

# **Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation Funded by the World Bank**

**ELTAELSE/DP- Department of Agribusiness Management**

## **Terms of Reference**

**Online Workshop on Research Writing Training by the Department of Agribusiness Management of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**

**Activity 4: Improving research documents writing skills through students centered learning**

**AHEAD/RA2/ELTAELSE/SAB/FAAG/DAB/OVAA/9**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The development of the higher education sector is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed, to support the higher education sector through a Bank funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation.

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (FAS) of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) aims to achieve excellence in agricultural education with special emphasis on practical exposure, since 1995. The Faculty strives to achieve this objective by creating a conducive teaching and learning environment that enhances knowledge, skills and attitudes of undergraduates and staff by the means of effective teaching and learning, research and extracurricular activities. The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences consists of three academic departments: Agribusiness Management, Export Agriculture and Livestock Production, representing all possible disciplines related to Agriculture and offers six modules of specializations. Some centers and units established within the faculty are supported to academic and other activities and also helped to enhance soft skills of undergraduates. The faculty teaching farm provides a sound practical training on all kinds of crops and livestock species. the faculty offer two (02) four-year honors degree programs (with SLQF level 6), viz, B.Sc. in Agricultural Sciences & Management and B.Sc. in Food Business Management to cater to the employability needs of the nation.

Under the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (the contractor of the agreement), has identified the following five activities.

Activity 1: Inculcating quality management principles for commercial level of Agri-Food Business creation.

Activity 2: Strengthening the link between the industry and the Degree Programmes of B.Sc. in Food Business Management and B.Sc. in Agricultural Sciences and Management

Activity 3: Enriching teaching and learning through improved OBE & LCT methods

Activity 4: Improving analytical skills through students centered learning

Activity 5: English language skill enhancement

This TOR is connected to one of the sub-activities identified under the Activity 4: Improving analytical skills through students centered learning

This workshop is planned for the year 3 semester 2 Food Business Management students, who are ready to go conduct their final year research. The training provides undergraduates a greater opportunity to develop their own competencies in drafting a quality research proposal and a dissertation.

## **2. THE OPERATION**

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation is organized into two components. The first is a Program Component that supports the national Higher Education Development Program. The second is a systems strengthening, capacity building and technical assistance component that will assist GoSL to strengthen the higher education sector and achieve the objectives of the AHEAD program component. This second will also cover monitoring and evaluation, policy analyses, program coordination and communication.

The implementing agency is the Ministry of Higher Education and Highways (MHEH). The University Grants Commission (UGC) will coordinate the activities of the universities. There will be an Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) which will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities between the MHEH, UGC, and the universities.

AHEAD has three Results Areas:

**Results Area 1:** Increasing Enrollment in Priority Disciplines for Economic Development

**Results Area 2:** Improving the Quality of Higher Education

**Results Area 3:** Promoting Research, Development and Innovation

This project comes under Result Area 2: Improving the Quality of Higher Education.

## **3. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT**

Research is an important theme that threads its way through the undergraduate experience from the first year through to graduation. The department expects to provide a better environment to get the student expose to develop a quality research proposal and dissertation which would be one of the final outputs of their 4 years tenure in undergraduate life.

- To help them to learn how to draft a quality research proposal
- To provide a good understanding of developing a quality dissertation
- To provide a good understanding of developing a policy brief

## **4. SCOPE OF THE CONSULTANCY/ WORKSHOP**

Research has been an imperative part of academic pursuits and have served in two-fold purpose of intellectual sharpening and developing new theories to explain diverse phenomena. The undergraduate research experience is one of several experiences that is of paramount importance. It helps the students to decide their future career choices of our undergraduate students. The universities cater the students in facilitating them to conduct their research. It is also equally important for the students to convert these learning experience of research into

publishable format. The core objective of the workshop was to equip the undergraduates with set of skills and potentiality to develop a quality research writing. This workshop is designed to offer the practical guidelines on developing and submission of a research proposal and a dissertation and thereby helping the undergraduates to make their research known to the global community.

## 5. KEY TASKS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The main duties and responsibilities of the resource person will be to:

- To educate the students on developing a research proposal
- To educate the students to draft their undergraduate dissertation
- To educate the students to draft a policy brief
- To prepare a certificate for the participants

Further, the resource person will be able to provide followings to the participants.

- Study materials/booklet/ hand book of workshop notes including all the important aspects of Research Writing

## 6. DELIVARABLES AND TME FRAME

Key Task	Required Deliverable	Time frame (Tentative)
Workshop	Online lecture & Discussions	02 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021

## 7. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The time duration of the whole workshop will be 03 hours

## 8. a) MODE OF CONDUCTING THE PROGRAM

**Online** (through Learn, Zoom)

### b) MODE OF PAYMENT/ EXPENDITURE

Description	Expenditure
Honorarium for resource person (3 hours in the weekend) Online session	Rs.12,000.00 (Rs.4000.00*3 hours)
Certificate printing cost for 65 students (Rs.150.00/Participant)	Rs. 9,750.00
DVD Preparation (5 DVDs)	Rs.6000.00
Miscellaneous	Rs.3,000.00
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>Rs.30,750.00</b>

\*standards rates of AHEAD applies

## 9. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- I. Basic degree in the field of Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness Management or relevant field from a recognized university
- II. Minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience in research
- III. Previous experience in conducting such workshops

## **10. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT**

The consultant will be shortlisted respective to their qualifications and be selected on the basis of their performance through Individual Competitive Consultancy (IC-C) method.

## **11. DELIVERABLES**

The resource person shall closely coordinate and report to the PIC and Activity coordinator.

- Conduct the workshop – approximately 3 hours session

## **12. OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Impacts of this workshop will be done by keeping records of the number of students would publish or submit full research papers for publications.

The resource person should have to maintain high level of professionally and confidentiality during the prior and post stages of the assignment. In any grounds, the resource person will have no rights to disclose or use research findings or related data and information gathered through the assignment for other purposes without written permission from the secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and Cultural Affairs.

This assignment is funded by the Ministry of Higher Education via AHEAD-OMST under the program component of AHEAD. As such, the University shall be the owner of the assignment and will reserves the Intellectual Property Rights for all deliverable of the assignment under the terms and conditions given in the IP policy of the University. The Consultant will have no right of claim to the assignment or its outputs once it is completed and no rights to use Data and Information gathered through the assignment for other purposes without written permission from the Vice Chancellor of the SUSL. Any Curricula/Manual/Reports/ Data/Information produced as a part of this assignment shall be handed over to the Client in soft and hard forms.