

Project “Associated agriculture for long-term income stabilization of ethnic minorities and equal integration in community development in Nam Giang district, Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

Call for Tender

Consultancy service for “Conducting field survey and developing a technical process of specialty back piglet production”

1. Background of consultancy assignment/ project

Black pig production is an economic activity, traditionally conducted by many ethnic minorities in Nam Giang District. Compared to other pig breeds, black pigs and their products are considered more lucrative because of the high selling price, strong resilience towards diseases, and low production cost. However, black pig producing households have been facing challenges to make a sufficient living of black pig production mainly due to low productivity. Low productivity can be attributed to a continuing reliance on conventional free-range breeding systems that result in degrading breeds and lack of production knowledge and skills. The Quang Nam people committee promulgated Decision No 2004/QĐ-UBND on 18th June 2019 to improve animal husbandry methods for households in mountainous districts, which produce black pigs, with a particular focus on Nam Giang district. In complementing ongoing government efforts, there is a need to assess the lack of quality breed sources and supply, and the risk of breed degeneration.

The project “Associated agriculture for long-term income stabilization of ethnic minorities and equal integration in community development in Vietnam” has the overall objective that black pig-breeding households from ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas of Central Vietnam have improved their livelihoods and are equally integrated into community development. The project focuses on 600 poor and near-poor husbandry households from 5 communes in Nam Giang District. They will directly benefit from the project through enhanced agricultural and husbandry skills, improved livelihood and better income. One of the objectives of this project is to increase the quality of black pig products supplied by local farmers and improve meat processing of livestock partners. In this regard, the project aims to increase knowledge and skills of local stakeholders such as veterinarian at district and communes, animal husbandry groups and cooperatives, so that they can strengthen the production of specialty black piglet meat products through improved breeding sow management, piglet temperature control, preferential feeding, piglet disease and parasite management, and stockmanship. To achieve this, the project calls for a qualified consultant team to conduct an assessment of the current black pig and black piglet production in five selected communities in Nam Giang District.

2. Objective

The overall objective of this consultancy is to provide a comprehensive picture of existing practices adopted in black pig and piglet production in Nam Giang District, analyse these practices with regard to productivity, quality, and appearance of products.

To achieve this objective, the consultant team will address the following research questions

- What are the current/ existing practices that have been applied by black pig producing households?
- To what extent do those practices affect the efficiency and effectiveness of black pig households?
- What are technical gaps in black pig production that household facing at five target communes?
- What are feasible alternative/ innovate practices, which can be applied to improve the black pig farming system? How can these alternative practices be delivered to farmers?

3. Key contents of the study

The study is expected to look at the below aspects:

Current/ existing practices in black pig production at household level:

- Methods/Patterns of black pig and piglet production and management
- Welfare assessment of black pig farming
- Vet and other related services

Black pig production at community level

- The role of grassroots organizations/ associations such as farmer union, women union, extensionist, vet, and animal groups (if applicable) in supporting farmers to practice their current techniques in black pig and piglet production
- Vet services at commune level

Policy environment

- Policies on animal production/ pig production and native (black) pig production
- Annual programs on capability building, financial support funded by national budget

Recommendations

- Proposed feasible technical intervention to improve the black pig production system based on the review and the result of survey

Additional contents may be added in consultation between WV, CRD, and the consultant

4. Scope of the consultancy

The study on the black pig production system will focus on the following geographical areas: Thanh My, Ca Cady, Cha Val, Tà Bhing and Ta Poo communes in Nam Giang district (district level), Quang Nam province (provincial level).

The consultant(s) is expected to carry out the following work:

- *Desk review:* Analysis/review of existing and relevant documents on black pig production. This desk review will identify data gaps, inform the scope of the fieldwork and support the interpretation and contextualization of primary data.
- Design a methodology for the consultancy/study, including methods, sampling strategy data collection tools, detailed fieldwork plan, analysis plan, and quality control plan (this will be part of an inception report, see under deliverables).
- Conduct the study fieldwork including training of enumerators and primary data collection in the field with support from the project team (WV and CRD), as well as data processing and analysis.
- Collaborate with BMZ project partners to validate information and data from other similar researches for the final version of the study report.
- Produce a comprehensive report on “Conducting field survey and developing a technical process of specialty back piglet production” in English with a summary in Vietnamese

The following table entails key activities and labour division for carrying out black pig value chain study:

#	Proposed activities	No of working day(s) for whole team
1	Develop a detailed research methodology and work plan (to be presented in an inception report)	4
2	Fieldwork preparation	2
3	Conduct fieldwork	15
4	Data organizing, processing and analyzing.	7

5	Presentation on preliminary findings for BMZ project staff and partners	2
6	A draft report in English	6
7	Finalize report and submit to BMZ project in English (with summary in Vietnamese)	4
	TOTAL	40

5. Method of study

The study should employ a mixed-methods approach including a desk/literature review and other qualitative and quantitative methods. The consultant will use the methodology and research tools that are best suited to the study objectives and local context. These will be fully developed and finalized in consultation with World Vision and CRD as part of the inception report.

The research process should be participatory, incorporating perspectives of different stakeholders, including, but not limited to, households, extensionist and staff of Department of Agriculture and Rural development (DARD) at provincial and district level. Some of the recommended approaches and tools include:

- Key informant interviews
- Household questionnaires/survey
- Focus group discussions
- Stakeholders Consultation Meeting/Workshops

6. Deliverables

The consultant team is expected to provide the following deliverables:

- An *inception report* that outlines the methodology (including tools for data collection) and a timeline for the consultancy and study
- A final report/proposal in in English with summary in Vietnamese
- All data collected as part of the consultancy (including data sets and related documents)

Notes: All deliverables will be reviewed and require the approval from WV Vietnam and CRD

7. Timeframe

The consultancy comprises a timeframe of 40 days after signing of the consultancy contract. The consultancy is expected to start on 15th May. The proposed timeline for the consultancy and milestones is (all dates are preliminary and subject to changes due to Covid-19):

- Inception report including tools for data collection within 10 days since the contract signing date.
- Field survey is expected from 15 May – 5 June 2020
- Draft report is expected by 15 June 2020
- A final report in consultation with BMZ project manager, and BMZ project team (WVI and CRD) by 30 June 2020

The consultant team should be available during the proposed time period and able to stick to the proposed timeline.

8. Requirement for consultant team

The consultants should have:

- At least Master's degrees in one of the following majors: animal husbandry, farming system, extension and rural development
- Knowledge and understanding of animal husbandry system in Central Vietnam
- Strong skills and proven experience in conducting field survey of farming system, animal husbandry

- Good experience in working with ethnic minority people
- Strong analytical skills with both quantitative and qualitative, participatory methods.
- Strong coordination/organization/networking skills and experience in working in team
- Excellent English and Vietnamese writing skills.
- Publications in the field of livestock and/or animal husbandry are an added value.

9. Proposal submission

The Proposal should be specified in terms of:

- Introduction of the Consultants' profile and related experience (CVs);
- Technical proposal including an overview of the team structure and roles, suggestions for a preliminary survey methodology (proposed methods, sampling strategy, data collection and analysis process etc), preliminary consultancy workplan (including field survey and quality control plan).
- Financial proposal that specifies the number of working days required and consultancy rate (in VND and USD) and breakdown of major cost components;
- Work sample of a similar or related work

How to Apply: The Proposal should be submitted in English by email with subject mentioning, "Conducting field survey and developing a technical process of specialty back piglet production" to email: khanhhl@crdvietnam.org

The closing date for application: May 5th, 2020