Terms of Reference

SPIA (Standing Panel on Impact Assessment)
CGIAR Advisory Services

Background

The Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) is an external, impartial panel of experts in impact assessment appointed by the System Council and accountable to it. SPIA is responsible for providing rigorous, evidence-based, and independent strategic advice to the broader CGIAR System on efficient and effective impact assessment methods and practices, including those measuring impacts beyond contributions to science and economic performance, and on innovative ways to improve knowledge and capacity on how research contributes to development outcomes. SPIA’s mandate is to:

- Expand and deepen evidence of impact of CGIAR research investments on CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) outcomes and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- Support CGIAR’s strong commitment to embed a culture of impact assessment into the System.

Role

We seek a highly skilled and motivated individual to join us as a full-time Consultant. The position will entail close collaboration and assistance to Karen Macours, Paris School of Economics and Chair of SPIA. This is a one-year position with the possibility of renewal for a second year, starting in the Summer or early Fall of 2020. The position involves responsibilities that serve as excellent preparation for Ph.D. programs in economics, including data processing and analysis, survey design, literature reviews, and presentations.

Key Responsibilities

The tasks to be carried out by the Consultant are to be focused on the following activities:

- Provide scientific and technical analysis in support of the planning, implementation and monitoring of the SPIA workplan;
- Provide general research support to Prof. Macours, including data collection and analysis; preparation of presentation materials; support with manuscript preparation etc.;
- Conduct literature reviews and other background analysis to support design of calls for expressions of interest/proposals;
- Read and critique completed impact studies and impact study designs, as part of support to development of CGIAR impact assessment guidance document;
- Draft /co-authoring blog posts or other commentaries related to impact assessments;
- Engage with the broader SPIA team;
- Interact with the CGIAR Impact Assessment Community of Practice.

The Consultant will work close with SPIA academic panel members, researchers from SPIA’s national data systems team, and the CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat.

The position may also involve travel and fieldwork in support of SPIA-funded projects in the field and/or for the design & scoping of impact assessment opportunities, including in sub-
Saharan Africa and other developing regions (conditions permitting). The person hired in this position will also be invited to take part in face-to-face meetings of SPIA. Attendance at these meetings might involve international travel. Travel would be paid for by SPIA.

Qualifications and competencies

- At least 1 year of graduate course work (Master or PhD) in economics or a closely related field completed
- Excellent written English
- An interest in agriculture in developing countries, including agricultural innovations
- Strong quantitative skills, including experience with data analysis and econometrics
- Knowledge of impact assessment

Procedures and next steps

Applicants should submit a CV, a cover letter, and a writing sample (preferably a paper showing some original analytic work or literature review) to Ira Vater (spia@cgiar.org) and Karen Macours (karen.macours@psemail.eu). The cover letter should provide some indication of interests in (and knowledge of) agriculture and/or impact assessment. Review of applications will start on July 6, 2020 and until the position is filled (no later than July 30, 2020). Only shortlisted individuals will be contacted.