

**Consultancy Position:** IMMANA Evaluation Consultant

**Total Budget:** £ 50,000 (ending July 2019)

**Line Manager:** Principal Investigator

## Background

[Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions \(IMMANA\)](#) is a research initiative led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in partnership with Tufts University and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. IMMANA is coordinated by the [Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health \(LCIRAH\)](#) and is funded by the [UK Department for International Development \(DFID\)](#).

LCIRAH aims to accelerate the development of a robust and coherent scientific evidence base, which will underpin effective and cost-effective investments in agriculture-food systems for improved nutrition and health. LCIRAH was established in 2010 to build a new inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary platform for integrating research in agriculture and health, with a focus on international development goals. The Centre brings together researchers from the LSHTM, SOAS, Royal Veterinary College (RVC), and their partners, to develop research approaches and methodologies that integrate agricultural and health research.

LCIRAH sits within the [London International Development Centre \(LIDC\)](#), a multi-institutional initiative established to promote inter-institutional and interdisciplinary research focused on low and middle income countries.

### **Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA)**

IMMANA's objectives are to:

1. Stimulate the development of innovative methodological approaches and novel metrics in agriculture and food systems for improved health and nutrition;
2. Build a cadre of early-career researchers skilled in developing and applying cutting-edge methods and metrics;
3. Facilitate learning, sharing and new interdisciplinary research collaborations;
4. Develop scientific evidence to inform policies and investments in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health.

To achieve these objectives three inter-locking and synergistic programme workstreams have been established:

1. [Competitive Research Grants](#) directed at accelerating the development of new and innovative interdisciplinary metrics and methods, filling the key knowledge gaps including theory-driven impact evaluation;
2. [Research Fellowships](#) for Early Career Scientists directed at building a cadre of early career researchers who are using and developing/adapting new methodological approaches with mentors in ongoing research programmes in LMICs; and
3. [The Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy](#) - a global research network that links researchers and research groups; promotes interdisciplinary dialogue and institutional linkages by facilitating collaborative work under relevant thematic areas; ensures rapid sharing, development and use of the best approaches emerging from their work and; provides a knowledge-sharing and research communication platform for the IMMANA fellows and grantees.

These elements are closely integrated to generate the following **Outputs**: a) Innovative methods and metrics generated, published and widely disseminated through IMMANA grants and fellowships; b) 24 early career

scientists trained in using and developing/adapting these new methodological approaches; c) an established research community of practice on metrics and methods development and uptake.

IMMANA will generate the following **Outcomes**: a) A strong suite of innovative and robust methodological approaches and novel metrics in agriculture, nutrition health research b) effective capacity development of young researchers skilled in developing and applying cutting-edge methods and developing successful research programmes and careers and c) Strengthened international, interdisciplinary research collaboration mobilized to deliver the best metrics and methods for robust evidence-based policy making and programme design and evaluation.

Using mixed method approaches and diverse data sources, the evaluation of IMMANA will include (retrospective) baseline, mid-term and end-line assessments conducted by a third-party team of evaluators, with inputs from the project team. Some of the potential methodologies to consider include outcome mapping, stakeholder influence mapping, event analysis, stakeholder surveys and case studies.

## Primary Objectives for the IMMANA Evaluation Consultant

The consultant will use IMMANA's logical framework to address the key evaluation question: '*Has IMMANA accelerated the development of a robust and coherent scientific evidence base which will underpin effective policy and investments in agriculture for improved nutrition and health?*' by looking at:

- *Successes*: achievements related with the objectives of IMMANA, as well as its expected outputs and outcomes; results, achievements or outcomes that came about as a result of the work, though not necessarily linked to expected outputs or outcomes.
- *Challenges*: obstacles encountered that hindered the achievements of objectives, expected outcomes and outputs, as well as strategies employed to overcome any such obstacles.
- *Lessons Learnt*: analysed over time, showcasing the programme's evolution over time and the impact created.

The consultant will bring key skills and experience to define evaluation questions and objectives and will be responsible for the developing an effective evaluation protocol. The evaluation questions and the evaluation protocol proposed by the evaluator will be reviewed by IMMANA, and will include a desk review of pertinent project documents and records (including the original project proposals, log frames, annual reports, activity reports, and various records containing monitoring data), in addition to data collection from partner organisations, such as through key informant interviews.

The Evaluator will play a leading role in shaping and improving our M&E and theories of change.

*Primary objectives* include:

- To develop IMMANA's results-based monitoring and evaluation strategy. This will include reviewing IMMANA's *theory of change* with risks and assumptions and thinking through indicators for outputs, outcomes (purpose) and impacts (goal) and the methods needed to collect ongoing data for the project deliverables, as well as building in mid-term assessments and post-project evaluations as appropriate;
- To help ensure that IMMANA meets the requirements for evaluations set out in our DFID grant agreement,
- To evaluate, against IMMANA programme framework, progress towards achievement of agreed targets and milestones, and to supervise regular data collection through implementing partners and ensure quality of the data by random verifications and validations;
- To conduct an independent evaluation of IMMANA, and to analyse and discuss findings.

## Evaluation Implementation

Activities in relation to this consultancy are expected to take place between December 2016 and July 2019. Total expected time investment is between 25-30 days every year. Activities of the evaluator will include:

- *Evaluation preparation* (including the evaluation plan, evaluation questions timeline, creating data collection instruments, and compiling an inception report)
- *Data collection* (including performing the initial desk review of project materials and interviews with DFID, global partner organisations and staff)
- *Data analysis and synthesis* (including transcription, data aggregation, writing a draft report, presenting findings, and incorporating feedback from staff and partners into a final report).

The evaluator will have the option to primarily conduct the evaluation from home. Communication with others will be completed through meetings, phone, email or skype. Travel may be required.

Staff will provide support and guidance as needed throughout the evaluation process. Project partners will be available to provide input to the evaluator.

The **deliverables** for this evaluation will include:

- An inception report, outlining the scope and key elements of the evaluation plan (due for approval within the first month of the consultancy).
- In consultation with the project team, DFID and other key stakeholders produce the finalised evaluation questions.
- Develop an evaluation methodology in line with the programme's logical framework and theory of change and in consultation with the IMMANA team and partners.
- Coordinate and conduct the evaluation as per the methodology developed, including retrospective baseline, mid-line and end-line evaluations.
- Presentations of findings (mid-term and end-term) with the involvement of relevant staff.
- Evaluation reports and briefs to be shared with DFID and other global stakeholders detailing key findings, supporting evidence, and pragmatic recommendations.
- A final evaluation report incorporating all relevant feedback and including concrete recommendations on how to improve work around the objectives of IMMANA and in relation to the activities implemented.

## Profile of the consultant

The selected consultant should have demonstrated expertise in results-based project evaluation and familiarity with international academic research programmes pertaining to agriculture and nutrition. In addition, the consultant should have:

- Experience with qualitative and quantitative M&E data collection and analysis methods
- At least 5 years of experience designing and conducting evaluations of international programs in an academic setting
- Strong facilitation, presentation, and communication skills
- Strong ability to communicate effectively in English, both verbally and in writing
- Team player with the ability to closely collaborate with staff, local partners, and stakeholders

**Applications** should be sent to Shoroke Zedan: [IMMANA@Ishtm.ac.uk](mailto:IMMANA@Ishtm.ac.uk) by **November 15, 2016**. Interested applicants should provide:

- 1- **Current CV with most recent daily rate**
- 2- **2 recent references**
- 3- **3-page statement of interest and**
- 4- **Sample evaluation report**
- 5- **Abridged proposal that includes an indicative timeline (start date December 2016- end date July 2019)**

These materials should clearly outline the candidate's key skills and experience that are relevant to this evaluation, as well as any key standards or principles that inform his or her work. For the proposal, please include a concise description of the desired evaluation approach.