Name of Project: Sierra Leone Connectivity and Agriculture Market Infrastructure Project (CAMIP)

Client: Ministry of Transport and Aviation

Assignment Name: Consulting Services to Undertake Assessment of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Needs

Assignment Timeline: 3 Months

Project Management Structure:

- **Technical Project Lead:** Ministry of Agriculture through the SCADeP Project Coordination Unit
- **Fiduciary Project Lead:** Ministry of Transport and Aviation

Consultant: Africa Institute for Development and Equity (AIDE).

Consultant Profile: AIDE is a non-governmental organization that was borne out of the exit of CORDAID--an international NGO. CORDAID was legally transitioned into a local NGO called AIDE in March 2022. As CORDAID, they implemented private sector and economic opportunities projects for World Bank SLACP, USAID, and Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since the transition, AIDE has implemented private sector and economic opportunities projects for World Bank SCADeP, World Bank SLACP, World Bank Economic Diversification Project, and most recently, World Bank CAMIP. For more information on AIDE visit www.aidesl.org and www.facebook.com/aidesalone

Key Experts: Mohamed Sesay (Team Lead), Dr. Korsu Kandeh (MIS Expert), Ing Mr. Anthony Sawyerr (Infrastructure Expert), Dr. Gbessay Momoh (E&S Expert), and Dr. Osman Nabay (Research Non Key Expert)

Background of Project:

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to enhance transport connectivity and agricultural market access in selected areas of Sierra Leone. The project has 5 components with component 3 being the direct component associated with this assignment. Component 3 has three key interventions which are:

(i) developing climate resilient agricultural market infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of existing open markets with processing and storage facilities, internal pathways, drainage, and water and sanitation facilities; construction of aggregation centers; and provision of facilities for specialized handling of produce
(ii) upgrading the agricultural market information systems, and
(iii) capacity building and training

However, to reach the first intervention and carry out the final two interventions, there is a need to conduct a comprehensive value chain specific assessment of the agricultural marketing infrastructure requirements in and around the project areas of Sumbuya, Komrabai, Kabba and Moselolo. This assessment will inform the three interventions and provide the needed information, reports, and strategies to ensure the project development objectives for the three interventions and overall, for the project are reached and done so in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Key Areas of Focus for Assignment

The selection criteria for facilities and upgrades will be based on this technical assessment assignment integrating exposure to climate change related hazards, infrastructure vulnerabilities and gender considerations to reduce post-harvest losses. This assignment should inform the project on:

- Where to construct new infrastructure, and on where rehabilitating and upgrading existing infrastructure that supports the aggregation, storage, processing, and trading of agricultural products is needed—based on key agricultural products and value chains that drive economic activity on a community, regional, national, transborder, or global level.
- The required equipment and related support to promote climate-resilient and safe commodity value chains. Specifically, the support will focus on rehabilitation and upgrade of existing open markets with storage and processing facilities; construction of new aggregation centre's; provision of facilities for specialised handling of produce; and the construction of internal market pathways, drainage, and water and sanitation facilities (with separate bathrooms and changing rooms for men and women) in selected market canters. The employment and use of solar power to generate energy for powering lighting, cooling, and other electrical systems. Solar water heating systems will be used to provide hot water for cleaning and sanitation purposes.

Geographical Scope of Assignment

- **Bridge Location 1:** Sumbuya Ferry Crossing, Bo District, Southern Province
- **Bridge Location 2:** Moselolo Ferry Crossing, near Gbangbatoke, Moyamba Ditrict, Southern Province
- **Bridge Location 3:** Komrabai Ferry Crossing, near Mile 91, Tonkolili District, Northern Province
- **Bridge Location 4:** Kabba Ferry Crossing, near Kamakwe, Karene District, Northwestern Province

Value Chains to be Assessed

The scope of a value chain assessment for agricultural market infrastructure will involve analyzing the entire chain of activities and resources required to bring key agriculture agricultural products from producers to consumers--with a focus on the market infrastructure that supports within and around the planned construction of four bridges. The assessment will helps identify gaps, inefficiencies, and opportunities for improving the infrastructure that enables agricultural value chains to function effectively--including identifying barriers to different demographic groups, particularly women, youth, and marginalized communities' participation and access to infrastructure.

The assessment will target key agricultural value chains in these regions, and the criteria for Selection will include:

- **Economic Importance:** Crops that significantly contribute to the national or regional economy.
- **Food Security:** Crops that are essential for local consumption and food security.
- **Current and Future Market Potential:** Crops with existing or potential access to domestic and international markets.
- **Suitability:** Crops that are well-suited to local agro-ecological conditions.

Below are examples of value chains that would be considered during the assessment

- **Staple Crops:** Rice, maize, cassava, etc.
- **Cash Crops:** Cocoa, coffee, oil palm, etc.
- **Horticulture:** Vegetables, fruits, etc.
- **Livestock:** Poultry, cattle, goats, etc.
- **Fisheries:** Aquaculture and riverine fisheries, where applicable.

Key Engagements

The consultant will engage with key stakeholders--including farmers, cooperatives, associations, government agencies, NGOs, and other market actors, to finalize the list of key crops for the assessment.

Assessment Methodology

The assessment will take the form as follows:

1) Inception Report and Development of Tools: Two Weeks

2) Mapping and Identification of Value Chain Actors: One Month

- **Input Suppliers:** Identify suppliers of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and equipment.
- **Producers:** Assess the characteristics of farmers (e.g., smallholders, commercial farmers) and their production practices.
- **Processors:** Identify primary and secondary processors involved in adding value (e.g., milling, packaging).
- **Traders:** Map wholesalers, retailers, and exporters who facilitate the movement of crops from producers to markets.
- **Support Services:** Include financial institutions, extension services, and transport/logistics providers.

3) Mapping Value Chain Activities: 10 Days Duration

- **Production:** Document the agricultural practices, input use, and technology adoption at the farm level.
- **Post-Harvest Handling:** Analyze practices related to storage, drying, grading, and packaging.
- **Processing:** Examine the methods and scale of processing, including any value-adding activities.
- **Distribution and Marketing:** Track the flow of goods from production to final markets, identifying key distribution channels.
- **Consumption:** Understand consumer preferences, demand trends, and market segmentation.

4) Assessing Key Infrastructure Components: The assessment will focus on the following key marketing infrastructure components:

- **Physical Infrastructure: 10 Days Duration**

  - **Market Centers:** Assess the adequacy, accessibility, and condition of market centers where agricultural products are bought and sold. Consider factors such as market size, design, hygiene, and facilities available for traders and consumers.
  - **Transportation Networks:** Evaluate the road and water transport infrastructure that connects farms to markets, processing facilities, and export points. Assess the efficiency, reliability, and cost of transportation services.
  - **Storage Facilities:** Analyze the availability, capacity, and quality of storage infrastructure (e.g., warehouses, silos, cold storage) to prevent post-harvest losses and maintain product quality.
  - **Processing Facilities:** Evaluate the existing processing infrastructure, including its capacity, technology, and accessibility for producers. Consider both small-scale and industrial processing facilities.
  - **Utility Infrastructure:** Assess the availability of essential utilities such as electricity, water, and sanitation in market areas, processing sites, and storage facilities.

- **Institutional and Service Infrastructure: 10 Days Duration**

  - **Market Information Systems:** Review the systems in place for providing market information, including price trends, demand forecasts, and market access opportunities. Assess the effectiveness of these systems in reaching farmers and other value chain actors.
  - **Financial Services:** Evaluate the accessibility and relevance of financial services (e.g., credit, insurance) available to value chain actors for investing in market infrastructure.
  - **Regulatory Environment:** Analyze the policies, regulations, and standards that govern the operation of agricultural markets and the use of infrastructure. Consider aspects such as market access, food safety standards, and land use policies.
  - **Support Services:** Review the availability and effectiveness of extension services, technical assistance, and training programs that support value chain actors in utilizing market infrastructure effectively.

- **Environmental and Social Safeguards: 10 Days Duration**

The assessment will integrate environmental and social safeguards into the planning and design of the proposed infrastructure, including:

  - **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Identify and assess potential environmental impacts of the proposed infrastructure projects, including impacts on local ecosystems, water resources, and biodiversity.
  - **Social Impact Assessment (SIA):** Evaluate potential social impacts, including land acquisition, displacement of communities, and impacts on vulnerable groups, such as women and indigenous communities.
  - **Mitigation Measures:** Develop strategies to mitigate identified environmental and social risks, ensuring that infrastructure projects are sustainable and socially inclusive.
  - **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that their concerns and needs are considered in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects.

5) Data Analysis: 4 Weeks Duration

- **Infrastructure Gap Analysis:** Identify gaps between existing infrastructure and the specific needs of agricultural value chains in the regions surrounding the proposed bridge construction sites.
- **Value Chain Analysis:** Evaluate the specific infrastructure requirements for each agricultural value chain, focusing on improving market access, reducing costs, and increasing efficiency.
- **Environmental and Social Impact Analysis:** Assess potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed infrastructure developments and recommend mitigation strategies.
- **Feasibility and Impact Analysis:** Assess the feasibility and potential economic, environmental, and social impacts of proposed infrastructure improvements.

6) Deliverables

- (1) Inception Report, (2) Update Report, (3) Draft Report (4)Final Report
- Research publication on assignment to be completed by Dr. Osman Nabay (Ari-Sol)—with the support of the key experts.