

Terms of Reference for Special Study in Nepal and Ethiopia

The Impact of Plantwise on Plant Health System Performance and Responsiveness

The Plantwise Programme

Plantwise is a global programme managed by CABI, which is currently being implemented in 34 countries. The overall objective of Plantwise is to increase food security, alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods by enabling farmers around the world to lose less, grow more and improve the quality of what they grow. The Plantwise strategy focuses on strengthening systems for providing plant health advice to smallholder farmers through three core and inter-related interventions:

- 1) **Plant clinic networks at the core.** Working with existing extension providers in target countries to implementing networks of quality plant clinics in order to support farmers in solving biotic (pests and diseases) and abiotic (e.g. nutrient deficiencies, weeds) problems where there is the greatest need. Gender equity drives the efforts to support delivery of services to farmers in an equitable manner: women and men, young and old, as well as different social and ethnic groups.
- 2) **Systems for management and use of plant clinic data:** Supporting the establishment of appropriate systems and procedures for managing plant clinic data, which enable the pro-active use of data for operational and strategic purposes at the local and national levels.
- 3) **A systems approach:** Working with key stakeholders to improve the *capacity and responsiveness of national plant health systems* by strengthening linkages between agricultural service providers, plant health regulatory bodies, research and training institutes and agro-input suppliers. The plant clinics and the associated data management systems constitute a strategic entry point for capturing and understanding farmer demand and identifying the needs for systems response.

According to Plantwise Theory of Change the programme aims to build plant health systems by linking farmers to extension, extension providers to each other, extension services to technical experts, input suppliers to extension, and regulatory bodies to extension.

The country interventions are under-pinned by Plantwise's efforts to strengthen global response systems in order to deal with plant health threats:

- Fostering diverse national, regional and international partnerships that underpin and sustain global efforts to remove constraints to agricultural productivity
- Developing a global Knowledge Bank that provides data collection and management tools; and through a crowd sourcing approach brings together existing and new information on plant health to support and inform stakeholders in national plant health systems, international bodies and the commercial sector, with long-term potential for effective global vigilance.

The Study

The Plantwise strategy rests on the assumption that stronger linkages between plant health stakeholders, more proactive use of plant clinic data and better plant health services for farmers will lead to improvements in the performance and responsiveness of national plant health systems. There is growing evidence from Plantwise countries of new synergies emerging as a results of applying a systems approach to plant health: e.g. diagnostic laboratories and specialists providing backstopping to plant clinics; new diseases being identified through the plant clinics leading to the establishment of national task forces; extension providers coordinating efforts around broader campaigns. The recent and rapid expansion of ICTs has opened up for new opportunities to connect people within the system. In a number of countries social networks of plant doctors and specialists, and in some cases farmers, have been established through WhatsApp and Telegram, leading to quicker response times.

While performance assessment of human health systems has a long history, the plant health system (PHS) concept is relatively new. Plantwise's PHS framework is based on six interdependent pillars (inspired by WHO's health system model from 2007): Farmer advisory services; Plant health information management (or systems); Diagnostic services; Research and technology development; Input supply; Policy, regulation and control (including governance). The development of frameworks, methods and tools for assessing PHS performance and responsiveness is in its infancy. CABI is commissioning a study to develop an appropriate methodology and to evaluate whether or not Plantwise has influenced system change and what have been the outcomes of these changes.

Study Objective

To assess changes in the Plant Health System's performance and responsiveness in selected countries induced by the Plantwise programme.

Specific objectives

1. **To develop a framework for the assessment of PHS performance and responsiveness including key indicators, methods and tools:** The framework should define the key indicators of PHS performance and responsiveness and enable measurement in a meaningful way.
2. **To evaluate how the Plantwise intervention has influenced the PHS:** Has there been an influence of Plantwise actions in country on the different PHS components and their interaction? How has the programme influenced linkages and changed ways of working among plant health system stakeholders? Where has Plantwise made its biggest contributions? What changes have been observed and how has this influenced PHS performance using the indicators defined under specific objective 1?
3. **To learn lessons that will inform Plantwise intervention in the future:** How do the different PHS components and their interaction influence performance outcomes? What governance and management structures need to be in place to ensure a responsive system? Where are the main blockages? What are the key challenges and opportunities for improving system performance?

Methodology

The proposed methodology should include collecting and analysing data on key PHS attributes that allow for the identification of factors that have an impact on system performance, including strengths as well as weaknesses. Variables proposed for this research should include both external and as well internal factors that affect plant health systems and how Plantwise has influenced and been influenced by these factors.

Deliverables



- Individual country reports in English (15-20 pages) (finalised with CABI)
- Overall synthesis report in English with a 500-1000-word summary (20-25 pages)
- PowerPoint presentation (not more than 30 slides)
- A draft paper for a suitable peer-reviewed journal
- A generic framework and guide for plant health system performance assessments in other countries
- Every country visit will conclude with a de-briefing with Plantwise partners and CABI staff to present preliminary findings and recommendations and record their feedback.

Submission of Proposal

The interested consultants and firms may send their technical and financial bids to recruitment@cabi.org by close of business May 19th, 2017. Applicants may request additional relevant Plantwise documents e.g., the programme Logframe, etc. Those who have already applied need not re-apply.

The proposal should as a minimum include:

- The consultant's interpretation of the task as outlined in the Terms of Reference
- Proposed methodology, including conceptual framework, study design, tools and analysis
- Members and qualifications of the study team
Timeline and budget

Annex No.	Title	Document
1	Plantwise Logframe	 Adobe Acrobat Document
3	Plantwise Programme Strategy	 Adobe Acrobat Document