON FARMS GINERIES
TEXTILE & GARMENT FACTORIES IN AFAR, AMAHAR, OROMIA & TIGRAY REGIONS

PROJECT: Bottom UP! Promoting a sustainable cotton & garment value chain from Ethiopian cotton to European consumers

1. Background:

With almost 50 years of experience in facilitating the development of socially responsible, ecologically sound and profitable supply chains, Solidaridad is a frontrunner in the area of sustainable economic development. Solidaridad is a global civil society organization that provides market driven solutions for sustainable production practices across different supply chains. We envision a world in which all we produce, and all we consume, can sustain us while respecting the planet, each other and the next generations. Our mission is to bring together supply chain players and engage them with innovative solutions to improve production, ensuring the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy that maximizes the benefit for all stakeholders.

Solidaridad implements projects on several supply chains in Eastern and Central Africa. Solidaridad Ethiopia is starting the implementation of Bottom UP Project (2019-2021) in Ethiopia which aims at promoting a sustainable cotton & garment value chain from Ethiopian cotton to European consumers.

Solidaridad is seeking an agency to conduct baseline research for its EU funded project named Bottom UP! Promoting a sustainable cotton & garment value chain from Ethiopian cotton to European consumers which will be implemented in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Addis Ababa and Afar region of Ethiopia. This research is about helping us get to the heart of not only what is there and working, but also what isn’t quite working and how it can be improved. The results of the research will be used to inform and monitor our project.

Proposals submitted for this tender should include details on the each of the requirements in the evaluation criteria, which is shared with the TOR. It is anticipated that fieldwork will begin in late April 2019.

2. Research Objectives

- Assess the status of cotton production and areas of improvement with regard to improved agronomic practices, sustainability and scalability under small scale and large scale cotton production (gender disaggregated)
- Evaluate practices of fiber quality management practices in the farms and ginnery and recommendations on further improvement in the farm and ginnery organization with possible investment prospect
Understand major practices in pest and irrigation water management and identify possible environmental and social impacts

Mark current status of marketing linkage and finance access to farmers farms and ginneries and areas of further improvement

Explore the state of cleaner production performance status of textile & garment factories

Look through the performance status of social standard requirement

Status of value chain integration between farming Vs Ginners Vs manufacturers Vs buyers and end users.

3. RECIPIENT:
The recipient of this work is Solidaridad Ethiopia.

4. SCOPE OF WORK:
The contracted agency will be expected to oversee all aspects of the study related to qualitative study design, tool development, and analysis and reporting.

Contracted agency is also responsible for recruiting experienced qualitative fieldworkers, recruiting participants and conducting the fieldwork under supervision of the Solidaridad representative, field quality control, transcription and translation into English of all qualitative data, and inputting local context into the analysis process as required.

The study will be done with the below target groups and thematic areas:
On selected farms, unions, ginneries, textile & garment industries located in districts of North West, Central & Eastern part of Ethiopia

Below is an outline of the initial questions/thematic areas to be explored and target groups and areas to be included in the study.

A. Sustainable Cotton Production

Production, Productivity & Fiber Quality

I) Small scale farmers (Dansha Union and Metema Union)

- Number of Cotton producing primary cooperatives under each union
- Membership of selected primary cooperatives, organizational capacity and market access of each coops
- Number of cotton producers (gender disaggregated data)
- Yield of seed cotton per hectare and achievable potential yield with minimum interventions
- Cost per ha to produce seed cotton (inputs, labour, lease, oxen etc.)
- Price of seed cotton per kg paid at ginnery and farm gate (marketing base (quality/grade)
- Producers’ incomes/household total income/ and % of income from cotton,
- Basic services (input & output marketing, access to finance)
● Contamination management and handling (harvesting, grading, packaging & transportation, packaging material)

II) Large scale Farms

Farms of interest: Luci Farm, Aweqe Fentie, and Hiwot Farm Mechanization

● Availability of infrastructures (Roads, irrigation, Electric, access to finance)
● Availability of inputs (seed, pesticide, machinery, labour, lease, oxen etc.) and cost per ha to produce seed cotton
● Yield of seed cotton per hectare
● Market access and price of seed cotton per kg paid at ginnery and farm gate (marketing base (quality/grade)
● Contamination management and handling (harvesting, grading, packaging & transportation, packaging material)
● Expansion prospect and assessment of current production local supply
● Facility analysis (Machinery, labour, workplace and surrounding environment etc)
● Sustainability issues (Conservation Agriculture, decent work, presence of management plan, safety assessment and risk management, environmental impact assessment and employee organization)

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental impacts and the areas most affected for both smallholders & commercial farms

● Irrigation water management
● Pest management and Pesticide management
● Farm machineries & energy management

B. Sustainable Ginning Practices

Ginneries of interest: Middle Awash, Derry Kebede, Hiwot & Genda wuha

● Facility analysis (capacity, employees, location, condition, utilization %, cost of ginning/kg of seed cotton, ginning outturn (GOT), further investment or upgrading and Expansion prospect
● Contamination Management (Presence of raw cotton warehouse, lint storage, quality of packaging materials
● Sustainability issues (Decent work, presence of management plan, safety assessment and risk management, environmental impact assessment and employee organization)
● Social and environmental impacts and the areas most affected

C. Cotton Textile & Apparel (CTA) chain integration

● Material inputs, availability, sustainable ginneries, lint cotton demand & supply, traceability, quality & pricing, stakeholders & partnership management between major players & contract management,
D. Sustainable Textile & Garment

I. Garment factories, integrated textiles, Standalone (one from each category around Addis Ababa)
   • Plant capacity, efficiency, technology utilization, water & energy consumption & efficiency, cleaner production process, waste treatment, certification & compliance issues

II. Market opportunities & challenges (textile & garment)
   • Raw material sourcing, experience, target market, destinations, market share, (local/regional/international), role of brand & retailers, awareness free trade agreements, global trends & competitive & comparative advantages

III. Policy issues & incentives
   • Companies ratings on incentives, promotion of investment, technical assistance, level of support from institution & agencies, policy gaps,

E. Cross cutting issues (for CTA value chain)

I. Inclusive sector development
   o Community & labor issues
   o Workers Health & safety issues
   o Awareness of on gender & youth issues
   o Women empowerment & participation

II. Climate change issues and mitigation

5. SPECIFIC TASKS/ ACTIVITIES:
   • Lead on research design – including methodology, development of research instruments, ethics and fieldwork guidelines
   • Develop a comprehensive work plan and inception report for Solidaridad approval prior to commencing field work
   • Conduct fieldwork as to the below guideline
   • Obtaining research permissions from the appropriate local and governmental authorities
   • Translation of data collection tools between English and Amharic
   • Piloting of participant recruitment approach and research instruments in consultation with Solidaridad
   • Recruitment and training of a local research team; the gender of moderators and interviewers should reflect the gender breakdown of respondents
   • Conduct all logistics and coordination activities related to training and fieldwork
   • Analysis of qualitative data in consultation with Solidaridad in developing/ review of the analysis framework
   • Produce a research report (with 2-page executive summary) detailing the study objectives, methodology, findings, and recommendations; with an accompanying
summary presentation (20-30 slides) to be presented at a workshop with Solidaridad staff in Addis Ababa.

6. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this study will include both direct and indirect data collection, analysis and cross-referencing and formulating recommendations thematically and as area/site specific. The contracted agency will finalize the methodology to undertake this study in line with the scope of the assessment, presented and refined with the Sponsor during the inception meeting.

The methodology used during this assessment will overall, include, but not be limited to the following:

- Review existing relevant secondary information and reports related to cotton, textile and garment supply chains.
- Review of previous Solidaridad documents and reports as well as reviewing lessons of Sustainable Cotton Initiative Ethiopia, CmiA report & ongoing Better Mill Initiative (BMI) project in Ethiopia.
- Discussions with key Solidaridad staff, partners and key informants.
- Carrying out factory visits in the implementation areas for data collection, observations and triangulation.
- Holding stakeholder meetings participatory meetings and focused group discussions for data collection and information gathering.
- Data collection will also entail analysis of climate risks and vulnerability where both secondary data and primary data through qualitative and quantitative methodologies will be done.
- Special emphasis will be put on women spaces, youth engagement and people with disabilities participation, to understand and recommend interventions on issues concerning these interest groups.
- Where possible, survey questions to be drawn from validated scales and indexes such as the Higg Index and, OPHI scale.

Please note that the contracted agency is responsible to come up with a detailed methodology taking into consideration the above mentioned points.

7. OUTPUTS

- Inception report, detailing the finalized research questions, detailed methodology, field plan and research instruments;
- Data file with all qualitative transcripts translated into English;
- Comprehensive written research report (with 2-page executive summary) detailing the study objectives, methodology, findings, and recommendations; with an accompanying summary presentation (20-30 slides)
- Presentation of research results to the Solidaridad team at the time of submission of the final report.

8. COMPETENCES

- Relevant university degree of proposed team members;
- Proven track record in undertaking evaluations;
● Demonstrated experience with the use of quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis, as well as participatory research methods;
● Demonstrated experience conducting impact assessments, baseline studies or other types of program evaluation studies/ research.
● Demonstrated experience with management and coordination of international survey processes; and
● Demonstrated familiarity with women’s empowerment and supply chain/value-chain development (preferably leather and/or the apparel sector).
● Exceptional communication and organizational skills
● Excellent writing and presentation skills using plain English and experience in synthesizing research findings into clear and accessible presentations
● Ability to present data concisely and clearly.

9. Timing
● Tender application submission 24th March 2019
● Negotiation and contract signing by 27th March 2019
● Inception meeting with the selected agency 29th April 2019
● Inception report submission 4th April 2019
● Approval of study tools 13th of April 2019
● In-field research 22th April 2019
● Initial debrief May 6th 2019
● Submission of Top line report 25th of May 2019
● Submission of comprehensive draft report 8th of June 2019
● Presentation of finding to Solidaridad staff June 10, 2019
● Formal debrief and final report due 16th June 2019

10. REPORTING:
The contracted agency will report directly to the designated Solidaridad M&E Manager, Fiker Abebe, at fiker.abebe@solidaridadnetwork.org

Interested consulting firms are invited to submit the following application documents by 24th of March 2019
● Technical proposal detailing the TOR
● Financial proposal in birr.
● Sample of evaluation work done in the past in cotton value chain (or apparel value chains).
● CV of proposed teams involved.

Applications should be send indicating the title of the ToR to: Hiwot Yirgu at hiwot.yirgu@solidaridadnetwork.org on or before 6pm, Sunday March 24th 2019.