

Terms of Reference for Individual Consultancy Services for Development of ASARECA's Regional Climate Smart Agriculture Scaling Strategy

REFERENCE NO: ASAR/CONS/2025/00005

1. Introduction

The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) is a not-for-profit sub-regional organization of the National Agriculture Research Institutions of fifteen countries namely: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, 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 initiatives in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

ASARECA's thematic area on agricultural technologies and innovations focuses on: (i) enhancing resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change effects; (ii) scaling adoption of climate smart technologies and climate information services; (iii) engagement of private sector in commercialization of proven climate smart technologies and innovations; (iv) and coordinating climate smart agriculture initiatives through the ASARECA Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA). The ACSAA is a multistakeholder platform established in 2021 with the goal of improving farmer resilience & livelihoods in the face of climate change and variability. ACSAA promotes the dissemination and utilization of proven climate smart agriculture technologies and practices in ASARECA member countries. ACSAA activities are supported through projects including the AICCRA project.

ASARECA is implementing the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Project (<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/>) in partnership with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. The AICCRA project is funded by the World Bank and aims to strengthen the technical, institutional, and human capacity needed to enhance transfer of climate-relevant information, decision-making tools, and technologies in support of scaling efforts in IDA-eligible countries in Africa. The project focuses on 4 major components namely: (i) knowledge generation and sharing through development of climate-informed agricultural advisory services and decision-making tools; (ii) strengthening partnerships for delivery of climate-smart innovations in agriculture; (iii) validating climate-smart agriculture innovations through piloting; and (iv) project management.

2. Rationale

Climate change presents both risks and opportunities for agriculture and food systems in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA). The most affected are millions of farmers, especially smallholder rural farmers who bear the brunt of climate change including uneven rainfall distribution, extremes of temperatures, floods, and soil erosion. Development and implementation of climate-smart agriculture policies and strategies is one of the approaches to enhancing resilience of smallholder farmers and farming systems to climate change

risks. As such, governments are mainstreaming CSA into national development and agricultural strategies to enhance productivity, build resilience, and reduce emissions. To guide ASARECA member countries in mainstreaming CSA within their national development and agricultural strategies and policies, ASARECA is developing a regional CSA scaling strategy.

The ASARECA Regional CSA scaling strategy will guide member countries in: (i) scaling the use and adoption of proven CSA technologies and innovations; (ii) promoting the use of climate information services; (iii) strengthening partnerships for scaling adoption of proven CSA technologies and innovations; and (iv) financing mechanisms for promoting the use and adoption of CSA technologies, innovations and climate information services.

3. Objectives

The objective of this assignment is to develop an ECA regional strategy applicable to the fifteen ASARECA member countries for scaling CSA that enables widespread adoption of the practices and technologies, supports enabling policies, and mobilizes financing mechanisms.

Specifically, the consultancy assignment seeks to: (i) assess the current CSA landscape, including enabling environments and barriers; (ii) identify appropriate CSA practices and target geographies for scaling; (iii) propose strategic interventions, policies, financing models, and partnerships; and (iv) develop an implementation roadmap with a monitoring and evaluation framework.

4. Tasks

The Consultant will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

4.1. Conduct a situational analysis.

- Review existing CSA policies, strategies, programs, and data.
- Map stakeholders and institutions in CSA at regional and national and levels.
- Analyse climate vulnerabilities and agricultural risks.

4.2. Undertake CSA practice prioritization and targeting

- Use tools like CSA Prioritization Framework (FAO/CIAT), EX-ACT, and Agroecological Zoning to undertake CSA practice prioritization and targeting.
- Identify context-specific, scalable CSA interventions.

4.3. Undertake strategy drafting

- Define vision, goals, strategic pillars, and guiding principles.
- Detail implementation arrangements, roles, timelines, and financing pathways.
- Include cross-cutting issues: gender, nutrition, digital agriculture, land tenure.

4.4. Participate in validation and then revise and finalize the document

- Present draft to stakeholders for validation during the validation workshop.
- Incorporate feedback and produce final strategy document and executive summary.

5. Deliverables

- Inception Report (including work plan and methodology)
- Situational Analysis Report
- Stakeholder Consultation Report
- Draft CSA Scaling Strategy
- Final CSA Scaling Strategy (with M&E Framework and Implementation Plan)

6. Support to the Consultant

ASARECA will support the Consultant in the following areas:

- Provide the contact details of key stakeholders from member countries and regional partners.
- Facilitate relevant logistics to undertake the task with minimal interruptions.
- Provide relevant information available at ASARECA Secretariat as might be required.
- Provision of an introductory letter.

7. Qualifications and work experience of the Consultant

- Masters' degree in Agronomy/Natural Resources Management/Agricultural Sciences/Environmental Sciences/Environmental policy.
- At least 10 years' experience in climate-smart agriculture, climate adaptation, or sustainable agriculture policy in Africa.
- Proven track record in climate change related strategy development or working with related projects for increasing productivity, adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sector within Eastern and Central Africa.
- Experience in CSA multistakeholder platforms engagement and facilitation.

8. Selection criteria

The selection will be based on the Consultants' qualification, experience and capability to perform the assignment and will be assessed as follows based on the criteria presented below:

- Academic qualifications.

- Experience in developing climate-related strategies.
- Experience in managing implementation of climate-related projects in Eastern and Central Africa.
- Experience in facilitating climate-related multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Understanding of regional climate issues and discourse.

9. Duration

The assignment is expected to take a total of **30 working days** spread across 3 months.

10. Reporting

The Executive Director of ASARECA shall oversee the assignment of the Consultant. S/He will work closely with the Program Officer - Policy.