

Annex 13: Terms of Reference – Review of validation domain

Background:

DfID has commissioned NR International to identify validated technologies from across the RNRRS portfolio; to assign metadata to them using a standard format provided by FAO; and to upload them to FAO's technology exchange portal, TECA.

This project is being undertaken under an MoU between DFID's Central Research Department and FAO's Research and Technology Service (SDRR). The project is jointly managed by Karen Wilkin and Tina Rowland at NR International. The project officer at DFID is Dylan Winder.

The 'validated' technologies having been identified, science writers have compiled technology records for each of these, using the original project documentation. CIRAD's professional services are being sought at this stage to supplement and review the quality of the metadata provided in these technology records – specifically, the 'validation domain' of the technologies – drawing on CIRAD's field experience and subject-matter expertise.

Tasks:

ToR 1. Review of Technology Records ('fiches synthétiques'):

To review selected Technology Records for the following programmes:

- Crop Post-harvest Programme (CPHP) (20 records)
- Livestock Production Programme (LPP) (17 records)
- Animal Health Programme (AHP) (14 records)
- Aquaculture and Fish Genetics Research Programme (AFGRP) (5 records)

This will involve writing a paragraph on each technology record, qualifying and contextualising the information provided therein about the 'validation domain' of the technology, with reference to the expert's own experience. The project documentation will be provided to CIRAD for reference; but it will not usually be necessary to read it in order to carry out this task.

The aim of the review is not to correct the technology record (although flagrant errors of fact should be pointed out) but to engage with it in a dialogue. The expert will highlight any problems with the claims made about the validation domain; and provide additional information about the validation domain, thereby adding to the record. Apart from improving the quality of the records, this process will also illustrate the potential for a more interactive TECA.

If, in the expert's view, a technology record should not be uploaded to TECA (for example, it was not generated by a scientific process, proof of concept has not been established, or its relevance is not sufficiently broad), this will be communicated to NR International. NR International will then take the decision about whether or not to upload it.

If the expert judges that a technology record is eligible for TECA, his/her comments on the validation domain will be incorporated at the end of the online record and made public. NR International will take responsibility for copyediting the records for grammar and spelling only prior to uploading.

In the few cases where there may be a strong discrepancy between the claims made in the record and the expert's own experience, uploading to the portal will be put on hold. These cases may be used by NR International in the Final Project Report to illustrate to DFID and FAO the potential for a more interactive TECA.

NR International has undertaken to provide CIRAD with the technology records and background materials by 18 April 2006. If delays on NR International's side occur, it is understood that CIRAD may not be able to deliver by 31 May in which case a revised end-date will be agreed.

ToR 2. Debriefing meeting

To arrange an after-action review with participating CIRAD staff to generate a brief commentary on TECA as a tool for global technology exchange; and to briefly write up the conclusions for NR International. They will be incorporated, along with comments made by other team members, in the Final Project Report.