



[Terms of Reference - BRIGHT project endline assessment](#)

1. Background and Context

Building Resilience and Inclusive Growth of Highland farming systems for rural Transformation (BRIGHT) Project is a four-year intervention designed to strengthen the resilience of 106,560 farmer households in highland communities of Kigezi, Rwenzori and Elgon regions through an integrated approach. In so doing, the project aims to improve the food and nutrition security and incomes of farmers, transition subsistence-oriented farm households to more of a market orientation by supporting them in integrated farm planning and inclusive decision-making, introducing appropriate climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies to strengthen local farming systems, ensuring natural resource conservation, and developing strategic value chains.

The project is implemented by IFDC, with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs through the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN) in Kampala. The project is implemented in collaboration with Agriterro, the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), district local governments, and private sector actors.

The project is anchored in the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach, which places households at the center of change by fostering intrinsic motivation, long-term visioning, and improved decision-making. Through PIP, households are encouraged to define their own development pathways, which in turn catalyzes collective action at community level and strengthens social cohesion.

The goal is to promote resilient and inclusive economic development of rural highland communities. Central to this, is increasing the resilience of farming households, enabling them to better withstand and respond to economic and climatic shocks and stresses.

The project is built on three interrelated outcomes: increased farmer incomes from the sale of greater volumes of agricultural produce, improved food and nutrition security among farming households, and farmland converted to sustainable use. These outcomes are achieved through more productive and profitable farming systems, improved dietary practices and outcomes, sustainable natural resource management by community and private local actors, strengthened access to finance and social safety nets, and sustainable and equitable access to inputs and output markets.

Relatedly, the project is structured around five key pillars:

- Adaptive Capacity including Intra-Household Governance Capacity;
- Income-Earning/Livelihood-Building Opportunities (both on-farm and off-farm);
- Access to Natural Assets, including owned/internal resources as well as communal or external natural resources;
- Access to Social Networks, encompassing communal support and other social safety nets.
- Access to Markets, for both inputs and services as well as farm produce.

Within the implementation framework, these are organized under the five components summarized in table 1 below

Table 1. Pillars of Resilience and the Components of the BRIGHT project.

No.	Pillar	Component
1	Adaptive Capacity, Including Intra-Household Governance Capacity	Farming Systems and Household decision making
		Food and Nutrition Security
		Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion
2	Income-Earning / Livelihood-Building Opportunities (on-farm/ off-farm)	Sustainable Land Use and Crop Production
3	Access to Natural Assets (Owned/Internal, Common Goods/External natural resources)	
4	Access to Social Networks / (Communal and other Social Safety Nets)	Financial Inclusion
5	Access to Markets (for Both Inputs/ Services and for Farm Produce)	Market Access and Value Chain Development

As the project nears completion, an endline evaluation is required to comprehensively assess the extent to which the intended outcomes have been achieved, understand how the PIP approach and the interlinked interventions have contributed to these changes, generating information for reporting, accountability and lessons for future programming and scaling.

2. Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the end-line evaluation is to provide a rigorous and evidence-based assessment of the project's performance and results, with particular attention to improvements in resilience among farmer households in the highland communities. A central focus of the evaluation will be to understand

how the PIP approach has influenced behavioral change, intra-household dynamics, social cohesion, and collective action, and how these processes have contributed to resilience outcomes. The evaluation will examine changes in household incomes, improvements in food and nutrition security, and also analyze changes in agricultural production and productivity and the adoption of improved and sustainable practices, as well as the extent to which households have gained access to financial services, including savings, and access credit. Attention will be given to the role of VSLAs and SACCOs in strengthening financial access and providing a buffer against shocks. In addition, the evaluation will also examine how effectively the project has improved access to input and output markets, the degree of integration of farmers into value chains and markets, and the strength of linkages with private sector actors.

3. Objectives of the Evaluation

- Assess the extent to which the project has strengthened farmer household resilience, including their capacity to absorb, adapt to, and transform in response to economic and climatic shocks/stresses.
- Assess the extent to which the PIP approach influenced farmer household behavior, decision-making, agency, and investment patterns, including its effect on intra-household dynamics, motivation, social cohesion and collective actions. This includes the extent to which farmer households and communities are implementing the action plans
- To assess whether agricultural production, productivity and profitability have increased over time among the beneficiary farmer households, identify the key factors and practices driving any observed changes, and determine the extent to which these improvements have translated into increased household incomes. This includes the extent of adoption of project promoted practices.
- Evaluate whether households are consuming more diverse and nutritious diets, contributing to improved food and nutrition security. This includes an assessment of the extent to which improved agricultural production, kitchen gardening and adoption of nutrition practices have translated into increased food availability and the observed changes.
- Assess the extent to which access to both input and output markets has improved for farmer households, with a focus on reliability, market integration, and the strength of market linkages. This includes examining collective actions and the role of farmer organizations, such as Market

oriented groups and farmer cooperatives, in enhancing market engagement, as well as partnerships with private sector actors to support sustainable market access. Emphasis should also be placed on the extent to which small-holder farmers are integrated into markets.

- Assess the extent of farmer households' access to financial services, including VSLAs and SACCOs, for supporting agricultural activities and as reliable household safety nets.

4. Evaluation Criteria and methodology requirements

We expect the evaluation to meet OECD-DAC criteria - relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability aspects; The evaluation will need to address the efficiency and sustainability criteria; the efficiency in terms of VfM (value for money metrics) and sustainability aspects through a score card system across stakeholders.

In terms of the design, a cross-sectional design employing a mixed-methods approach is preferred, with a strong emphasis on participation and inclusivity. The endline evaluation will also require a robust sampling strategy and statistically appropriate sample size to ensure the representativeness and reliability of findings.

The evaluation is expected to apply quasi-experimental methods, preferably Difference-in-Differences (DiD) and/or Propensity Score Matching (PSM) where the underlying assumptions can be credibly demonstrated. Where quasi-experimental methods cannot be validly applied, the evaluator must propose an alternative quantitative approach with equivalent rigor and justify it in the inception report. In all cases, quantitative estimates will be treated as corroborating evidence within the contribution analysis framework, not as standalone attribution claims.

Quantitative findings will be complemented by qualitative validation to provide a deeper understanding of the linkages between observed changes and project interventions. The quantitative analysis will also involve comparisons across the baseline, Mid-term review (MTR), annual progress, and the endline to measure changes in key indicators, including income, productivity, food security, and financial inclusion.

5. Preliminary Evaluation Questions

The endline assessment will be guided by the following initial evaluation questions, which may be refined or expanded as needed;

- To what extent has the project strengthened farmer household resilience to economic and climatic shocks and stresses? This should include an assessment of the extent to which the project components contributed to observed changes in the resilience index.
- How has the PIP approach influenced household behavior, decision-making, agency, and investment patterns, including its effect on intra-household dynamics, motivation, and social cohesion? This should include an assessment of how PIP farmers have evolved over time, based on the project's characterization of a PIP farmer.
- To what extent were the PIP Action Plans implemented, and how committed are Local Governments to supporting the identified priorities?
- To what extent has household food security improved, including dietary diversity and overall nutritional quality?
- To what extent have farmer households adopted the nutrition practices promoted by the project, and how have these practices contributed to any observed changes?
- To what extent have household incomes increased, stabilized, and diversified, and how are these changes linked to shifts in agricultural productivity and adoption of improved practices?
- To what extent have farmer households and target communities adopted the promoted sustainable land and crop management practices, and what factors have facilitated or hindered their adoption?
- To what extent have sustainable land management practices been adopted and maintained, and how have these contributed to improvements in soil fertility, vegetation cover, and long-term productivity and resilience?
- How has financial inclusion evolved, particularly participation in savings and credit mechanisms (e.g., VSLAs, SACCOs), and how effective, accessible, and sustainable are these services in supporting agricultural investments and coping with shocks and stresses? To what extent have farmer households been able to access and utilize financial services for agricultural investments and as safety nets during periods of shocks and stresses, and what barriers continue to limit access?
- To what extent have farmers improved access to input and output markets, and established reliable, beneficial relationships with buyers and other market actors?

- How effective were the project initiatives in promoting input and output markets, including but not limited to engagements with cooperatives, private sector actors, and seed multiplication efforts?

6. Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation will cover all geographic areas in which the BRIGHT project has been implemented, namely the Kigezi, Rwenzori, and Elgon highland regions, including control districts. It will assess all five project components and their combined contribution to overall project outcomes.

The evaluation will take into account the experiences of different categories of beneficiaries, including men, women, and youth, and will also examine institutional and system-level changes. This includes the roles of local government, financial service providers, and private sector actors and their potential to sustain project outcomes.

This also includes the involvement of EKN partners in project implementation and coordination. It will further assess the potential for sustainability of project outcomes including the sustainability of farmer groups, market linkages established or strengthened through the project.

7. Deliverables

- Inception report to be submitted and accepted prior to commencement of field work, outlining the detailed methodological approach, work plan, data collection tools and data analysis plan
- Draft endline report including preliminary findings and analysis.
- Final endline report detailing findings, conclusions, and actionable recommendations, including disaggregated data tables.
- Presentation of Findings to project stakeholders and IFDC management.
- Endline datasets (both the original and analysis tables)
- Updated Results Framework with validated data.

8. Assignment duration and timelines

The consultancy will require full commitment over a relatively short duration. It is expected to be carried out over a six-week period, according to the following timeline:

Activity	Timeline
Publication / Invitation to Apply	15 May 2026
Deadline for Clarification Questions	17 May 2026 (CoB of Sunday)
Submission Deadline for Applications	19 May 2026
Evaluation of Applications	20 May 2026
Reference Checks / Final Review	21 May 2026
Notification of Selected Consultant	21 May 2026
Contract Negotiation and Signing	22 May 2026
Expected Commencement of Assignment	Around 22–23 May 2026
Final Consultancy Report Submission	30 June 2026

9. Governance

a) Responsibilities of IFDC

During the endline, IFDC will;

- Provide overall guidance and strategic direction for the assignment.
- Share relevant background documents, policies, and reference materials required for the consultancy.
- Facilitating access to key stakeholders, partners, and relevant personnel.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on draft deliverables within agreed timelines.
- Coordinating meetings, consultations, and validation workshops where necessary.
- Ensuring timely communication and decision-making throughout the consultancy period.
- Providing logistical or administrative support as agreed in the contract.
- Approving final deliverables upon satisfactory completion of the assignment.

b) Responsibilities of the consultant(s) or evaluation team

- Conducting the endline professionally and in accordance with the agreed ToR, methodology, and work plan.
- Delivering high-quality outputs within the agreed timelines.
- Collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing relevant information and data.
- Consulting relevant stakeholders and incorporating feedback appropriately.

- Maintaining regular communication with IFDC on progress, challenges, and emerging issues.
- Ensuring accuracy, integrity, and confidentiality of information obtained during the endline.
- Preparing and submitting all agreed deliverables, including draft and final reports.
- Incorporating comments from IFDC and the BRIGHT team.
- Adhering to professional and ethical standards throughout the consultancy.

c) Evaluation management arrangements

The consultant team will report directly to the Acting Project Manager with support from the MELS Manager. However, the team will also be expected to work closely with the technical field staff and MELS officers within the regions.

10. Qualifications

The team will consist of a lead consultant with demonstrated experience in evaluation of agriculture, climate change and market support programs and a range of subordinates with appropriate skills to fulfil the deliverables under this TOR.

To be eligible to conduct this endline survey, the lead consultant shall possess:

- Advanced degree in Monitoring & Evaluation, Agriculture, Development Studies, or a related field.
- Minimum of 7 years of experience in conducting large-scale project evaluations, particularly in agricultural and rural development contexts.
- Proven expertise in mixed-methods research design, data analysis, and report writing.
- Familiarity with participatory approaches, farming systems, Resilience, financial inclusion, and market access.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to engage with diverse stakeholders.

11. Proposal and Submission Guidelines

Interested consultancy firms should submit the following documents online at <https://ifdc.org/2026/05/15/bright-project-endline-assessment/> or via email to pmwajuma@ifdc.org, mmubiru@ifdc.org and copy in gbabirye@ifdc.org by 22nd May 2026.

- A technical proposal outlining the methodology, work plan, and timeline.
- Financial proposal detailing the consultancy fees and other costs.

- CVs of the lead consultant and key team members.
- Samples of similar work conducted previously.

Prospective consultants are also advised to include the following pre-qualification documents: 1. Certificate of Incorporation 2. Valid Trading License(s) 3. Tax Registration/Tax Identification Certificate 4. Certificate of Registration 5. Articles of Association and/or Beneficial Ownership Information 6. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate 7. Powers of Attorney (where applicable) 8. Company Profile 9. Description of Services Offered and Applicable Rates 10. Legal Registration Documents 11. Copies of Relevant Trade Licenses and Permits 12. Past Performance Reports and/or Reference Letters from Previous Clients 13. Financial Statements for the last 2–3 years (where applicable) 14. Relevant Business Certifications (where required) Successful vendors will be required to sign a Conflict-of-Interest Declaration upon approval.

12. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Selection Criteria	Suggested Weight (%)	Specific Aspects to Assess
Experience in Agricultural Evaluations, work with smallholder farmers and market systems	40%	Consultant's proven experience in conducting end-lines, Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP), Farming Systems, impact, and Market Systems evaluations within agriculture and livelihoods programmes, including work with farmer organizations, VSLAs, financial inclusion, value chains, agribusiness, extension services, market access, resilience, and livelihood interventions.
Technical & Methodological Approach	20%	Mixed-method approaches, sampling, quantitative and qualitative analysis, outcome harvesting, adoption studies
Team Composition & Expertise	10%	Agricultural economist, Systems Agronomist, M&E specialist, statistician/data analyst, market systems expert, field coordinators
Financial proposal	10%	Consultant's cost competitiveness, clarity of the budget breakdown, value for money, and alignment of the proposed costs with the scope of work.
Knowledge of Local Context	10%	Experience in the target country/region, local languages, understanding of farming systems and rural dynamics
Past Performance & References	5%	Donor references, quality of previous reports, ability to meet deadlines
Compliance & Administrative Capacity	5%	Registration, tax compliance, safeguarding, insurance, procurement compliance including COI

For any additional information that you may require, please feel free to reach out to us via the above email addresses.