REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANCY SERVICES – (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Development of an Implementation Framework that supports
Strengthening of Regional and National Collaborative Capacities of ASARECA and its partners

REFERENCE NO: ASAR/CONS/2000/00009

1. Introduction

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a non-profit sub-regional organization of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of twelve countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The core function of the Association is coordinating and convening human, physical, financial and institutional capital to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in the Eastern and Central Africa.

ASARECA has received financing from the European Union (EU) managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (“IFAD”) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under this contract, for which this Request for Expression of Interest is issued.

2. Objective of the consultancy

The overall objective of this consultancy is to develop an implementation framework that supports strengthening of the regional and national agriculture research and innovation delivery infrastructure for climate relevant STI through engagements with national, RECs, AU and European partners.

3. Scope of work

1. Scope of Work

In executing this assignment, the Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

a. Undertake a desk study to review existing national, regional and continental AR4D implementation frameworks.

1. Design user-friendly ASARECA’s Regional Implementation Framework that can be applied at national and regional levels.

2. Validate the implementation modalities of this proposed Framework with selected national and regional stakeholders using available online platforms (such as WebEx for virtual meetings).

4. ASARECA now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services and meet the following requirements:
a. At least a Master’s degree preferably with major in M&E, agricultural sciences, development studies or social sciences.
b. At least 10 years’ experience in the development sector, especially in developing implementation frameworks.
c. Strong knowledge of M&E and development of Frameworks.
d. Past experience in working in ECA countries.
e. Experience in promoting climate relevant STI within the ECA sub-region.
   (Profile of the firm including registration status and registration status, academic qualification, description of similar assignments, and experience in similar conditions).

5. Consultants will be selected in accordance with ASARECA procedure for selection of individual consultants provided is section six of ASARECA Operational Manual

6. Interested consultants may obtain further information and Terms of Reference at ASARECA Website: www.asareca.org.

7. Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by 11.00 am EAST, of July 17, 2020- Marked “Expression Interest for Development of an Implementation Framework that supports Strengthening of Regional and National Collaborative Capacities of ASARECA and its partners

To Executive Director
Attn: Procurement and Contracting Consultant,
Plot 5 Mpigiroad, Entebbe.
E-mail: procurement@asareca.org
Terms of Reference
for
Development of an Implementation Framework that supports
Strengthening of Regional and National Collaborative Capacities of
ASARECA and its partners

2. Introduction

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a sub-regional not-for-profit intergovernmental organization comprising 12 member countries, namely Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The organization brings together researchers from the national agricultural research, extension and education institutions, the private sector, and other strategic partners to generate, share and promote knowledge and innovations to solve the common challenges facing agriculture in the sub-region. ASARECA is therefore strategically positioned to perform a higher level facilitative, supportive, coordination and advocacy role to enhance sustainable agricultural transformation, sustained economic growth and inclusive development in the ECA sub-region. To deliver on this role, ASARECA is now repositioned as the regional “Go to Service Provider of Choice for AR4D coordination, convening, partnership brokerage, process facilitation, and communication products and services”. These services are designed to deliver targeted high priority inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation and development outcomes and impact in ECA sub region.

To achieve its repositioning responsibilities, ASARECA alongside other ex-Pillar 4 Africa institutions comprising African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), CORAF, and Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) are currently implementing the EU-funded and IFAD-managed Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme EX Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) under the initiative "Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture" (DeSIRA).

The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of the organizations to support member countries to deliver on CAADP results through more systemic and effective linkages to and use of science, knowledge and innovation for a climate-relevant transformation of agriculture and food systems. The key activity areas include:

1. To strengthen the technical and organisational capacities in coordination, resource mobilisation, and fiduciary processes. This includes: (a) development of an implementation framework that supports strengthening of the regional and national agriculture research and innovation delivery infrastructure for climate relevant science, technology and innovation (STI) through national, RECs and AU engagements; and (b) support to countries to mainstream climate-relevant science and innovation in their national agriculture investments.

2. To facilitate and support equitable multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation,
including uptake and scaling of technologies, innovations and management practices to
achieve CAADP targets (such as country-based Climate Change thematic platforms;
engagement of private sector and other non-state actors to increase industrialization and
total factor productivity of agriculture; and facilitate South-South and North-South
research for development partnerships).

3. To support policy advocacy and harmonization, market linkages and strengthening of
regional institutional arrangements. This includes: (a) development of capacities for
application of foresight; (b) establishment of sustainable funding mechanisms; and (c)
supporting the strengthening of an enabling environment for regional trade, markets and
trans-boundary commodity movement.

4. To coordinate knowledge management and communication for decision support,
innovation and advocacy through: (a) learning and sharing of opportunities, centres of
excellence and communities of practice for national research and extension systems; (b)
set-up and strengthening of member countries’ capacities to translate, utilize and
adopt/adapt STI knowledge, information and data; and (iii) establish and maintain
national and regional database of experts and European research and extension capacities
to implement the project.

3. Rationale for the Development of Implementation Framework
Based on the foregoing, ASARECA seeks to engage a Consultant to support the Secretariat in
developing an implementation framework that supports strengthening of the regional and
national agriculture research and innovation delivery infrastructure for climate relevant STI
through national, RECs and AU engagements. As aforementioned, ASARECA is
strategically positioned to contribute significantly to the development and implementation of
the national, regional and continental frameworks. In particular, ASARECA has committed to
provide technical support in the development and implementation of (i) the National
Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) of the ECA member states; (ii)
the CAADP 10-year Results Framework and the complementary African Union Malabo
Declaration on Accelerated African Agricultural Growth and Transformation (A3GT); (iii)
the agricultural sector and related strategies of the relevant Regional Economic Communities;
(iv) the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA); (v) the Science
Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A); (vi) the Feed the Future Strategy; (vii) the
Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme; (viii) the African
Agricultural Research Programme (AARP); (ix) the framework for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization in Africa (SAMA); and (x) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These
commitments require user-friendly and implementable framework that enhances partnerships,
capacity strengthening and delivery of the targets.

4. Objective of the Assignment
The overall objective of this consultancy is to develop an implementation framework that
supports strengthening of the regional and national agriculture research and innovation
delivery infrastructure for climate relevant STI through engagements with national, RECs,
AU and European partners.

The specific objectives of this assignment include:

1. To review existing regional and continental AR4D implementation frameworks that
can be applied to ASARECA (based on lessons learned and good practices);
2. To design approaches that ASARECA Secretariat can adopt to strengthen its collaborative capacity with the partners as well as of selected institutions in ECA. This should include clear roadmap for establishing effective engagement approaches with national, RECs and AU.

3. To validate the document with selected stakeholders through virtual meetings and other available online platforms.

5. **Scope of Work**

   In executing this assignment, the Consultant will undertake the following tasks:

   3. Undertake a desk study to review existing national, regional and continental AR4D implementation frameworks that can be applied in developing ASARECA’s Regional Implementation Framework.

   4. Using the review findings, design user-friendly ASARECA’s Regional Implementation Framework that can be applied at national and regional. This Framework should include, among other things:
      
      (a) The type of support needed by the targeted institutions in harnessing collaborative efforts for enhancing climate-relevant and inclusive transformation of agricultural, food, and innovation system.
      
      (b) The potential approaches of collaboratively addressing these gaps.
      
      (c) The adoptable options for scaling out climate-relevant technologies and innovation.
      
      (d) Replicable modalities for strengthening regional and national agriculture research and innovation delivery infrastructure for climate relevant STI, particularly taking into account how to engage stakeholders from national, RECs and AU level.
      
      (e) Examples of replicable opportunities for development of climate-relevant entrepreneurship capacities, mainly among youth, women and other vulnerable groups to reduce unemployment and regional and intercontinental migration.
      
      (f) How to effectively facilitate South-South and North-South research for development partnerships.

5. Validate the implementation modalities of this proposed Framework with selected national and regional stakeholders using available online platforms (such as WebEx for virtual meetings). Among the areas to be validated should include:

   (a) Proposed good practices to support countries to mainstream climate-relevant science and innovation in their national agriculture investments. These good practices and operating mechanisms should include strong gender and youth perspectives.

   (b) Protocol or framework for facilitating and supporting equitable multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation, including procedures for uptake and scaling of technologies, innovations and management practices to achieve CAADP targets.

   (c) Proposed framework for enhancing country-based Climate Change thematic platforms.

   (d) Suggested avenues for effective engagement of private sector and other non-state actors to increase industrialization and productivity of agriculture in the region.
6. **Deliverables/Outputs**
The key deliverables are:

1. A detailed **Inception Report**. This should outline the methodology and proposed timetable showing agreed dates of delivery of specified deliverables.

2. A comprehensive **Current Status Report** showing the existing national, regional and continental AR4D implementation frameworks that can be applied in developing the ASARECA’s Regional Implementation Framework.

3. The **Draft Implementation Framework** detailing: (i) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to follow in implementing the proposed Framework; (ii) key performance indicators and milestones to guide implementation of this Framework; (iii) description of potential partners and collaborators to ensure implementation of this Framework; and (iv) key risks to watch out for, and their associated mitigation measures.

4. The Final **ASARECA Regional Implementation Framework** that incorporates all the lessons learnt from implementation of other frameworks identified in #2 and #3.

5. An **Outline** of what to include in the **ASARECA’s Dashboard** to aid the Secretariat in tracking its performance in strengthening the regional and national agriculture research and innovation delivery infrastructure for climate relevant STI.

7. **Expertise Required**
The Consultant shall be expected to possess the following qualification and expertise:

   f. At least a Master’s degree preferably with major in M&E, agricultural sciences, development studies or social sciences.

   g. At least 10 years’ experience in the development sector, especially in developing implementation frameworks that strengthen partnership and collaborative capacities of organizations.

   h. Strong knowledge of M&E and development of Frameworks required.

   i. Past experience in working in ECA countries. Any previous engagement with RECs, AU and/or European organizations will be an added advantage.

   j. Experience in promoting climate relevant STI within the ECA sub-region.

8. **Reporting**
The Consultants will report to the Executive Director of ASARECA, and work very closely with the Deputy Executive Director (DED). The DED who oversees the Programmes will be supported by the Technical Officer – M&E. The assignment is expected to last a maximum of **30 working days**.

For further information on ASARECA work, visit the ASARECA website [www.asareca.org](http://www.asareca.org).