

# Farmer to Farmer Nepal

## SOW development in process

### Organization requesting support: NE210

**A. Assignment preferred dates:** As soon as possible ( from mid-June to first week of July)

### **B. Background of the Organization/Project**

The United States Agency for International Development in Nepal (USAID Nepal) supported Nepal Seed and Fertilizer (NSAF) project is being implemented by International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). NSAF contributes to Feed the Future’s goal of sustainably reducing global poverty and hunger by aligning with the Feed the Future Nepal multi-year strategy (2011–2017) and USAID’s Country Development Cooperation Strategy for Nepal (2014–2019).

The project aims to strengthen the country’s seed and fertilizer systems by:

- enhancing the capacity and role of public, private and community sectors in the seed and fertilizer value chains through the provision of technical and business development services;
- improving private sector access to inbred lines and research knowledge from national and international research institutions; and
- enhancing public-private partnerships and coordination by establishing a tripartite research forum and a seed and fertilizer information system at the national level.

### **C. Issue Description**

The National Seed Vision 2013-25, of the Government of Nepal has envisaged a strong domestic seed industry for export of seed, as well as for meeting local seed demand. For this, qualified managers and technicians are needed to work in the seed companies to professionalize and grow their business. However, presently, there is **no special Seed Science and Technology Course offered in Nepal and the existing courses do not adequately meet the requirement/needs of the national seed industry**. Also, the seed industry is **not getting qualified seed technicians** and are unable to train their existing staff. Therefore, updating new developments in seed science and technology is must for the growth and development of seed industry in Nepal. NSAF has an activity to support and provide technical guidance to develop/revise curriculum related to Seed Science and Technology as per industry requirements. The project is working with agricultural universities and colleges to bridge the gap of required human resources in the areas of seed science and technology as well as crop improvement.

SN	Problem	What is causing the problem	How does it affect the organization/commodity
1	Critical shortage of skilled human resources on seed science and	1. No customized curriculum on Seed Science and Technology 2. Limited number of lecturers in the field	• The seed industry is not getting the required skill and expertise in the market

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	technology and crop improvement.	3. Limited number of breeders and those too not having required knowledge on seed technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortage of skilled manpower is the top most challenge for the private seed companies in running their business</li> </ul>
2	Lack of experience on quality control of seeds on field and lab conditions	1. Apart from the limited number of seed testing technicians their experience is also limited and some cases not following international standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of proper seed quality control/assurance practices allows sub-standard seeds reach to farmers which in turn affects farm level productivity</li> </ul>

### D. Anticipated Results from the Assignment

- Development of a full-fledged curriculum on seed science and technology to AFU and revision and improvement of the existing curriculum on crop improvement /plant breeding
- Increased number of experts on the field to meet the demand of the industry

### E. Desired Volunteer Skills and preferred candidate and contact if any

- Volunteers will be preferred who has experience on curriculum development for under and post graduate levels
- Experiences in the field of crop improvement and seed technology will be very useful
- Experience in seed testing laboratories and awareness on quality standards on seed will be helpful