### PROJECT DESCRIPTION SHEET

<table>
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<th>Project Name:</th>
<th>Country:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific-Islands Region with Agricultural Advisory Services</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Fiji, and the Philippines</td>
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**Project Location within Country:** Nationwide

**Name of Client:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Start Date:</th>
<th>Completion Date:</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 June 2016</td>
<td>30 June 2019</td>
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**Name of Associated Firm(s), if any:**

1. Agricultural Training Institute – Department of Agriculture (DA-ATI)
2. Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS)
3. Bangladesh Extension Network (BAEN)
4. Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESA)-Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP)
5. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
6. Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (PIRAS)
7. Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

**Narrative Description of the Project:**

The goal of the project is to empower poor smallholder farmers and producer organizations in Asia-Pacific Region (APR) through access to improved, more effective, and demand-driven agricultural advisory services (AAS). The objectives are to:

- **a.** Strengthen individual and organizational capacities of agricultural advisory services stakeholders in the target countries and at regional and sub-regional level which will directly benefit poor farmers, indigenous communities, and producer organizations.

- **b.** Facilitate the availability and accessibility of appropriate and up-to-date knowledge and evidence on innovative advisory services from a range of sources in the APR region (through country fora and through Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services network (APIRAS)) and worldwide (through Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)).
### Key activities by component:

1. **Strengthen capacities of AAS to effectively serve the accessibility needs of smallholder farmers:**
   - a) Identify demand-driven needs for AAS in specific countries by gender;
   - b) Facilitate establishment of demand-driven country platforms, and establishment and strengthening of sub-regional networks of APIRAS;
   - c) Support APIRAS strategic planning workshop to develop regional, sub-regional, and national strategies for AAS and integrate/synthesize common programs across country fora (individual, organizational, policy levels);
   - d) Validate identified capacity development needs from previous studies through a capacity workshop in the region, and develop capacity plans for country platforms at all levels;
   - e) Review curricula within AAS educational and training programs and improve the same through conducting capacity strengthening and networking with the Extension Education Consortium of GFRAS;
   - f) Promote inter-regional, inter-sectorial, and south-south networking, capacity strengthening, and exchange; and
   - g) Collaborate with others in the region undertaking similar capacity development activities.

2. **Knowledge sharing of best-fit practices and evidence in AAS:**
   - a) Develop a database of innovative and sustainable extension approaches that work at scale as a public good;
   - b) Document and share good practices in AAS provision through websites and also APIRAS Regional Forum 2017;
   - c) Undertake studies and regional syntheses of AAS and conduct institutional analysis of AAS provision (public as well as private) in the region using the GFRAS “global good practices” framework; and
   - d) Compile existing material/information/publications on AAS and updates from APIRAS members and sharing through websites.

3. **Evidence-based policy advocacy for AAS:**
   - a) Identify AAS issues in need of quick response studies; organize think tank ad hoc groups to analyze issues and give recommendations;
   - b) Represent AAS in national, sub-regional, regional, and global discussions and fora on agricultural and rural development; and
   - c) Influence policy by organizing policy dialogs on AAS at national and sub-regional and regional levels.