



Call for expression of interest for a consultant to develop a hand book and an easy to read manual on legal empowerment of women and youth in Agri-food Systems

The International Livestock Research Institute indicates that women make up 43% of the agricultural labour force in low- and middle-income countries.¹ In Kenya, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) records that about 80% of Kenyan women are currently engaged (in some capacity) in smallholder farming.² The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) estimates that only about 10% percent of the youth labour force is engaged in agriculture.³ The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis Special Paper No. 29 of 2019, indicates women are majority in food crop production at 28% while men major in cash crop production at 34 per cent.⁴ The agricultural sector is predominantly operated by older individuals, with the average age of Kenyan farmers hovering around 59-60 years.

Despite being the backbone of agriculture in the country, women still face hurdles to access agricultural resources including land. Social-cultural power imbalances between men and women exposes them to marginalization in agri-business. For instance, about less than 10% of Kenyan women own land in their own right, and less than 10% have access to any form of credit (about less than 1% have access to agricultural credit).⁵ They seldom understand their rights to land in family set-ups of family land, making it easy for them lose family land without spousal consent. The situation is exacerbated by the prohibitive costs and logistical complexities of access to justice through courts. While informal justice mechanisms are comparably accessible, they are mostly heavily influenced by traditional and cultural biases against women.

The control and accessibility of crucial agribusiness assets, such as land, pose a challenge for the youth, as land ownership is often retained by parents. Frequently, young people find themselves with either no land or small parcels, that cannot support access to agricultural finance. Land tenure issues continue to impede many young people from participating in agriculture, as several of them utilize land without exclusive ownership rights.⁶

¹ International Livestock Research Institute 'Gender Equality, Youth and Social inclusion'
<https://www.ilri.org/gender-equality-youth-and-social-inclusion>

² USAID 'Kenya: Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative'
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/202205/Womens_Economic_Empowerment_Kenya_Fact_Sheet_.pdf

³ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation 'Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2018- 2022'
https://kilimo.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Kenya-Youth-in-Agribusiness-Strategy_signed-Copy.pdf

⁴ Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development 'Agricultural Soil Management Policy 2023'
<https://kilimo.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Agricultural-Soil-Management-Policy-2023.pdf>

⁵ USAID (n 2)

⁶ J M Rogito 'Access to Land and Youth Involvement in Agricultural Value Chains in Kenya' International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 2024, 11(01), 2185–2193 < <https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2024.11.1.0239> >



Deeply entrenched gender inequalities and stereotypes, cultural perceptions, low incomes, a weak socio-economic negotiating position and a lack of opportunities disadvantage women and youth in the Agri-food systems. Additionally, some of women and youth who lease land for agribusiness lack capacity to engage in legally binding leasehold agreements and are susceptible to losing their investments to unscrupulous land owners. Further, gender disparity in the nature and sharing of the income derived from agribusiness further disadvantage women. In a nutshell, challenges that hinder women and youth effective participation in Agri-food systems include exclusion in the policy making processes and inadequate knowledge on critical issues regarding: contract farming, land leasing for agriculture, property rights with respect to matrimonial property and succession including spousal consents, conversion of freehold to leaseholds, legal aspects of agricultural finance and insurance for farmers, intellectual property rights, environmental and climate issues including sale of carbon credits, labour laws, management of cooperatives (by-laws), and low appreciation of sectoral regulatory frameworks and policies.

Youth and gender-transformative and innovative approaches that address structural inequalities are pivotal for sustainable agri-food systems. Such approaches include increasing women youths agency to effectively engage in agribusiness through legal empowerment. It is on this background that Amka Africa has partnered with Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) through the project 'Sustainable Transformation of the Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies (AgSys) to engage a consultant to develop a comprehensive handbook and an easy-to-read legal empowerment manual to address the above challenges.

Timelines

The study will take place in the month of October. The consultant/s shall be expected to deliver the final report within 15 working days from the date of execution of the contract.

Deliverables

The consultant shall submit the following deliverables to Amka Africa:

- (a) An inception report outlining details of activities with a proposed methodology and delivery dates.
- (b) A comprehensive training handbook and an easy-to-read version on legislations, policies and tools to empower women and youth in Agri-food systems

Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant



The prospective consultant will be selected based on their proven experience in the subject matter, qualifications, and ability to deliver good quality work in a timely and efficient manner. Minimum qualifications, experience, knowledge, and other capabilities of the consultant must include:

- (a) A law degree or any other relevant degree from a reputable University. A masters of laws degree or in any other related field is an added advantage.
- (b) Demonstrable knowledge and or experience in human rights and policy analysis, particularly on Agri-food systems.

Remuneration of the Consultant/s

Remuneration for the assignment will be determined and agreed upon between Amka Africa and the consultant/s within the contract. All payments will be subject to withholding tax deductions as per the Laws of Kenya. Payments will be made by bank transfer or any other means as may be convenient upon submission of an invoice by the consultant/s.

Application Procedure

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information:

- (a) Personal CV including experience in similar projects and at least 2 references for or with whom the candidate has ever conducted an analysis or study.
- (b) Expression of interest explaining why you are the most suitable person for the work and providing a brief methodology on how you will approach and conduct the work; and the expected remuneration for undertaking the assignment

Interested persons are encouraged to send their expression of interest with all the required documents to info@amkafrica.org not later than 9th October 2024 at 5P.M EAT. Only the successful candidate will be contacted