



We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Rice Straw to Rice Straw Ash (RSA) Value Chain – HARVEST Project

Farmer Engagement Consultant

I. Habitat for Humanity Egypt (HFHE)

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1976 as the world leader in addressing the housing challenges faced by vulnerable communities. Today HFH works in more than 60 countries to empower people in the poorest communities to overcome the chronic lack of decent housing. HFH works in close cooperation with local communities and partners to help people in need to build, repair and renovate their homes thus improving people's strengths and self-reliance through adequate shelter. HFH constantly seeks new affordable solutions to make homes safer, more energy efficient, provide water and sanitation solutions, mitigate effects of disasters and support housing microfinance. HFH also seeks to influence the way housing and related shelter issues are assessed, prioritized and funded by local, national and international governments and inter-government forums. HFH started operating in Egypt in 1989.

II. The HARVEST Project

The HARVEST project converts Egypt's rice straw, traditionally burned and a major source of air pollution, into a sustainable construction material: Rice Straw Ash Compressed Earth Blocks (RSA-CEBs). These low-carbon blocks provide a sustainable alternative to conventional building materials while improving thermal comfort and addressing key challenges such as air pollution, heat stress, and the shortage of affordable, high-quality housing in Egypt. The project brings together Dutch and Egyptian partners to advance technical development, demonstrate the technology in practice, and prepare the market and financial conditions for wider adoption.

III. Objective of this Assignment:

Habitat for Humanity Egypt wishes to contract the services of a qualified agriculture value chain consultant to provide a comprehensive assessment of the rice straw management and handling in Egypt to guide the project team in creating a viable business model. The consultancy will focus on the supply chain, including rice straw accessibility, farmers' engagement, competing uses and options, stakeholders' engagement, logistics, existing regulations, processing systems, and others.

IV. Scope of Work:

The consultant will carry out an integrated assessment based on desk review, field visits, meetings, interviews, etc. to provide reliable data and information, critical insights and effective recommendations.

The following should be covered as a minimum to assess farming practices, farmers' engagement, and willingness to participate in rice straw collection and supply:

- Identification of key rice cultivation regions in Egypt with high rice production and significant rice straw generation.
- Assessment of current farmers' practices regarding rice straw collection, utilization, storage, and disposal, including operational challenges (interviews and discussions with rice farmers).
- Identification and assessment of the main uses and value pathways for rice straw at the farm level (through farmer interviews, focusing on the factors influencing decisions to sell, retain, use, or dispose of rice straw).
- Assessment of farmers' awareness of, participation in, and perceptions of existing rice straw management initiatives and support programs (through farmers consultations, complemented by key informant interviews with government agencies, private sector actors, and civil society organizations).
- Mapping existing farmers' organizational structures (individual farmers, informal groups, cooperatives, farmer associations, aggregators, etc.) involved in rice straw collection, storage, and transport, and assessing the incentives and barriers affecting farmers participation.
- Assessment of current rice straw storage practices and available infrastructure at farm and village/aggregation levels (through site visits and farmer interviews), identification of operational constraints and preferences.
- Estimation of indicative storage costs for different storage options (based on information collected from farmers, local service providers).
- Assessment of farms' accessibility for straw collection vehicles, identify logistical constraints, and identification of existing transport solutions currently used by farmers.
- Estimation of indicative transport costs (e.g., cost per ton-km) and assessment of the availability and cost of transport services (leased or contracted).

V. Duration and Timing

The assignment is expected to be implemented within a maximum of 3 months starting from signing the contract. Estimated level of effort of 15 working days. Detailed timeline to be agreed at contract inception

VI. Key Deliverables:

All deliverables shall be submitted in English. Data collection instruments and anonymized datasets should be annexed where applicable.

Deliverable 1:	Inception report with detailed methodology and workplan, including inquiry questions and final report outlines	7 days after signing the contract
Deliverable 2	1st Draft Report including implementation details and findings	2.5 months after signing the contract
Deliverable 3	Final Report	3.0 months after signing the contract

VII. Required Expertise

The consultant/team shall demonstrate:

- Proven experience in market research and commercial viability assessments for manufacturing, agricultural waste management or construction material systems (consultant should include at least one team member with relevant technical experience).
- Demonstrated capability in value chain and supply chain analysis in emerging markets; experience in Egypt/MENA.
- Experience with farmer/primary producer engagement and agricultural residue or biomass supply chains is an asset
- Familiarity with building materials performance, certification processes, and market adoption dynamics
- Capacity to conduct field-based research and stakeholder engagement
- Strong analytical, financial modeling, and reporting skills
- Excellent written and spoken English and Arabic languages
- Commitment to Habitat for Humanity's values and safeguarding standards.
 - **Humility** – We are part of something bigger than ourselves
 - **Courage** – We do what's right, even when it is difficult or unpopular
 - **Accountability** – We take personal responsibility for Habitat's mission

Safeguarding: HFHI requires that all consultants take seriously their ethical responsibilities to safeguarding our intended beneficiaries, their communities, and all those with whom we work. Employees & Managers at all levels have responsibilities to support and develop systems that create and maintain an environment that prevents harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, safeguards the rights of beneficiaries and community members (especially children), and promotes the implementation of Habitat for Humanity's code of conduct).

VIII. Confidentiality and Ownership

All data, analyses, and outputs produced under this assignment shall remain the property of the HARVEST consortium. The consultant shall not disclose or publish any materials without prior written approval.

IX. VIII. Application Procedures:

Interested candidates are invited to submit a proposal consisting of:

1. Technical Offer (60%):

- A brief description of the consultant's understanding of the assignment and proposed implementation methodology.
- Consultant's CV/ or main consultants in case of a company
- Samples of similar assignments.

2. Financial Offer (40%):

- Detailed budget for the assignment including all taxes. covering: personnel, materials, transportation, and any other costs.

X. Legal & Administrative requirements:

- Applications should include Valid commercial registration and tax card (for companies).
- Consultants must produce electronic invoices (VAT included as per Egyptian law).

XI. Application Procedures

Interested candidates should send their applications to: hr@habitategypt.org

Subject line: " Farmer Engagement Consultant – HARVEST Project"

The Closing Date for Applications is July 24th, 2026