

TERMS OF REFERENCE

External Evaluation of Promoting Ethnoveterinary Medicine for Sustainable Livestock Husbandry in Northern Ghana (Ethnovet) Project

1.0 The Promoting Ethnoveterinary Medicine for Sustainable Livestock Husbandry in Northern Ghana (Ethnovet) Project

The Association of Church Development Projects (ACDEP), with funding support from Misereor, Germany, has been implementing the Promoting Ethnoveterinary Medicine for Sustainable Livestock Husbandry in Northern Ghana (Ethnovet2) project” from June 2023 to May 2026. The initiative builds on the first Ethnovet project implemented by ACDEP (2019 - 2023) on documenting, validating and promoting ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM) as a complementary treatment for livestock to enhance production and productivity of livestock in northern Ghana.

Livestock remains critical for livelihoods and food security among farming households across northern Ghana, however disease outbreaks, high treatment costs, limited veterinary officers, supply challenges and policy restrictions continue to undermine its productivity. The Ghana Livestock Development Policy (pg. 62-63, 2016) recognizes EVM as a complementary pathway for animal healthcare, and calls for identification of practitioners, documentation of indigenous remedies, training, conservation of medicinal plants and mainstreaming of EVM into formal veterinary systems.

During the first phase of the Ethnovet project funded by Misereor, ACDEP successfully mobilised EVM innovators, researchers and government officers to document indigenous innovations used for most of the major livestock diseases, initiated farmer-led multi-stakeholder experimentation on a number of EVM innovations, trained practitioners in processing and packaging herbal remedies, supported the establishment of herbal gardens, and built active stakeholder platforms at district and national levels.

The project was implemented in collaboration with the relevant government agencies including the Animal Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-ARI), Veterinary Services Department (VSD) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Pong-Tamale Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), Center for Plant Medicine Research (CPMR) and the Animal Science Department of the University for Development Studies (UDS), with the Swiss Public and Tropical Health Institute (Swiss TPH) in Switzerland providing back-stopping support to the local research and project implementation team.

The project is being implemented in rural communities in Tolon/ North-East Gonja District in the Northern/ Savannah regions; West Mamprusi in the North East Region; and Nabdam and Bongo districts in the Upper East Region. The project aims to strengthen livestock resilience, reduce livestock losses, improve household incomes, contribute to food and nutrition security and create local employment for women and youth.

Building on the achievements of the ethnovet project seeks to consolidate the learnings, deepen scientific validation of ethnoveterinary treatments, expand herbal resource conservation, support some innovators to commercialize their innovations, and influence policy to facilitate the mainstreaming of EVM as an integral part of Ghana’s veterinary ecosystem through these specific objectives:

1. In close collaboration, farmer innovators and scientists supported by other platform actors generate scientific evidence on EVM treatments.
2. Men and women livestock farmers make use of EVM as prevention and curative treatment for their livestock, complementary to veterinary treatments.
3. The EVM platform actors at district, regional and national level advocate actively to influence policy for EVM as a complementary and integral part of Ghana's veterinary system.

The project stakeholders are EVM innovators, community animal health workers, veterinary and agricultural extension officers, academic and research institutions including the University for Development Studies (UDS) and Pong-Tamale Central Veterinary College to enhance complementary animal healthcare delivery.

After nearly three years of activities' implementation in the above locations, ACDEP now seeks the services of an external consultant or a team of Consultants to conduct an end-of-project evaluation to assess the effectiveness, relevance of project activities in achieving project objectives, efficiency, impact, sustainability and commitment to the livestock sector policy objectives. Additionally, the evaluation would also provide evidence and recommendations for future projects or work

2.0 THE PROJECT EVALUATION

2.1 The objective and scope of the assignment

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of the ethnovet project.

The main objective is to determine its achievements, impact, challenges, sustainability and contribution to policy influence, and provide actionable recommendations for future programming and scaling of the ethnovet project.

2.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 To Assess the relevance of the EVM project;
- 2.2.2 To assess efficiency, effectiveness and results of the project;
- 2.2.3 To assess the degree to which the project has achieved its objectives
- 2.2.4 Document lessons learnt and challenges.
- 2.2.5 Make recommendations

2.3 Evaluation research questions

The Consultant(s) is expected to develop and implement a methodology that will address the following aspects mentioned in the DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance¹:

Relevance

Are we doing the right things? It is useful to also consider the following questions:

- To what extent is the intervention important for the target group (for example, does it focus on an important problem/bottleneck)?
- To what extent are the initial objectives of the project still appropriate?

¹ Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): *DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance* (http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,2340,en_2649_34435_2086550_1_1_1_1,00.html)

- Are the planned activities and outputs of the project consistent with the project objective and the development goal (coherence of the planned chain of causality)?
- To what extent are the project's goal and objectives aligned with government's policies and programmes, with particular reference to animal health.

Outcomes and impacts

(The project has a project M & E table and performance framework. Let's make reference to it in coming up with the questions below)

It is useful to also consider the following questions:

- What are the positive and negative changes produced by the project, directly or indirectly? Consider both intended and unintended outcomes and impacts.
- How many farmers were reached by the EVM2 project practitioners/ innovators, as a result of the project?
- How many innovations have been profiled and documented successfully?
- How appropriate were the design / methodology of on-station and on-farm experiments?
- What are the major factors, which have facilitated or impeded the progress of the project towards achieving its goal and desired results?

Effectiveness

Are we achieving the project objectives? It is useful to also consider the following questions:

- To what extent were the objectives achieved or are likely to be achieved?
- What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
- Were the initial objectives realistic?

Efficiency

Are the project objectives being achieved cost-efficiently? It is useful to also consider the following questions:

- What evidence is there to indicate that the project was implemented with due efficiency under the given circumstances?
- How well was ACDEP able to perform within the given resources?
- What is the relation between the observed effects and the resources used?

Sustainability

*Are the achievements sustainable in the longer run?. **Check the sustainability plan or proposal in the project document***

It is useful to also consider the following questions:

- To what extent are the benefits of the project likely to continue once project funding has ceased?
- What were the major factors that influenced or hindered sustainability of the project?

Key Challenges

- What were the key implementation challenges for partners, innovators and ACDEP?

Lessons Learned

What were the key lessons learnt during the implementation of the project?

Recommendations

- a. What actionable recommendations should be highlighted for consideration in future projects

2.4 Evaluation Approach and Methodology

- The evaluation will be conducted in two main parts, both to be led and supervised by the external consultant. In both parts, the consultant will be expected to adopt a participatory and learning approach in carrying out the assignment.
- - (a) At the community-level, participatory reflective assessment of key outcomes with communities and EVM practitioners, including smallholder livestock farmers Community Animal Health or Livestock Workers (CAHWs or CLWs), women and youth inclusive, to draw out information and lessons from their perspectives of what worked or did not work, and lessons. The findings of these assessments will feed into the overall evaluation process and results.

(b) At the district and project-levels, the consultant is expected to gather the relevant information to assess the project's performance in reference to the relevant evaluation objectives, making use of data from project reports, documents, M&E records as well as interactions with project/non-project stakeholders to gather relevant information for analysis, to complement, compare, validate and integrate with the findings from the participatory reflective assessments.

The field work should, among others, include qualitative and participatory research methods such as Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), case studies and observations.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations will be validated through a workshop with major stakeholders and the project team.

3.0 DELIVERABLES

The Consultant will work closely with ACDEP to deliver the following:

- An inception report clearly presenting methodology and analytical approach. This should also include an outline of the study report and detailed questionnaire that will help to address the objectives of the assignment.
- Work plan with timelines
- Budget
- Draft evaluation report.
- PowerPoint presentation of Findings.
- Final evaluation report upon input or validation with stakeholders / ACDEP.

4.0 MANAGEMENT OF THE CONSULTANCY ASSIGNMENT

The evaluation will be supervised by ACDEP through the Project Coordinator at ACDEP. He shall manage the assignment and have direct communication with the consultant on behalf of ACDEP.

5.0 TIME SCHEDULE AND DURATION

The evaluation is to take place in the period February – March 2026. The detailed schedule will be prepared in consultation with the consultant.

6.0 REQUIRED EXPERTISE OF CONSULTANT

- Masters' degree in animal health or husbandry.
- Knowledge and experience in farmer innovation processes.
- Good appreciation of farmers' indigenous knowledge in development.
- Good knowledge and experience in undertaking participatory evaluation with farmers and development actors.
- Knowledge and experience in farmer-led participatory research, multi-stakeholder partnerships/networks and institutionalisation of farmer-led approaches.
- Experience and knowledge in gender issues related to animal production and livelihood improvement in northern Ghana.
- Knowledge and experience working in northern Ghana and with smallholder farmers
- Good spoken, writing and reporting skills in English

In addition, interested consultant(s) should be prepared to work in the project districts in the Northern, North East and Upper East regions. Interested consultants should submit a technical and financial proposal not more than 10 pages (excluding annexes) including:

- Understanding of the assignment
- Methodology and approach
- Relevant qualifications and experience; including CV(s) of consultant(s)
- Detailed costs including level of effort, fee / rate(s) and other anticipated expenses
- Three references of similar work conducted in the past four years

The proposal should be submitted electronically to norbert@acdep.org and copied to ben.wumbila@acdep.org marked on the subject line **End-of-Project Evaluation, Ethnovet Project** on or before **17.00 GMT on March 6, 2026**.

A pre-award meeting may be held with the selected consultant or consultants prior to contracting in order to clarify their approach, tools, expectations and budget.