



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) -DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITAL APPLICATION FOR YOUNG FARMERS AND AGRIPRENEURS

Project: Agri-ELEVATED – Empowering Livelihoods through Youth Entrepreneurship, Skilling and Value Chain Development

Implementing Organisation: Restless Development Zimbabwe

Deadline for submission: 6 September 2026

Assignment: Design, Development, Testing, Deployment and Technical Support of a Digital Application

1. BACKGROUND

Restless Development Zimbabwe, with support from the Oak Foundation, is implementing the Agri-ELEVATED Project, which aims to improve livelihoods and economic opportunities for young people through agricultural entrepreneurship, skills development, value chain development, market linkages and access to services. The project works with young farmers and agripreneurs in Nyanga District and Greater Harare, supporting value chains including horticulture, poultry, livestock, apiculture and other agricultural enterprises. The project seeks to use digital technology to improve young farmers' access to agricultural information, extension services, markets, finance, business development services and networking opportunities. Restless Development Zimbabwe therefore seeks to engage a qualified digital application/software development company including qualified young people and youth-led technology enterprises, to develop and deploy a user-friendly digital application for young farmers and agripreneurs.

2. PURPOSE

To develop a secure, scalable, and user-friendly digital application that connects young farmers to agricultural information, experts, markets, opportunities, business tools, and relevant service providers, while considering low connectivity, affordable data use, and varying levels of digital literacy.

3. OBJECTIVES

The application will:

- Improve access to agricultural and climate-smart agriculture information.
- Connect young farmers to extension officers and experts.
- Facilitate market and buyer linkages.
- Provide access to training, finance, contract farming and other opportunities.
- Support basic farm and business record keeping.
- Create a digital database of young farmers and enterprises.
- Strengthen referrals to relevant service providers.

- Promote networking and peer learning.
- Generate data and reports for programme monitoring and decision-making.
- Weather forecasts including general climate conditions eg drought

4. SCOPE OF WORK

The selected developer will:

- Conduct consultations with young farmers, Restless Development and key stakeholders to establish requirements.
- Design the application's user interface, user experience and system architecture.
- Develop an Android mobile application and web-based administration dashboard.
- Develop the required database and integrate relevant APIs/services.
- Conduct functional, security and user acceptance testing.
- Pilot the application with selected young farmers and incorporate feedback.
- Deploy the final application.
- Train designated Restless Development staff/administrators.
- Provide user manuals, technical documentation, source code and post-deployment support.

5. MANDATORY APPLICATION FEATURES

The application must include:

a) Farmer Registration & Profiles

- Secure registration/login.
- Farmer and enterprise profiles.
- Location, value chain, products and production information.
- Role-based access for farmers, experts, buyers and administrators.

b) Agricultural Information Hub

- Crop, livestock, poultry and apiculture information.
- Climate-smart agriculture.
- Pest and disease management.
- Hotculture ,Organic farming and soil management.
- Text, video, images and downloadable learning materials.

c) Extension & Expert Support

- Ask-an-expert functionality.
- Questions and responses.
- Photo uploads.
- Referral to extension officers/experts.
- Service provider directory.

d) Digital Marketplace

- Product listings with images, quantities, prices and location.

- Buyer search and enquiries.
- Market and contract farming opportunities.

e) Farm & Business Tools

- Income and expenditure records.
- Production records.
- Basic profit/loss calculations.
- Budgeting and business planning.
- Financial literacy resources.

f) Opportunities & Notifications

- Training, grants, finance, competitions, agricultural events and market opportunities.
- Push notifications and alerts.

g) Weather & Climate Information

- Weather forecasts and alerts.
- Rainfall/temperature information.
- Climate-smart farming advisories, where technically feasible.

h) Referrals

Linkages to AGRITEX/extension services, financial institutions, input suppliers, veterinary services, buyers and business development providers.

i) Administration & Reporting

- User and content management.
- Opportunity, event and marketplace management.
- Referral tracking.
- Analytics and reporting.
- Data export in Excel/CSV.

6. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The application should:

- Be Android-compatible and include a secure web administration portal.
- Be mobile-first, simple and user-friendly.
- Be optimised for low bandwidth and low data consumption.
- Provide offline access to selected content where feasible.
- Support at least 1,000 users initially and scale to 10,000+ users.
- Include secure authentication, role-based access and data protection.
- Allow future integration with APIs and other platforms.
- Support expansion to other districts and provinces.
- Consider accessibility for persons with disabilities and future local-language support.

7. KEY DELIVERABLES

The developer will deliver:

1. Inception report and work plan.
2. Requirements and functional specifications.
3. UX/UI designs and prototype.
4. Fully functional Android application.
5. Web-based administration dashboard.
6. Database and system architecture.
7. Testing and pilot report.
8. Deployment and launch.
9. User and administrator manuals.
10. Staff/administrator training.
11. Complete source code and technical documentation.
12. 3 months' post-deployment warranty and technical support.

8. DURATION

The assignment is expected to be completed within 1–2 weeks from contract signing, subject to the agreed scope and development approach. Bidders should provide a realistic work plan and timeline.

9. REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

The developer/company should have:

- At least 3 years' experience in mobile/web application development.
- Young developers between the ages of 18-35 years are encouraged to apply
- Experience developing similar digital platforms.
- Expertise in mobile development, databases, APIs, cloud services and cybersecurity.
- UX/UI design experience.
- Experience with low-bandwidth solutions.
- A qualified technical development team/ individual
- Experience in agriculture, youth, or the development sector is an added advantage.

10. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Technical Proposal:

- Company profile and relevant experience.
- Understanding of the assignment.
- Proposed solution, methodology and technology stack.
- Implementation plan and timeline.
- Proposed team and CVs.
- Examples/links to similar applications.
- Data security, maintenance and support approach.

Financial Proposal:

Detailed costs for design, development, dashboard, testing, deployment, training, hosting, integrations, warranty/maintenance and any recurring API, SMS, licence or hosting costs. The indicative budget is USD\$5000

11. OWNERSHIP AND DATA PROTECTION

All source code, database structures, designs and documentation developed under this assignment shall remain the property of Restless Development Zimbabwe. Full source code, repository access, database, administrator credentials and technical documentation must be handed over upon completion.

The developer shall protect young farmers' personal information and shall not share or use project data without written authorisation.

EXPECTED RESULT

A functional, secure, scalable and sustainable digital platform that connects young farmers to agricultural knowledge, extension services, markets, business tools, finance, opportunities and relevant stakeholders, while enabling effective management of farmer information and referrals.

Enquiries/Submit proposals to:

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