



An Australian multi-country initiative

Terms of Reference: Senior Agricultural Adviser

Reports to:	MDF Sri Lanka Country Director
Classification:	Short-term Adviser position open to nationals of the country of assignment and permanent residents with authority to live and work in the country of assignment.
Duration:	50 days within a 12-month period
Location:	Colombo, Sri Lanka and field-travel

Market Development Facility (MDF)

Market Development Facility is an Australian Government funded multi-country initiative which promotes sustainable economic development, through higher incomes for women and men, in our partner countries.

MDF connect individuals, businesses, governments and NGOs with each other, and with markets at home and abroad. This enhances investment and coordination and allows partnerships to flourish, strengthening inclusive economic growth.

MDF is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). It is implemented by Palladium in partnership with Swisscontact.

In Sri Lanka, MDF works in diversifying tourism and improving authentic Sri Lankan goods.

Assignment Objectives:

The Senior Agricultural Adviser will be a recognised leader in the Sri Lankan agribusiness sector, with extensive experience and networks to support the MDF team in the implementation of their Authentic Sri Lanka Goods strategy. The Senior Agricultural Adviser will keep MDF abreast of new developments in a number of sectors (coffee, organic herbs and spices, fruits and vegetables, and fisheries). The Adviser will have deep networks across private sector spanning input companies, processors, retailers and exporters, as well as with government departments particularly Export Development Board, Department of Agriculture and Department of Export Agriculture. The Adviser will open doors for the team with key private and public sector organisations / individuals and provide mentorship to the country team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Understand MDF's implementation strategy and provide advice and insights to achieve MDF goals.
- Support and guide the team in negotiating of co-investment opportunities in selected Industries
- Stay abreast of new developments in value chains such as coffee, organic spices and herbs, fruits and vegetables and fisheries, including private sector, public or donor investments, change in personnel in key government institutions, and other pertinent information.
- Utilise networks to arrange meetings for MDF with key players in the industry, both in the private and public sector to assist new business development.
- Utilise networks to provide MDF access to relevant data, statistics and information collected by agricultural institutes and bodies.
- Support MDF with the implementation of interventions, where appropriate.
- Represent MDF and its interests in interactions with the private and public sector and its donor, where required.

Requirements:

- Experience in senior management or advisory roles in the Sri Lankan agriculture sector.
- Demonstrated understanding of the challenges and opportunities Sri Lankan agribusiness climate, from either a private sector or government perspective
- A post-graduate qualification in agriculture, economics, business, fisheries or other relevant field(s).
- Exceptional networks encompassing government, big corporates, and the private sector in the agriculture and fisheries industries
- Strong interpersonal skills with a demonstrated capacity to constructively engage with the private and public sectors to drive investment and industry development.
- Demonstrated ability to work with and mentor a dynamic and enthusiastic team.
- Excellent written and spoken English language skills, numeracy, analysis and networking skills.
- Willingness to travel throughout the country or internationally as required.