

Consultancy Terms of Reference

Date of Request:	6th March 2023
Purpose:	a. To review and refine the current monitoring and evaluation framework for the IMMANA programme. b. To develop a protocol to review the impact of the ANH Academy
Period:	March to June 2023
Total budget:	Competitive
Time commitment:	55 days FTE
Line Manager:	IMMANA Principal Investigator/IMMANA Research Uptake Manager

1. 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 (LSHTM) in partnership with Tufts University and University of Sheffield. IMMANA phase 2 is a five-year programme funded by the [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\)](#) and [The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#).

The IMMANA programme aims to improve nutrition and health by strengthening tools, capacity and evidence in agriculture and food systems research. Following a successful first phase of five-years, IMMANA has now expanded its programme of work to consolidate its achievements. IMMANA's objectives are to:

- Stimulate the development and validation of innovative methods and novel metrics in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health;
- Build a cadre of future leaders skilled in developing and applying cutting-edge methods and metrics;
- Facilitate learning, sharing, and new interdisciplinary research collaborations;
- Develop scientific evidence to inform policies and investments in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health.

Resting on these core pillars of research, capacity building and knowledge sharing, IMMANA consists of three inter-locking and synergistic workstreams:

1. [Competitive Research Grants](#) directed at accelerating the development and validation of new and existing methods and metrics at the nexus of agriculture-food systems, nutrition, and health (ANH) – whilst filling 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 \(ANH\) Academy](#) – initially a global research network linking researchers and groups through an annual conference week and training sessions; ensuring rapid sharing, development and use of the best-practice approaches emerging from work in the ANH nexus via working groups and webinars and; providing a knowledge-sharing and research communication platform for the IMMANA fellows and grantees. This has now extended to include:

- a. The *Support Centre for Agriculture and Nutrition Research (SCANR)* which connects researchers with resources and guidance for carrying out interdisciplinary research related to agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and health;
- b. A *Curriculum Enrichment Working Group (CEWG)* to strengthen the capacity of academic institutions in Africa and South Asia;
- c. A *Mentoring Scheme* for early-career researchers in LMICs

These elements are closely integrated to generate the following **Outputs**:

- Publishing and uptake of new and innovative research, methods and metrics disseminated through IMMANA grants and fellowships;
- Expansion of the ANH research leaders and community, and;
- Identifying interdisciplinary collaborations, policy changes, program implementation and investment opportunities initiated through IMMANA and ANH Academy activities;

IMMANA generates the following **Outcomes**:

- A strong suite of innovative, robust and widely used methodological approaches and novel metrics in ANH research;
- Effective capacity development of ANH leaders and young researchers skilled in developing and applying cutting-edge research, and;
- Strengthened international, interdisciplinary research collaboration mobilized to deliver the best metrics and methods for robust evidence-based policy making and programme design and evaluation.

2. Scope of work

The consultant will:

- 1) Conduct a review of the current Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy and IMMANA indicators and provide recommendations to ensure that outputs, outcomes and progress to impacts are effectively and systematically captured.
- 2) Develop a protocol to evaluate how the ANH Academy has contributed to the evolution of the field of Agriculture, Nutrition and Health, focusing on the four objectives of the ANH Academy:
 - Build an interdisciplinary community to share innovative research in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health;
 - Stimulate the development and harmonisation of new research;
 - Help strengthen the capacity of the research community to undertake inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research; and
 - Facilitate the uptake of robust evidence in policies and programming in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health.

2.1. Deliverables

Deliverable No.	Deliverable Name	Deliverable Description	Estimated number of days
1	Inception report	The consultant will be onboarded with IMMANA and produce an inception report,	10 days

		<p>outlining their workplan, timeline and approach to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reviewing the existing IMMANA M&E strategy, data systems and indicators 2) Developing a protocol documenting ANH academy's contribution 	
2	M&E methodology report draft	In consultation with the IMMANA team and partners, the consultant will review the existing IMMANA M&E methodology, data systems and indicators in line with the programme's logical framework and theory of change.	10 days
3	Final M&E strategy and methodology report	Actioning the IMMANA team's feedback, the consultant will produce a final revised M&E methodology document clearly outlining the strategy, data systems and indicators in line with the programmes logical framework and theory of change.	5 days
4	Draft ANH Academy review protocol	Protocol to study ANH Academy's contribution to the field of Food systems for nutrition research and policy, focusing on the four objectives of the ANH Academy.	10 days (no later than the 30th April 2023)
5	Draft report and then a final report	The consultant will produce a draft ANH Academy impact report, and after seeking the IMMANA team's feedback, the consultant will produce a final revised impact report.	20 days (no later than the 15th June 2023)

The consultant will have the option to primarily conduct this work from home. Communication with others will be completed through meetings, phone, email or skype/Zoom. Travel to the LSHTM London office 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 consultant.

Activities in relation to this consultancy are expected to take place between February and May 2023, a total of 55 working days at 1FTE.

3. Profile of 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 of large research programmes and research networks

- At least 5 years of experience designing and conducting evaluations of international research programs in an academic setting
- Strong ability to communicate effectively in English, both verbally and in writing
- Independent worker with the ability to closely collaborate with staff and stakeholders
- Knowledge of nutrition and food systems and familiarity with the ANH Academy is highly desirable

Applications should be sent to the anh-academy@lshtm.ac.uk by **13th March 2023**. Interested applicants should provide:

- Current CV with most recent daily rate
- Cover letter
- Examples of previously completed evaluation reports or reviews
- 2 recent references

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 their work.