Terms of Reference for Agriculture Statistics Consultant
Project: Somali Integrated Statistics and Economic Planning Capacity Building Project
Financing: World Bank
Implementing Agency: Somalia National Bureau of Statistics (SNBS)
Duty Station: Mogadishu, Somalia (with travel to Federal Member States as required)
Contract Duration: 12 months
Reports To: Director General, SNBS
Technical Coordination: Production Statistics Directorate and Agriculture Census Technical Team
Reference number: SO-SNBS-528771-CS-INDV

1. Background

Agriculture is at the heart of Somalia's economy and central to the livelihoods of its people. The sector is highly diverse, combining rainfed crop production, irrigated farming along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers, extensive pastoral and livestock systems, and coastal agricultural and fisheries activities supported by Africa's longest coastline, stretching more than 3,300 kilometers. Livestock—especially camels, cattle, goats, and sheep—provides the main source of income for rural households and contributes significantly to national exports. Meanwhile, farmers using irrigation help grow food that play essential support local trade.

Although it does matter, Somalia has never conducted an agricultural census. Decades of conflict, coupled with very weak systems and inadequate financing for the statistics work, along with harsh climatic conditions, resulted in large data gaps in agricultural statistics. We still understand very little about crop performance, the number of animals, land users, water points, farm types, and postural mobility. Lacking such hard data, planning is a bit difficult: feeding people remains volatile, response to weather shocks becomes tougher, and increasing Agri-investment can be like venturing into speculation.

To address these challenges, the SNBS got supported through financing and technical assistance provided by the World Bank Somalia Integrated Statistics and Economic Planning Capacity Building Project is preparing to conduct the country's first ever Agriculture Census. It will be implemented using FAO's WCA 2020/2030 methodology

and is expected to create Somalia's first ever comprehensive and current dataset on agriculture.

The data collected provides clear details on farming and animals, water usage for crops, mobility of pastoralists, land utilization for grazing, fishing, and labor in agriculture. This data assists the government of Somalia, along with private enterprises, to develop improved policies and increase the food supply, while at the same time coping with climate change, in addition to allocating appropriate funds for agriculture and rural development and pastoralist livelihoods improvement. With a task as large as this, the SNBS requires sound expertise such that the count makes sense on paper and functions in real life, matching Somalia's diversified farming areas—whether green river belts, arid grazing lands, herding paths, or seaside spots. While precision is important, approaches should be suitable for the tough conditions encountered; whether tracking a mobile herdsman or farms close to rural area, each zone will pose its unique challenges. To get proper results, methods cannot be one size fit all but should adapt based on terrain, accessibility, and culture in general. From set up to actual data collection, each step depends upon well trained personnel who can understand numbers and rural realities. Since environments are sharply different across regions, flexibility outpaces rigid plans at counting agriculture and livestock across the nation.

2. Objective

This task aims to assist the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics in the preparation agriculture census by offering strategic leadership, technical assistance, and strengthening staff knowledge and skills. The consultant will first, make sure that all the methods and the statistics used in the census are comply with FAO WCA 2020/2030 standards but at the same time, tailor them to the specificity of Somalia's agricultural context, which is characterized by rainfed and irrigated crop production, nomadic and agro pastoral systems, rangeland dynamics, and fishing.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant provides full technical and advisory support through the preparation phase of the agricultural census. The responsibilities of the consultant will, among others, include the following:

3.1 Methodology and Census Design

- Lead the development of a clear, coherent, and internationally compliant census methodology that is fully aligned with the FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture, WCA 2020/2030.
- Define statistical concepts, coverage, units of enumeration, and core indicators related to the different agricultural systems agriculture, livestock, and fishery.

3.2 Sampling Strategy and Sample Frame Collaboration

- Develop, in close consultation with the agriculture and GIS team responsible for the agricultural sample frame, the sampling strategy for the census.
- The process of sampling should be representative of the wide variety in agro ecological zones, rainfed agropastoral systems, riverine irrigation methods, pastoral mobility, and regional variations in Somalia.

3.3 Questionnaire, Manuals, and Data Collection Tools

- Draft structured and technically sound questionnaires covering all key components of the agriculture sector.
- Secure essential field resources including customized manuals, training guides for both paper and digital data collection methods.
- Develop and pilot digital CAPI tool data collection to guarantee consistency and effectiveness in the field.

3.4 Operational Planning

- Assist the SNBS on crafting a comprehensive operational plan, encompassing field organization, personnel, scheduling, logistics, training, safety, and quality control.
- Contribute to standard operating procedures, workflow protocols, and field guides.

3.5 Capacity Building

- Provide hands on, practical training for SNBS staff on concepts of agricultural statistics, sampling, field operations, quality assurance, and data review.
- Mentor national staff to ensure long term sustainability of agricultural statistics production.

3.6 Assistance with the Pilot Survey

- lead the pilot census setup, rollout, or refinement covering sample selection alongside trial runs.
- Conduct interim analysis of early to pinpoint operational issues and proactively recommend design improvements, optimizing tools for greatest

3.7 Documentation and Reporting

- Create high quality technical summaries, updates, and slides meant for the project team and SNBS leaders using clear structure. These documents support decision making through accurate data flow from field activities into structured formats regularly shared by relevant authorities.
- Check whether technical papers are well structured, clear, while fitting intended purposes within institutions or later retrieval.

4. Deliverables

- An inception report that establishes a clear work plan, methodology, and timeline, ensuring alignment with SNBS and PIU requirements.
- Census Methodology Report: concepts, definitions, coverage, and international alignment
- Sampling Design Document outlining sampling strategy, assumptions and technical justification.
- Draft and final questionnaires, enumerator manuals, and training materials.
- CAPI tool specifications and test results for digital data collection.
- Pilot Census Report: Analyze findings and make recommendations on areas of improvement.
- A detailed operational plan for the full rollout of the census, including logistics and quality assurance procedures.
- The tabulation framework and metadata are to be used during processing and in final reporting.
- Final technical report that summarizes all work done, lessons learned, and recommendations for implementation.

5. Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications, skills, and experience:

- A master's university degree in agricultural statistics, agricultural economics, statistics, rural development, or a closely related field is a prerequisite.
- The candidate should possess a minimum of 7 to 10 years of professional experience in the fields of agricultural statistics, agricultural surveys, or agricultural census methodology.
- Demonstrated expertise in applying the FAO WCA framework and international standards for the collection of agricultural data.
- Strong practical experience in sampling, survey design, data collection methods, and data analysis.
- Proven ability to prepare technical documentation, manuals, and training materials for largescale field operations.
- Excellent communication, teamwork, and training skills, with the ability to effectively work in a diverse environment.
- Previous experience in fragile and low capacity contexts is considered advantageous.
- Familiarity with the agricultural context in Somalia, especially regarding crops, livestock, and pastoralism.
- Fluency in the English language in writing and speaking

6. Institutional Arrangements

- The direct supervision of the consultant will be the responsibility of the Director General of SNBS.
- Professional support will come from the Production Statistics Directorate, and the Agriculture Census Technical Team.
- Constantly the consultant will be in cooperation with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), which includes the Agriculture Statistics Consultant, ICT/Survey Solutions team, and other technical staff.
- The PIU will facilitate the planning, monitoring and alignment of all the project components across the board.
- SNBS will provide workspace along with essential data access and provide logistical support while managing stakeholder communication.

7. Duty Station

- Mogadishu is the primary duty station.

8. Duration

- The assignment is for 12 months coinciding with the Agriculture Census preparation calendar.

9. Payment

- World Bank's procurement and financial guidelines will apply; payments will be made only after the submission and acceptance of the deliverables.