

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sustainable Agriculture Foundation–Africa</b>
Assignment type	Short-term Consultancy
Title of the Assignment	A comparative affordability assessment of agroecological and conventional nutritious foods in Kenya
Date	<b>February 2026- 30 June 2026</b>
Duration	60 days
Location	Busia and Bungoma

### 1. About SAF-Africa

The Sustainable Agriculture Foundation - Africa (SAF-A) is a Pan-African non-profit organization dedicated to driving inclusive agricultural transformation across the continent. Its mission is to improve the incomes of smallholder farmers, enhance food security, and promote sustainable farming practices. SAF-A achieves this by delivering tailored innovations, facilitating market linkages, and addressing barriers within agricultural value chains. Learn more about SAF-A through this link <https://susagfoundation.org/>

### 1. Background and rationale:

The Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project is part of the Global Food Systems portfolio of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The NICE project aims to improve nutrition and reduce poverty among vulnerable city populations. It operates in secondary cities and focuses on increasing the supply of and demand for nutritious foods produced locally using agroecological practices, as well as on cross-cutting issues related to good governance, gender, and social inclusion (leaving no one behind). More information about the NICE project is available on the NICE website, [nice-nutrition.ch](http://nice-nutrition.ch).

The cities involved in Bangladesh are: Dinajpur and Rangpur, in Kenya: Busia and Bungoma, and in Rwanda: Rubavu and Rusizi.

1. The first workstream promotes good governance of food systems through the strengthening of multisectoral platforms at the city level. The platforms and their members facilitate access to vulnerable city populations to ensure they are reached by the project’s interventions.
2. The second workstream relates to increasing the availability of nutritious foods that are locally produced using agroecological practices.

3. The third workstream focuses on the use of consumer insights to conduct formative research into which foods people can afford and prefer to buy. Based upon this, a gender-sensitive, demand generation strategy that also involves youth leaders will be elaborated and implemented at the city level. The health and education sectors are also engaged.
4. The fourth workstream facilitates peer learning between the cities, across the workstreams, and countries.

Agroecology (AE) is increasingly promoted as a pathway toward sustainable, nutritious, and resilient food systems. However, evidence on the affordability of agroecologically produced food relative to conventional alternatives, particularly for urban and peri-urban consumers in African contexts, remains limited. This consultancy supports an empirical assessment of the affordability of the NICE project's promoted agroecologically produced nutritious food value chains (VCs) in Kenyan cities, with a focus on Bungoma and Busia counties.

### 2. Objectives of this consultancy:

The overall objective of this consultancy is to design, analyze, and report a rigorous affordability assessment comparing NICE-promoted agroecologically produced nutritious food value chains and conventionally produced equivalents in Bungoma and Busia, Kenya. Specifically, the consultant is required to:

- a) Develop a robust analytical and sampling design.
- b) Define clear variables, indicators, and affordability metrics.
- c) Design and digitize a household/market survey questionnaire.
- d) Conduct household and market surveys for data collection.
- e) Conduct data cleaning, validation, and statistical analysis.
- f) Produce policy-oriented narrative reports.
- g) Generate and publish at least two peer-reviewed journal manuscripts.

### 3. Scope of work:

Geographic scope: Bungoma and Busia, Kenya.

**Products:** Eggs, African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs), Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP), and Fish (Tilapia).

### 4. Consultant responsibilities

The Consultant shall be responsible for the following tasks:

- a) Designing and developing a sampling framework for affordability assessments of the food value chains specified under Section 3 (Scope of work).
- b) Defining relevant affordability variables and indicators for the study.
- c) Designing, digitizing, and finalizing data collection questionnaires, subject to approval by the Client.
- d) Conducting field surveys and all associated data collection activities in accordance with the approved methodology.

- e) Cleaning, managing, and securely storing all data generated under this assignment, in accordance with applicable data management and confidentiality requirements.
- f) Conducting data analysis and calculating the agreed affordability indicators.
- g) Synthesize key findings and recommendations into a policy brief.
- h) Preparing and submitting a minimum of two (2) peer-reviewed academic journal articles based on the study findings, in coordination with the Client and subject to authorship and publication terms agreed in writing.

### 5. Timing, duration, and deliverables:

The work will be undertaken between February and June 2026. The timeline for each output/deliverable expected from this consultancy is contained in the table below.

<b>Output</b>	<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Inception report.	Review ToR, refine methodology, confirm workplan.	February 2026 (Weeks 1–2).	Consultant
Questionnaire design.	Draft survey questions, internal review, pilot testing (internal).	February 2026 (Weeks 2–3).	Consultant
Indicator definitions.	Define affordability and related indicators.	February 2026 (Weeks 2–3).	Consultant
Digitization of questionnaire (ODK/Kobo).	Program survey, test skip logic, and validations.	Late February 2026.	Consultant
Field survey/ data collection	Conduct field surveys/ data collection in Bungoma and Busia	Early March	Consultant
Clean survey-generated dataset.	Data cleaning, validation, and documentation.	March–April 2026.	Consultant
Analyze data and calculate indicators.	Statistical analysis, indicator computation.	April–May 2026.	Consultant
Technical report.	Draft and finalize full technical documentation.	May 2026.	Consultant
Policy brief.	Synthesize key findings and recommendations	Late May–Early June 2026.	Consultant
Two peer-reviewed journal manuscripts.	Draft academic papers and submit to journals.	June 2026.	Consultant

## 6. Qualifications:

An advanced degree (PhD) in agricultural economics or a related field; 10 years Post doctoral experience in food security research, affordability analysis, survey design, and data collection; strong skills in data analysis and management; and proven ability to produce policy briefs, technical reports, and publications in peer-reviewed academic journals.

### Experience

- Demonstrated strong writing skills, with a solid track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- Proven experience in designing and conducting household surveys.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative data analysis and the use of statistical software packages.

## 7. Reporting:

The consultant will report directly to the **NICE project manager for Kenya**, and the **global lead for the NICE project for Outcome 2** (City populations enjoy the enhanced availability of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods that are locally produced using agroecological practices) of the NICE project.

## 8. Copyrights

All outputs remain the intellectual property of the NICE project.

## 9. Submissions

Qualified agencies are invited to submit their proposals, references, and links to previous assignments electronically by the **23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2026** to the email addresses below:

[info.safa@susagfoundation.org](mailto:info.safa@susagfoundation.org) and cc [elizabeth.imbo@susagfoundation.org](mailto:elizabeth.imbo@susagfoundation.org) with the subject line "Affordability survey Busia and Bungoma."

### Disclaimer

The Applicant shall bear all costs associated with or relating to the preparation and submission of its Proposal, including but not limited to preparation, copying, postage, delivery fees, expenses associated with any demonstrations or presentations which may be required by the Applicants, or any other costs incurred in connection with or relating to its Proposal. All such costs and expenses will remain with the Applicant, and the NICE project shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for the same or for any other costs or other expenses incurred by an Applicant in preparation or submission of the Proposal, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Selection Process.