



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Individual Consultants)
Coverage: Eastern and Central Africa**

NAME OF PROGRAMME: The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)

**TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT: Consultancy Services for
Strengthening ASARECA's Thematic Area on Enabling Policy Environment for Functional
Markets and Transformative Institutions
ASAR/CONS/2023/00002**

1. Introduction

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is an inter-governmental sub-regional organization of the National Agricultural Research Institutions of fourteen countries namely: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. ASARECA is mandated to coordinate and convene human, physical, financial and institutional capital to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

Agricultural policies are a powerful tool for enhancing sustainable agricultural transformation and development as they provide incentives to make choices for agricultural production and, at the same time, address the need for functioning markets and institutions to handle increased production.

As stipulated in ASARECA's Strategy and Results Framework (2019-2028), the thematic area on enabling policy environment, functional markets and transformative institutions intends, among others, to strengthen policy research and analysis to generate data and information for use in decision making and formulating evidence-based policies and regulatory frameworks.

In a bid to become the ECA sub region's "*Go to Service Provider of Choice for agricultural policy, institutions and markets*", ASARECA intends to strengthen its thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions.

Objective

The overall objective of this assignment is to support the strengthening of ASARECA's thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions to create greater impacts at the last mile and improve ASARECA's relevance and visibility at national and regional levels.

Scope of work

The Consultant will be expected to implement specific tasks such as: (i) analysis of relevant policy and regulatory frameworks; (ii) support member countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in development of relevant policies, strategies and regulations; (iii) development of a

strategic plan for ASARECA's thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions; (iv) conducting policy tracer studies; and (v) supporting policy harmonization efforts in collaboration with RECs.

Invitation

ASARECA now invites eligible Individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested persons should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. This should be done in form of a Curriculum Vitae (CV). The selection will be under Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD Project Procurement handbook (www.ifad.org/project-procurement).

The shortlisting criteria are:

The individual Consultant should have:

1. PhD in Public Policy/PhD in Agricultural Policy/PhD in Agricultural Economics.
2. At least 10 years' technical experience in AR4D policy analysis and formulation.
3. Experience in facilitating policy dialogues.
4. Evidence of policy publications including policy briefs.
5. A robust methodology for undertaking the assignment.

The detailed Terms of Reference including the scope of work can be accessed at <https://www.asareca.org/announcements>

Any request for clarification on the REOI should be sent via e-mail to the address below not later than 24th March 2023 by 17:00 hours EAT. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by 17:00 hours EAT on 31st March, 2023.

D. Application

Individual applicants should send their Expression of Interest and comprehensive Curriculum Vitae, indicating the names, addresses, e-mail address, their own telephone numbers, and telephone numbers of three referees by 8th April, 2023 at 10.00am to:

The Executive Director, ASARECA
Attn: Procurement Unit,
ASARECA,
Plot 5, Mpigi Road,
P O Box 765 Entebbe, Uganda.
E-mail : procurement@asareca.org and secretariat@asareca.org

NB

- ASARECA will not take responsibility for late Expressions of Interest
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted



Terms of Reference for Consultancy Services for Strengthening ASARECA's Thematic Area on Enabling Policy Environment for Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions ASAR/CONS/2023/00002

1. Introduction

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is an inter-governmental sub-regional organization of the National Agricultural Research Institutions of fourteen countries namely: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. ASARECA is mandated to coordinate and convene human, physical, financial and institutional capital to implement Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) initiatives in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

ASARECA developed a ten-year Strategy and Results Framework (2019-2028) together with its 1st five-year Medium Term Operational Plan (MTOP-1: 2019-2023). In order to deliver its AR4D mandate, the Association kick-started the operationalization of the MTOP-I with the implementation of key flagship projects. Among the key flagship projects under implementation during the FY2020 include the ASARECA-Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme CAADP ex-pillar IV (CAADP-XP4) project. The CAADP-XP4 project is funded by the European Union (EU) and managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The CAADP-XP4 project directly contributes to Pillar 2 of the EU Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) initiative aimed at spurring a Science-led and Climate-Relevant Agricultural Transformation in Africa. The DeSIRA Pillar 2 focuses on *Research Infrastructure Conducive to Innovation*. The focus is on support to organizations in charge of the governance of research at national and regional level. The project aims at enabling agricultural research and innovation, including extension services, to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate mitigation in Africa.

The CAADP-XP4 project has 5 outputs namely: (i) strengthened capacity of ASARECA to perform its mandate and work together with AFAAS, FARA and SROs; (ii) multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation established and in operation; (iii) strengthened national policies, regional institutional arrangements and market access; (iv) knowledge management for advocacy and decision support and communication improved; and (v) effective planning, coordination, partnerships, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting enhanced. The strengthening of ASARECA's thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions is being supported under output (iii) of the CAADP-XP4 project.

2. Rationale

Agricultural policies are a powerful tool for enhancing sustainable agricultural transformation and development as they provide incentives to make choices for agricultural production and, at the same time, address the need for functioning markets and institutions to handle increased production.

To influence agricultural policy formulation and implementation with evidence and to create a conducive environment to propel AR4D in ECA, ASARECA established the Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis (ECAPAPA) and later the Policy Analysis and Advocacy



Programme (PAAP) which played a key role in catalyzing and facilitating analysis of the policy environment, providing platforms for policy dialogue and advocating for policy implementation in priority areas of commodity sectors, such as seed, biosafety, root crops and dairy in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Later in 2019 ASARECA shifted its approach from the programmatic focus to the thematic areas and established a thematic area on “*enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions*” as one of its four thematic areas. The focus for this thematic area is to support and advocate for the creation of enabling environment, establishment of functional and structured regional input and output markets and strengthening of regional institutions and institutional arrangements.

As stipulated in ASARECA’s Strategy and Results Framework (2019-2028), the thematic area on enabling policy environment, functional markets and transformative institutions intends to: (i) strengthen policy research and analysis to generate data and information for use in decision making and formulating evidence based policies and regulatory frameworks; (ii) enhance national and regional market research and market development to improve efficiency of market systems and achieve competitive advantage; (iii) improve regional market facilities, institutions and institutional arrangements to enhance market access; (iv) and advocate for establishment of an enabling environment to facilitate exploitation of the regional market potential created by regional integration and globalization. Work in this thematic area builds on experiences from ECAPAPA and PAAP.

In a bid to become the ECA sub region’s “*Go to Service Provider of Choice for agricultural policy, institutions and markets*”, ASARECA intends to strengthen its thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions.

Objective

The objective of this assignment is to support the strengthening of ASARECA’s thematic area on Enabling Policy Environment for Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions to create greater impacts at the last mile and improve ASARECA’s relevance and visibility at national and regional levels.

3. Scope of work

The Consultant will be expected to implement the following specific tasks:

- i. Analyze GMO policy and regulatory frameworks in ASARECA member countries and conduct consultative meetings with key national stakeholders to solicit their position regarding GMOs.
- ii. Conduct assessments on regional AR4D priorities and gaps in: (i) laws, policies and regulations; (ii) institutions and (iii) markets and cross-border trade.
- iii. Organize regional policy dialogues to discuss and validate findings and recommendations from the assessment on regional AR4D policy, institutional and market priorities and gaps; and other emerging policy issues in ECA.
- iv. Review National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs)/agricultural strategies of ASARECA member countries and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs) of RECs (EAC, COMESA, IGAD, SADC and ECCAS) and identify key agricultural priorities for ASARECA to focus on.
- v. Support member countries and RECs to develop NAIPs/agricultural strategies and RAIPs respectively where needed.



- vi. Develop a strategic plan for ASARECA's thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions that is aligned to ASARECA's Strategy and Results Framework (2019-2028) and based on consultations with key national and regional policy stakeholders.
- vii. Ascertain the status of policy and regulatory frameworks previously supported by ASARECA in its member countries and track progress on their implementation and reform.
- viii. Support ASARECA member countries and RECs to mainstream climate Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators within their NAIPs and RAIPs respectively and align them to the CAADP-Malabo Declaration and Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa.
- ix. Support ASARECA Secretariat to operationalize its policy community of practice in ECA "*Policy movers and shakers*".
- x. Support ASARECA to engage and collaborate with the 5 RECs (EAC, COMESA, IGAD, ECCAS and SADC) on harmonization of AR4D policies, and development of standards that facilitate cross border trade in agricultural commodities and transfer of technologies in ECA.

4. Deliverables

The Consultant will be expected to deliver the following:

- i. One (1) consultative meeting report.
- ii. A status report highlighting the status of GMOs in member countries including policy options for consideration.
- iii. High level policy dialogue report on the status of GMOs in ASARECA member countries.
- iv. An assessment report and three (3) policy briefs on regional AR4D gaps in: (i) laws, policies and regulations; (ii) institutions and (iii) markets and trade in ECA.
- v. A report on findings and recommendations from the assessment on regional AR4D policy, institutional and market gaps and other emerging policy issues in ECA validated during the policy dialogue.
- vi. Fourteen (14) NAIPs/agricultural strategies of ASARECA member countries and 5 RAIPs of RECs reviewed and key agricultural priorities for ASARECA to focus on identified and documented in a report.
- vii. NAIPs/agricultural strategies and RAIPs developed for selected countries and RECs respectively.
- viii. A strategic plan developed for ASARECA's thematic area on enabling policy environment for functional markets and transformative institutions.
- ix. Report on the status and progress on policy and regulatory frameworks previously supported by ASARECA in its member countries detailing the list of policies, laws and regulations previously supported by ASARECA (by country and the status of implementation and reform).
- x. A report on technical support provided to fourteen (14) ASARECA member countries and five (5) RECs to mainstream climate science, technology and innovation indicators within their NAIPs and RAIPs and the NAIPs and RAIPs aligned to the CAADP Malabo Declaration and Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa.
- xi. Strategies for operationalization of ASARECA's policy community of practice "*Policy movers and shakers*" documented.



- xii. A report on identified and prioritized areas of AR4D policy harmonization and roadmap for harmonization. It is expected that the consultant will engage member countries and RECs in this process.
- xiii. Standards for selected regional agricultural commodities developed in partnership with RECs.

5. Support to the Consultant

ASARECA will support the Consultant in the following areas:

- Provide the contact details of some key stakeholders from member countries and partners.
- Facilitate relevant logistics to undertake the tasks with minimal interruptions.
- Provision of an introductory letter.

6. The shortlisting criteria are:

The individual Consultant should have:

- i. PhD in Public Policy/PhD in Agricultural Policy/PhD in Agricultural Economics.
- ii. At least 10 years' technical experience in AR4D policy analysis and formulation.
- iii. Experience in facilitating policy dialogues.
- iv. Evidence of policy publications including policy briefs.
- v. A robust methodology for undertaking the assignment.

7. Duration

The assignment will be undertaken in a period of 90 working days spread over a period of 6 months.

8. Reporting

The Executive Director of ASARECA shall oversee this consultancy assignment.