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Term of Reference

Agrochemical uses and waste management in Coffee Production areas of Aceh Tengah and Bener Meriah District-Aceh Province, Indonesia.

1. Background

Currently, there are 21 Fairtrade certified Small Producers Organizations (SPO) in Indonesia located in Gayo highland, particularly in Aceh Tengah and Bener Meriah district of Aceh province. The total members of these SPOs are about 23,219 Households. All of them are small holder producers of well-known Gayo Arabica coffee. Most of the SPOs have been joining Fairtrade system in the last 5 years or more, only a few of them recently certified.

One of the major components of Fairtrade standard regulates a set of requirements for environmental development, including: pest management and hazardous materials use, soil, water and waste management, biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In the last four years, it was found that complying with Environmental Development requirements remain challenging for the most of the SPOs and their members to comply. The main reason is that it is beyond individuals' capacity to comply because of the fact that not all of the farmers in the area are members of FT certified SPOs, and not all of them grow coffees but also other crops. Hazardous chemicals materials for example, are widely used by farmers in the area who grow vegetables in form of pesticides and herbicides to control weeds. Similarly, for waste management, SPOs educate their members on plastic waste management, however the wastes are not only from their members, but also everyone around them. They do not have similar level of awareness and willingness to properly manage the waste. Additionally, there are no facilities locally available to support our farmers for the end point of waste collection of recycle.

On the other hand, countries in global north have imposed a stricter requirement for food product imported to their countries. The European commission for example, recently has introduced a new level of acceptance of residue of several chemicals often used to control pest and weeds for several agricultural products. By 13th of November 2020, the EC required the food items exported to European countries should have maximum residue level of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl substances of 0.01 mg/kg or 0.01 ppm. This requirement apply for all agricultural product, including conventional or not only organic-certified products.

The facts presented above indicate a great need for a more serious action to support FT coffee producers in Gayo Highland to fully participate in FT system that enable them to have a sustainable access to global market. For this, farmers and their organizations need a supportive enabling environment to sustain their business. Collaborative support from stakeholders, including national and local government, research institutions, private sectors, and wider communities are incredibly important.

For this reason, Fairtrade is initiating a comprehensive advocacy effort in collaboration with potential stakeholders. For this, we have developed a project logical framework. The overall goal of the proposed initiative is to improve the lives of small-holder coffee farmers in Gayo Highland through better farming practices and a more enabling environment, which will offer a more stable and sustainable Gayo coffee supply chain around the globe, and thus will also secure and sustain the businesses of its faithful traders and buyers.



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2. About the Research

To start the advocacy initiative, Fairtrade would like to commission a study to better understand the uses of agrochemical materials and waste management by communities in Aceh Tengah and Bener Meriah district-Aceh Province, Indonesia.

The objective of this research is to identify the local practices, drivers and opportunity for improvement of the uses of agrochemicals and waste management at community and district level. The finding of this research will be used to inform the initiation of local regulation that offers a better enabling environment for sustainable coffee farming and coffee business, which in turn will contribute to better welfare of coffee farmers in the area.

The research components include the following:

1. Agrochemicals:

- Mapping existing practices of the use of Agrochemicals by farmers and plantation in the area.
- Identify the agrochemicals used that fall into different Fairtrade categories of hazardous chemical materials.
- Identify the driving factors of agrochemicals uses by communities in the areas.
- Identify the uses of alternative approaches (biological) by communities and the potential for replication.
- Mapping the supply chain of agrochemical materials distribution in the area

2. Waste management

- Documenting the community practice of waste management and best practices
- Documenting the challenges and opportunities for waste management at community and local government levels in the area.

3. Local regulation

- Review relevant existing local regulation on agrochemicals hazardous material and waste management and its enforcement.
- Propose recommendations for Improvement of the use of agrochemicals and waste management at community and district levels

3. Deliverable

The following deliverables are expected within the given time frame

No	Deliverable	Time Frame
1	An Inception report in form of a complete research protocols (methodology, research tools, sample/respondents, timeframe, report outline).	1 week after the contract signing. The field data collection can only be started up on receiving approval of this inception report from Fairtrade Team.
2	Mid-term report on research progress	4 weeks after inception report is approved by FT
3	1 st Draft of research report and separate policy brief	6 weeks after the mid-term report



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4	Final report (max 30 pages including annex), executive summary (max 3 pages) and policy brief (max 3 pages)	1 week after receiving feedback on the 1 st draft report and policy brief from Fairtrade team.
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4. Requirement criteria for research team

The research team should meet the following criteria:

1. Research institution is preferable over individual researcher(s)
2. Researchers' qualification: advance degree in agriculture and (or) environment (Essential)
3. Experience in mix-method and interdisciplinary research (Essential)
4. Experience in conducting research particularly in coffee farming (Essential)
5. Able to travel to the research areas in the coming months (the topic is not ideal for remote study). (Essential)
6. Able to obtain the research permission from local authority. (Essential)
7. Experience in advocacy work (preferable)
8. Able to communicate and produce high quality reports in English and share key finding (executive summary and Policy brief) in English and Indonesian language. (Essential)
9. Willingness to abide by all relevant internal and external policies, including the research ethics policy, protection policy, anti-fraud policy and others.

5. Application

Interested researchers/ research institutions are requested to submit the to:

research@fairtradenapp.org. The application include: Cover letter, Technical and financial proposal (research method, timeline and budget, max 7,000 Euros including tax) and research team composition. Please also provide CV of each researcher and profile of your research institution.

Deadline: 19 July 2021, 13.00 pm Jakarta Time.