

## **Annex 1. Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of the RNRRS**

The aim is for an objective assessment of how effectively the ten bilateral programmes in the RNRRS have responded to deliver the agreed outputs of the strategy (what has been met, what will be met, what will not be met and why). In addition, the evaluation will identify components of the programmes which have made, or have strong potential to make an impact on poverty, including impacts on science, policy and communication, and whether or not these components might be continued and how. The evaluation will also seek to learn lessons from programme and project cycle management, institutional partnerships and communications systems operated by the ten Programmes.

### **1. Scope of Work**

The evaluation will look across the ten programmes and address the following themes:

- Achievement of Programme Goals
- Poverty reduction (focused, inclusive and enabling)
- Promotion of economic growth and economic reform
- Mitigation of environmental problems
- Achievement of Programme Purpose
- Impacts on productivity, productive potential and/or production on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis

Deliverables (how successfully have the following issues been managed together; what lessons can be learned about which working practices are the most effective)

- Scientific approach - using the science base, quality of science
- Innovation in technologies
- Problem solving and removal of constraints
- Production systems perspective
- Livelihoods and poverty
- Sustainable development and management of natural resources
- Working with local communities
- Networking and partnerships
- Capacity building and skills transfer - local to regional
- Influencing the global agenda
- Geographic focus
- Lessons for the future
- Project Cycle Management
- Identification of demand
- Stakeholder participation
- Competitive bids
- The logical approach - use of the logical framework
- Good practice in communication
- Spreading the word and identifying uptake pathways
- Multi-disciplinary approach (socio-economics, gender, environment)
- Reporting, monitoring and review

**Programme Management** (recognising some shifts of emphasis by DFID over the lifetime of the Strategy)

- Targets and milestones
- Delivery of outputs against logical framework
- Quality assurance strategy
- Knowledge database
- Role of Programme Advisory Committee
- Role of DFID Lead Advisers

Across the proposed themes, the evaluation will identify lesson learning, best practice and promotion opportunities to enhance the impact of research effort on the lives of poor people in the longer term, and for use in defining the content of research areas (new and continuation of existing themes) by the management of the new DFID research strategy.

## **2. Outputs**

The evaluation team will provide a final report not exceeding 50 pages plus an Executive Summary of no more than five pages. Supplementary information and topic/project reviews may be provided in Annexes.

The evaluation team will present their findings and discuss recommendations at a meeting with DFID's Central Research Department (CRD).

## **3. Conduct of the Work**

The Evaluation will be guided and supported by an Evaluation Steering Group to be appointed by CRD. The Evaluation Steering Group will meet up to four times during the evaluation to cover the following: 1) initial workplan and approach; 2) inception report and selection of projects for field visits; 3) outcomes of field visits and reporting approach; and 4) review of draft final report.

The Evaluation will include support from the PARC, with representatives included within the team structure as appropriate. Costs for PARC's contribution to the Evaluation will be met under a separate contract with DFID. A capability statement and contact details for PARC are included in Annex 1 of the ToRs.

## **4. Indicative team structure:**

Evaluation Team Leader, internationally respected in the field of agricultural research for development, with good leadership skills and research management experience.

Evaluation Core Team of up to three members (exclusive of PARC participation) with experience of: 1) development governance issues, especially in the areas of policy review and institutional or organisational development; 2) rural livelihoods and poverty issues; and 3) agricultural science.

A Support Team of up to seven specialists covering the core disciplines of the ten research programmes (natural resources systems, crop protection, crop post-harvest, plant sciences, forestry, livestock and fisheries). These specialists will be experts within the given field but without vested interest in the programmes. PMs may be invited to suggest up to three nominations from which selections could be made.

A Research Assistant collating data from the team members and field visits. PARC could provide this role.

## **5. Indicative work programme**

Specialist Team members screen the Programmes' impact assessment frameworks (structured inventory matrix, impact pathways and impact assessment questionnaires) and identify topics of research (clusters of projects or single projects) which would be worthy of further investigation to compare and contrast against the different theme areas of the evaluation. (The number of topics selected per discipline will vary according to Programme size. Plus or minus five per discipline might be a rough indicator.) Nominations discussed with PMs to identify potential field visits. Core team identifies a visit schedule with a focus on one/two regions in each of Africa and South Asia.

At the same time as the review by the Specialist Team, the Core Team will assess the governance structure and management arrangements of the RNRRS by reviewing relevant strategy documents, structured inventory matrices and interviewing PMs and DFID staff. Project Managers in host countries may be interviewed over the 'phone or by email questionnaire as appropriate.

The Evaluation Team will produce an inception report for the Steering Group to present interim findings and to propose the rationale and selection of topics for further study during the field visits. Once the Steering Group endorse the projects to be visited and the assessment methodologies proposed, the Evaluation Team Leader and Core Team will carry out the regional field visits with back up support from the specialist team members as appropriate.

## **6. Timeframe**

The Evaluation will take an estimated five months from start and should be completed during 2004. The inception report will be submitted one month after the start date. The field visits will be undertaken and the draft report presented to the Steering Group at least two weeks before completion of the Evaluation.