WORLD BANK GROUP

Terms of Reference

World Bank Agriculture and Food Global Practice, Data-Driven and Digital Agriculture Team

Short-Term Temporary (STT) / Intern
Creation of a catalogue of databases, tools and analytics for Agriculture and Food GP
Expected Start: August/September 2021

CV and Cover letter to be sent to dddag@worldbank.org before 27 August 2021

Background

The Data-Driven Digital Agriculture Team (DD-DAT), in the Global Engagement Unit of the Agriculture and Food Global Practice, leads the global analytical and advisory work on data driven digital agriculture at the Work Bank.

Data-driven and Digital Agriculture (DA) is a catalyst with wide-ranging potential to transform food systems and affect the lives of billions. Digital technologies dramatically change the interactions between the unparalleled number of actors across the food system, comprising farmers, upstream and downstream enterprises, consumers, and public sector institutions. With a growing two-thirds of the world population having a mobile subscription and nearly half using the internet, digital technologies can offer the 570 million farmers worldwide solutions to make more precise decisions on labor, capital, and natural resource management, lower the costs of linking them to the upstream and downstream markets, increase transparency of agricultural value chains through improved access to information and product traceability, and enhance the knowledge of the world's 7.5 billion consumers on food choice aspects such as price, nutrition, production practices, climate change and environmental impacts.

Analysis by the WB show that first and foremost, the digital revolution is about the new capacity to create, share, and use (and re-use) data for decision-making at all levels of the agro-food value chain. Access to data can support better decision making for private sector stakeholders and consumers, but also for governments for better policies and prioritization of development strategies.

While there are still important data gaps to inform the transformation of the food system, a lot of data and analytics are already available which can be used for better decision making, including governments as well as for international financial and development institutions. But this data landscape is still very scattered, making it difficult for data to find its users and to support actionable insights. This calls for the creation of a global public good with the creation of a Global Food Systems Observatory for better use and re-use of existing data products and services, including by WB operations, governments and private sector, avoiding redundancies of initiatives.

Objective

The WB is producing and accessing many databases and tools which can inform operation and prioritization of activities in the agro-food sector. But operational staff In the Agriculture and Food Global Practice at the World Bank, can struggle to find, assess or use this data. While this data is increasingly made available through the *World Bank Development Data Hub*, there is no clear manual available allowing staff to know what type of data and tools can be used, where to access them, and how they can inform the prioritization of investment projects. A series of interviews with WB staff highlighted how more effort was needed to make data not only accessible but also to showcase what data can be useful for a range of analysis and planning of investment projects at the WB, as well as providing more accessible insights from this data through digests in the form of dashboards.

To remedy this issue and in the lead to the creation of the WB Global Food System Observatory, it is important to take stock of what is already available within the WB and with its partners, and to create an manual about how to use different data sources for creating insights for data-driven Agriculture and Food investment projects investment projects, a one-stop-shop for accessing the data.

DD-DAT is looking for support to catalogue these databases and tools, traditionally used for informing agriculture and food investment projects and developing a manual explaining how these databases and tools have been informing analytical work and investment projects. The catalogue would also include new sources of open data, in particular global platforms which are being created to make data and analytics more readily available, and which could be useful in informing investment projects. For example, the Food System Dashboard and a range of platforms from CGIAR (including a few still to be made available to the public).

Tasks:

The DD-DAT is looking for a Short-Term Temporary (STT) to support the creation of a catalogue and manual of WB and partners databases, platforms and tools useful to inform agriculture and food Global Practice analytical products and investment projects.

- Scanning Agriculture and Food Global Practice analytical reports and investment projects documents for an identification of the type of data and information used to inform findings and prioritization (Ready to use indicators, Enterprise survey, LSMS, Geospatial data, Climate and Economic Modelling).
- Scanning World Bank website and conducting interviews with WB staff and partners to identify tools available and relevant for agriculture and food analytics and investment projects. (For example: The Risk & Resilience Assessment, Climate & Disaster Risk Screening Tools, CSA Profiles etc.)
- Creating a classification of databases and tool and describe how to use them and for what type of insights, as well as their format at the World Bank. For example whether this is a raw database, a processed database or analytical product, a report (such as the CSA profile) and whether the data created and analyzed in this report is accessible (such as the data and figure in the WDR 2021 available in the development Data Hub)
- Bring together this information in a “Data for Agriculture and Food GP analytics and operation manual”.

Desired skills and qualifications:

- Graduate or post-graduate degree in Economics, Agronomics, Climate change, Public Policy, Data Science or related discipline or at least enrolled and pursuing one; a cross-disciplinary background in both data or digital technologies (for example, computer or data science);
- Interest in the Agriculture and Food sector and in academic research;
- Experience in database management;
- Ability to write and communicate confidently in English;

Duration of the appointment:

The appointment would be full time starting in end of August for a period of 6 weeks. Subject to availability of requisite funds, mutual interest and the need to continue this analysis, the appointment may be extended.

Financial compensation and Reporting

Selected candidate would be provided an hourly compensation of US$16 and would report to Ms. Marie-Agnes Jouanjean, TTL.