



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Consultant

Name:	
Job Title:	Perennial rice and grain expert
Division/Department:	AGP
Programme/Project Number:	
Duty Station:	Rome, Italy
Expected Start Date of Assignment:	1 September 2017
Duration:	11 months
Reports to: Name:	<i>Caterina Batello</i>
Title:	Senior Officer

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

Justification

Since hosting the international symposium on Perennial Crops for Food Security in 2013 (including perennial cereals, legumes, grasses and agroforestry for sylvopastoral systems), FAO has been supporting development work of perennial cereals, legumes and oilseed species. These crops could potentially offer an alternative to annual crops that require excessive water, significant amounts of synthetic mineral fertilizers and labour, emit large amounts of CO₂ equivalent, as well as disrupt natural biological processes. Perennial crops thus hold great potential as one of the innovative technologies under development to move towards more sustainable production systems as they are more rustic, improve soil structure and water retention capacity, contribute to increasing climate change adaptation and mitigation practices, and promote biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

The overall objective of the role of the consultant will be to support AGP in the development of a program of work on perennial rice cultivation and include work on perennial sorghum.

Under the general supervision of the Senior Agricultural Officer, Team Leader of the Ecosystem Approach to Crop Production Intensification, the visiting scientist will carry out the following duties:

- Collecting and documenting an evidence base for the benefits of cultivating perennial rice (and sorghum) based on the work of Yunnan University and other institutions (e.g. the Land Institute) and actors that have grown perennial rice, both in field trials and as a commercial crop in different Asian countries;
- Developing a China South-South Cooperation (SSC) project for a perennial rice exchange program between Yunnan University, China, and relevant actors in Africa and other regions in Asia;

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documentation of an evidence-base to support cultivation of perennial rice; including reports, brochures, multimedia materials (e.g. stories for FAO websites)• Meetings with TCS, concept note for SSC project• Stakeholder meeting to discuss and plan the establishment of a perennial rice program; held in Africa with participating actors from China, Africa and other areas of Asia	