



Terms of reference to support seed adaptability trials in Kitgum and Lamwo districts

10th August 2026

Project: Strengthening Community-Based Climate Adaptation in Uganda and South Sudan (STRENGTH) project.

Funding partner. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA)

1.0. Background

The STRENGTH project is a two-and-a-half-year initiative supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA) and is being implemented through a Consortium led by ADRA Denmark, in partnership with Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and the Danish Family Planning Association. The project, in Uganda is implemented by ADRA Uganda as the lead implementing partner and Reproductive Health Uganda as part of a wider Uganda-South Sudan Consortium.

This project is being implemented in Uganda's Acholi (Kitgum and Lamwo) and Karamoja (Kaabong and Karamoja) districts with the aims to reduce climate-related loss of livelihoods and natural resources, while helping prevent conflict and displacement linked to competition over land, water and pasture with three outcome areas including; preparedness and anticipatory actions; climate-smart livelihoods and conflict-sensitive natural resource management; and women's empowerment, SRHR/gender equality and inclusive decision-making.

Following trainings and assessments by NARO, local government and private extension workers on ADRA-supported farms and practical Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) sessions, the project plans to conduct seed adaptability trials to generate local evidence on variety performance. This will enable farmers to make informed decisions based on results observed under their management practices and specific agro-ecological conditions. Recognizing market-quality seeds with resilience traits such as drought tolerance, pest resistance, early maturity, and high yields, the trials will focus on six key crops vital for food security and income: maize, beans, groundnuts, soybeans, sunflower, and cassava.

2.0. Purpose of the assignment:

To generate locally grounded evidence on the performance of climate-resilient seed varieties through participatory trials, enabling farmers in Kitgum and Lamwo to make informed decisions and promoting the adoption of resilient crops suited to their agro-ecological conditions.

3.0. Objectives

- a. Develop a tailored methodology for conducting seed adaptability trials considering the specific conditions of the project sites.
- b. Coordinate with local farmers, extension workers, and stakeholders to select trial sites and ensure community engagement.
- c. Conduct participatory seed trials, managing and documenting crop performance based on key indicators such as yield, drought tolerance, and pest resistance.

- d. Analyze trial data and produce recommendations for scaling successful seed varieties and integrating findings into local extension services.

4.0. Scope of Work and Activities

- a. Develop a detailed methodology for conducting seed adaptability trials tailored to the agro-ecological conditions of the project sites.
- b. Coordinate with local farmers, extension workers, and relevant stakeholders to select trial sites and facilitate community engagement.
- c. Conduct participatory seed trials over the designated cropping season, ensuring proper management, documentation, and data collection on crop performance.
- d. Analyze trial results to assess variety performance based on predetermined indicators such as yield, drought tolerance, pest resistance, and maturity period.
- e. Provide technical guidance and training to farmers and project staff on seed evaluation, data recording, and adaptive management practices.
- f. Prepare comprehensive reports detailing trial methodologies, findings, and recommendations for scaling successful varieties.
- g. Facilitate stakeholder workshops to discuss results, gather feedback, and promote wider adoption of resilient varieties.

5.0. Deliverables and Outputs

- a) Inception Report and Trial Implementation plan – A detailed plan outlining the methodology, site selection, stakeholder engagement plan, and timeline for the seed trials (Week 1)
- b) Participatory Seed Trials – Successful execution of seed adaptability trials across selected sites with documented observations and data. (Week 2 – Week 4)
- c) Progress reports – Regular progress updates during the trial period and a comprehensive final report summarizing methodology, results, analysis, and recommendations. (Week 4 to Week 12)
- d) Capacity Building Sessions or Farmer Field Schools – Training workshops and materials provided to farmers and local staff on seed selection, evaluation and adaptive farming practices.
- e) Policy and Adoption Recommendations – A document highlighting strategies for scaling successful seed varieties and institutionalizing the trial findings within local agricultural extension frameworks.
- f) Dissemination Workshop – A stakeholder workshop to share results, gather feedback, and promote the adoption of climate-resilient seed varieties.

6.0. Timeline

20th August to 30th November 2026

7.0. Geographic Scope

- Uganda, Acholi sub-region (Kitgum and Lamwo)

8.0. Expertise and Qualifications

- A Master's degree in Agronomy, Plant Science, Crop Science, or a related field held by the consultant or team of consultants is preferred.
- Minimum of 10 years of proven experience in conducting seed variety trials, adaptive research, or participatory crop evaluation, preferably in Northern Uganda.
- Demonstrated expertise in climate-smart agriculture, resilient seed varieties, and seed technology dissemination.
- Experience working with smallholder farmers and implementing participatory research methods.

- Strong knowledge of crop production systems, seed selection, and variety performance evaluation.
- Proven ability to design and implement adaptive trials, collect and analyze agronomic data.
- Familiarity with participatory approaches for engaging farmers and local stakeholders.
- Ability to conduct training, research, workshops, and farmer field days effectively.
- Knowledge of local languages in Acholi region is an advantage.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Prior experience working in the Acholi region is highly desirable.

10. Logistics and Support

- Location: Field sites in Palabek Ogili in Lamwo; and Orom East in Kitgum
- Team Composition: One – two lead consultant (s), supported by field operators (s)
- Coordination: Regular communication with ADRA Uganda STRENGTH project team; share drafts for feedback; ensure alignment with project guidelines.
- Logistics: The required logistics to be included in the proposal from the candidates.

11. Reporting and Accountability

- The consultant will report to ADRA Uganda's STRENGTH Project Manager.
- Deliverables will be reviewed for quality, evidence base, and alignment with STRENGTH project objectives.
- All outputs will be property of ADRA Uganda and STRENGTH project consortium

12. Budget and Payment

- Please provide a proposed budget with daily rates, estimated travel costs, local accommodation, and any other direct costs.
- ADRA will direct pay prequalified service providers for preparation of the sites/demo farms and purchase of seeds (so do not include this in the budget)

14. Confidentiality and Ethics

- All data collected must be treated as confidential; consent procedures must be followed; reporting should anonymize sensitive information where required.
- Adherence to ADRA Uganda's safeguarding and ethical guidelines.

Submission of a proposal

The proposal should be a 6-8 page technical document detailing objectives, methodology, a detailed timeline, team roles, relevant experience with contact references, a justified budget, and a risk mitigation plan. Include CVs of leads and key members, plus your portfolio. Please send your proposal with subject line 'Application: 'name of consultant' Seed trails in Acholi' to The Procurement and Logistics Officer plo@adrauganda.org; copy in the STRENGTH Project Manager aliguma@adraUGANDA.org.

Submit before 21st August 2026