



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (MAFS)

**Sustainable Agricultural Value-chains Intensification for Growth
(SAVIG)**

(P513429)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
DIGITAL AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST**

June 2026

Project: Sustainable Agricultural Value-chain Intensification for Growth (SAVIG) Project
Duty Station: Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Freetown, Sierra Leone, with periodic field visits
Duration: One-year contract, renewable annually based on satisfactory performance and project needs, with an initial probation period of six months.

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a financing envelope of US\$40 million from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group to implement the Sustainable Agriculture Value-Chains Intensification for Growth Project (SAVIG) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to recruit a **Digital Agriculture Specialist**. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the National Development Partners Program Coordination Office (NDPPCO). The SAVIG Project is designed to address key structural constraints affecting the agricultural sector, including weak policy and regulatory frameworks, limited access to finance, inadequate input systems, weak market linkages, and low adoption of modern technologies. The project will complement ongoing initiatives such as the Feed Salone Program, SCADeP, and FSRP, ensuring synergy and maximizing development impact.

2. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE (PDO)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to enhance productivity, private investment and job creation in select agriculture value chains in Sierra Leone.

3. PROJECT COMPONENTS

The project comprises four mutually reinforcing components, each addressing a specific set of constraints along the agricultural value chain:

Component 1 – Strengthening Climate-Smart Productivity: This component focuses on strengthening the seed system, enhancing regulatory enforcement, promoting the adoption of climate-smart technologies, and expanding the production of Early Generation Seed. By improving the availability and quality of input, this component aims to directly increase productivity and resilience among smallholders while creating a favorable environment for private sector investment.

Component 2 – Support for Value Addition and Market Access: Recognizing that productivity gains must translate into marketable outputs, this component focuses on improving the aggregation and processing of agricultural commodities, enhancing market access, and mobilizing private sector investment. Performance-based matching grants will incentivize private actors, while cooperatives will be strengthened to serve as reliable partners in structured supply chains. Policy support will also be provided to ensure compliance with domestic and international market standards, including food safety and organic certification.

Component 3 – Support for Digitization and Access to Finance: Digital tools will serve as the backbone of the project's monitoring and service delivery systems. Investments under this component will establish a national digital farm and farmer registry, modernize soil and climate information systems, and enable secure data sharing across the sector. Complementary interventions will strengthen access to finance through technical assistance, risk-sharing facilities, and innovative lending models, ensuring that both farmers and agribusinesses can invest in production, processing, and value addition.

Component 4 – Project Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation: Effective implementation requires robust institutional arrangements. This component supports the PIU, ensuring coordination among implementing partners, technical institutions, and private sector actors. It also finances monitoring and evaluation systems, environmental and social safeguards, procurement, financial management, communications, and knowledge dissemination.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to design, implement, and manage digital agriculture interventions as outlined under component 3.1 (Support to Digital Public Infrastructure) to enhance productivity, efficiency, and market linkages along selected value chains. The Digital Agriculture Specialist will:

- Lead the implementation of the interventions envisaged under the component 3.1 (Support to Digital Public Infrastructure) of the SAVIG project
- Establish and operationalize digital tools like the farmer and farm registry for extension, farm management, aggregation, and market access
- Integrate digital solutions into M&E, climate-smart agriculture, and financial services activities
- Ensure adoption and capacity building of stakeholders in digital agriculture platforms

5. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Digital Agriculture Specialist will lead the implementation of the interventions envisaged under component 3.1 (Support to Digital Public Infrastructure) and operate under the supervision of the Project Coordinator and in close collaboration with the M&E Specialist, Financial Services & Business Development Specialist, Field Officers, and other technical staff.

Responsibilities include:

Digital Solutions Development

- Identify and design digital tools to support farm-level decision-making, market access, aggregation, and off-taker linkages
- Develop mobile-based applications, dashboards, and SMS/USSD services for smallholder farmers and cooperatives
- Integrate digital payment and financial services platforms to support PBMGs, input distribution, and off-take arrangements
- Ensure data interoperability with project M&E and reporting systems

Data Collection, Analysis, and Management

- Support the integration of digital tools for real-time data collection from farmers, cooperatives, and agribusiness partners
- Design dashboards and reports to track productivity, input usage, value addition, and market trends
- Ensure digital solutions capture gender, youth, climate resilience, and financial inclusion indicators

Technology Deployment and Adoption

- Support roll-out of digital agriculture interventions at district and community levels
- Conduct training and capacity-building for farmers, cooperatives, agribusiness staff, and government extension officers
- Promote adoption of digital tools for agronomic advice, input supply, and market information

Innovation and Private Sector Engagement

- Liaise with AgTech companies, fintech providers, and other digital service providers
- Facilitate partnerships between private sector actors and farmers to leverage digital platforms
- Pilot innovative technologies such as digital traceability, e-extension, e-vouchers, and weather/advisory services

Integration with Project Components

- Support digital tracking of PBMG-supported subprojects, including verification of outputs and performance
- Coordinate with the M&E Specialist to ensure digital platforms align with project indicators and reporting needs
- Collaborate with Social Safeguards Specialist to integrate social and environmental monitoring into digital tools

Capacity Building

- Develop training manuals, standard operating procedures, and guidelines for digital agriculture adoption
- Conduct workshops, webinars, and field-based training for stakeholders
- Mentor PIU staff and local officers to manage digital solutions independently

Monitoring, Reporting, and Documentation

- Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on digital agriculture activities and results
- Track KPIs such as digital platform usage, number of farmers reached, input adoption rates, and market engagement
- Document lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations for scaling digital solutions

Other Duties

- Support technical missions and field supervision activities
- Provide technical advice to the Project Coordinator and PIU on emerging digital agriculture technologies
- Perform any other tasks assigned by the Project Coordinator

6. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Education

- Master's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, Agricultural Informatics, Data Science, or related fields

Experience

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in digital agriculture, agri-tech solutions, or ICT for development
- Demonstrated experience in designing, deploying, and scaling digital solutions for agriculture
- Experience with mobile-based services, SMS/USSD, digital dashboards, and data visualization
- Experience in working with donor-funded or government agricultural projects is an advantage
- Proven experience in private sector engagement, fintech, and e-extension services

Skills and Competencies

- Strong knowledge of agricultural value chains and farm-level digital solutions
- Experience in database management, cloud solutions, and GIS-based tools
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office, Excel, Power BI/Tableau, and mobile technology platforms
- Strong analytical, reporting, and problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and stakeholder engagement skills
- Ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams and challenging field environments

Core Competencies

- High integrity, accountability, and commitment to smallholder inclusion
- Leadership and mentoring skills
- Ability to innovate and adopt emerging technologies for agricultural development
- Commitment to gender and youth inclusion in digital solutions

7. DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Deliverables include:

1. Implementation Plan (within first 3 months)
2. Monthly progress reports on digital solutions deployment, usage, and adoption
3. Quarterly analytical reports on digital platform performance and farmer engagement
4. Training manuals, SOPs, and capacity-building materials
5. Inputs into project M&E, PBMG reporting, and donor reporting requirements
6. Annual digital agriculture performance report with lessons learned and recommendations

8. REPORTING LINE

The Digital Agriculture Specialist will report to the Project Coordinator and work closely with:

- M&E Specialist
- Financial Services & Business Development Specialist

- Social Development Specialist
- Field staff, agribusiness partners, the World Bank & IFC, and government technical agencies

9. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EMPLOYER

The PIU shall provide office space and equipment; internet and communication facilities; access to project documents and relevant information; logistical support for field missions; administrative support and operational resources necessary for the execution of the assignment.

10. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

The following reports shall be submitted to the Project Coordinator;

- Monthly/Timesheet
- Quarterly
- Bi – annually
- Annually

11. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested candidates shall submit:

- Cover letter;
- Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- Copies of academic and professional certificates;
- Three professional references;
- Evidence of relevant experience in Digital Agriculture programming.
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