



## **WOMEN IN NUTRITION-SENSITIVE VALUE CHAINS ACCELERATOR (WINS ACCELERATOR)**

### **Terms of Reference (TOR) For Consultant(s) to carry a Baseline Study on Nutrition, Food Safety and Management, and Business models for Nutrition-Rich Food Products Targeting Women MSME Owners in Teso and West-Nile Sub-Regions**

**Date of Issue: 26 November, 2024**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

African Women Agri-business Network Uganda Ltd (AWAN) is a membership organization that focuses on advancing women's socio-economic status by promoting a gender-inclusive Agri-food value chain. The organization has 300 members, all women entrepreneurs operating in agri-food value chains. AWAN's mission is to provide women-owned agribusinesses with a platform that facilitates improved production, access to markets, trade information, blended and inclusive finance, innovative technology, and the opportunity to share success stories and experiences. AWAN has worked with over 300 women-founded enterprises and 20000 smallholder farmers to access financial and non-financial business development services such as certification, export readiness, product development, formalization, establishing out-grower schemes, and business coaching and mentorship. AWAN's goal is "Economic Empowerment of Women through building gender and nutrition-sensitive value chains". The following objectives guide our implementation:

1. Building the capacity of women and young girls to access economic opportunities and jobs in Agri-food value chains.
2. Increasing access to finance and non-financial business development services.
3. Enabling women and young girls to access formal lucrative markets in agriculture value chains.
4. Advocating for a gender-inclusive legal and policy environment.

#### **2. About the WINS Accelerator**

Despite significant strides in economic growth and development, Uganda continues to grapple with the persistent challenge of poor nutritional outcomes, particularly among children and women of reproductive age. The consequences of poor nutrition are far-reaching, affecting physical and cognitive development, increasing morbidity and mortality rates, and hindering economic productivity. The Women in Nutrition-Sensitive Value Chains Accelerator (WINS Accelerator) is a groundbreaking initiative implemented by African Women Agribusiness Network Uganda Ltd (AWAN) with funding from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The initiative targets improving nutritional health in Uganda by empowering Women Small and Medium Enterprises (WSMEs) to produce and distribute nutrition-rich products and innovative business models. The capacity of 200 women-owned SMEs will be enhanced through tailor-made financial and non-financial business development to increase access to and affordability of nutritious foods. The project targets WSMEs involved in nutrition-rich value chains which include legumes (beans, soybeans, Peanuts), small Livestock, cereals (iron-rich Millet, and fortified maize and corn), and fruits and vegetables. The objectives of the project are:

1. To increase the adoption of nutrition-sensitive business models by women-owned SMEs
2. To increase the production of nutritious foods by Women-owned SMEs
3. To increase sales volumes of nutritious food by Women-Owned SMEs

4. To increase access to financial and non-financial business development services among women-owned nutrition-sensitive SMEs in Uganda

### **3. Objectives of the Assignment**

The objective of this consultancy is to carry out a baseline study on nutrition, food safety and management, and business models for nutrition-rich food products targeting Women MSME Owners in Teso and West Nile Sub-Regions. The primary purpose of this baseline survey is to establish a benchmark against which the project's impact can be measured. This baseline will provide critical information on the current situation regarding the following aspects:

1. General business information and legal and operational status
2. Production level
3. Quality and Food safety practices
4. Market development status
5. Business digitalization status
6. Investment readiness and access to finance
7. Business processes and operation

### **4. Scope of the Assignment**

The consultant will be responsible for the following:

#### **4.1 Develop the Survey Methodology**

- Design a comprehensive survey methodology, including:
  - Data collection tools (questionnaires, interview guides, observation checklists)
  - Sampling strategy (sample size, sampling frame, sampling techniques)
  - Data collection procedures (data entry, cleaning, and analysis)

#### **4.2 Data Collection**

- Recruit and train field enumerators.
- Conduct field surveys using the developed tools.
- Ensure data quality through rigorous supervision and quality control measures.

#### **4.3 Data Analysis**

- Clean and analyze the collected data using appropriate statistical techniques.
- Generate descriptive statistics and identify key trends and patterns.
- Conduct any necessary data disaggregation to analyze differences between subgroups.

#### **4.4 Report Writing**

- Prepare a detailed baseline report that includes:
  - Executive summary
  - Methodology and data collection procedures
  - Data analysis and findings
  - Key recommendations for project implementation

#### **4.1.5 Duration of Assignment**

The assignment is expected to seven days (7 days only)

### **5.0 Deliverables**

The consultant is expected to deliver the following:

- Inception report outlining the proposed methodology and work plan.
- Data collection tools (questionnaires, interview guides, observation checklists).
- Cleaned and analyzed the dataset.

- A detailed baseline report.

## **6.0 Required Qualifications and Experience**

1. The Consultant may be an individual or a firm
2. The consultant should have an advanced degree in business administration, Food Science, Nutrition, Entrepreneurship, social sciences, economics, statistics, or a related field.
3. Proven experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative research.
4. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
5. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
6. Proficiency in data analysis software (e.g., SPSS, STATA).
7. Experience working in Teso and West Nile Sub-Region.

## **7.0 Mode of Payment**

1. The first payment will be 50% of the total contract value payable upon submission and acceptance of the inception report.
2. Final payment of the remaining 50% will be made upon submission and acceptance of the final report.
3. A withholding tax of 6% will be deducted as per the rules of the Government of Uganda.

## **8.0 Submission of Proposals**

Interested consultant(s) should submit their proposals including the following content.

1. Application letter
2. Capability Statement summarizing the experience and competency of the individual consultant/firm related to the assignment.
3. List of similar assignments undertaken
4. Proposed approach to the assignment
5. Workplan
6. Proposed team and their CVs, academic credentials, and contacts of referees
7. Budget and proposed payment terms

## **10. Submission procedure and Deadline:**

Interested consultant(s) are requested to submit both proposals via the following email addresses:  
[info@awanauganda.com](mailto:info@awanauganda.com)/ [awanuganda@gmail.com](mailto:awanuganda@gmail.com)

The application deadline is 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 before midnight.