



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of a individual consultant for Implementation of the ECOWAS Regulation
C/REG.3/05/2008 on the
Harmonization of Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification and Marketing of
Plant Seeds and Seedlings in ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Regional

OPENING DATE: 07, August, 2017

CLOSING DATE: 17, August, 2017

CEI N° 08-2017

The mission of the West Africa Seed Committee (WASC), currently called ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Regional Seed Committee, is ensuring the implementation of the ECOWAS harmonized regulation to support the promotion of quality control, certification and marketing of seeds, in order to contribute to the implementation of regional and national agricultural policies and to the development of the seed sector within the Member States.

The Executive Secretariat of the West and Central African Council for Research and Agricultural Development (CORAF/WECARD) intends to recruit a highly qualified Seed Policy Expert to help lead the WASC mission in Member Countries.

CORAF/WECARD now invites eligible applicants from the West and Central Africa region for the position mentioned above. Interested applicants may obtain detailed ToR and further information from the Executive Secretariat during normal office hours (08:30 GMT to 17:30 GMT). The Individual Consultant will be selected using the rules of CORAF/WECARD Administrative and Financial Manual, Selection consultancy services.

The Consultant will be engaged for 03 months.

1. Qualification and Experience of the consultant:

The qualification and experience are precised in the ToR below :

2. The consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest comprising: (i) references concerning the execution and experience of similar contracts and (ii) their CVs.
3. Expressions of Interest (Eol) must be submitted by e-mail at the following address: procurement@coraf.org not later than the 17th August 2017 at 10:00 GMT.
4. CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the Eol or annul the Eol process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicants.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD

TERMS OF REFERENCES

Implementation of the ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.3/05/2008 on the Harmonization of Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification and Marketing of Plant Seeds and Seedlings in ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Region

About Seed Policy

Mission

The mission of the West Africa Seed Committee (WASC), currently called ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Regional Seed Committee, is ensuring the implementation of the ECOWAS harmonized regulation to support the promotion of quality control, certification and marketing of seeds, in order to contribute to the implementation of regional and national agricultural policies and to the development of the seed sector within the Member States.

Within the framework of this mission, the WASC is specifically in charge of:

- Facilitating the diffusion on new varieties, through their registration in the West Africa Catalogue for Plant Species and Varieties;
- Encouraging the production, use and free circulation of quality seeds;
- Contributing to the promotion of a regional seed industry;
- Promoting the sharing of experiences, cooperation, common regional agricultural policy and strategies for regional actions;
- Facilitating diffusion of information relating to seeds;
- Sensitizing Member States on the concerns raised by the users and other stakeholders within the seed value chain.

1. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CORAF is seeking a Seed Policy Expert to help lead the WASC mission in Member Countries. Under the authority of the CORAF Executive Director, on behalf the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissioners for Agriculture, the ***Consultant*** will:

- (a) Oversee the operational management of the Executive Secretariat of the WASC;
- (b) Translate and disseminate the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Regional Catalogue of Species and Varieties of Plants, in the ECOWAS three languages: French, English and Portuguese;
- (c) Follow-up the signatory by the three institutions of the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Regional Catalogue of Species and Varieties of Plants;

- (d) Follow-up the implementation of the recommendations from the Third Ordinary Meeting of the ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Regional Seed Committee, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on July 28 and 29, 2017;
- (e) Follow up and make report on the implementation status of the harmonization of agri-input (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) regulations in ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Member Countries, and share the aforementioned status with the WAAPP regional/national coordinating units, in response to the recommendations from the last WAAPP Steering Committee Meeting held in Conakry, Guinée;
- (f) Work in close collaboration with FAO West Africa Regional Office, to make the necessary preparations for the development of a Catalogue of Cassava Species and Varieties, in support of a FAO project for targeted West Africa countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana);
- (g) Work with the WASP Chief of Party to prepare activities related to the start-up of the CORAF new program, called PAIRED;
- (h) Encourage cooperation among national/international institutions, public and private sector stakeholders in the seed sector, in particular with ARIPO and OAPI on issues related to Plant Breeders' Rights (Arusha Protocol for the five West Africa English speaking countries, including the implementation of the Annex X of the Revised Bangui Agreement – OAPI).

Facilitate Coordination

-) Coordinate the activities of the WASC and backstopping the National Seed Committees;
-) Coordinate the development and timely publication of the national and regional variety catalogues;

Facilitate communication and liaison

-) Develop and maintain strong relationships with National Seed Committees, national, regional and international seed sector stakeholders, ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, CORAF, FBOs, International and National Research Institutions, etc.;
-) Manage daily interactions with seed policy stakeholders and provide timely and appropriate information as needed;
-) Oversee planning, structuring, evaluation and reporting to the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture.

Monitor milestones

-) Facilitate Programme planning, monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment relating activities of WASC;
-) Monitor progress towards results at the ECOWAS level, identifying and managing risks to progress of implementation.
-) Support the preparation of Programme reporting.

Coordinate internal operations

- J Manage internal processes on behalf of the ECOWAS (e.g. archiving, IT requirements, internal reporting).
- J Support National Seed Committees in the management of the ECOWAS Harmonized regulations.

2. QUALIFICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- Ph. D or M.Sc. in Plant Breeding, Agronomy, Seed Technology or related fields.
- At least 10 years of progressive, senior level research and product development/seed technology/agricultural policy and regulatory services/management experience in the agricultural research and development sector;
- Ability to promote the ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.3/05/2008 on the Harmonization of Rules Governing Quality Control, Certification and Marketing of Plant Seeds and Seedlings and on the ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.13/12/12 on Fertilizer Quality Control in ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS Region;
- He/she should be knowledgeable in the variety testing (Value for Cultivation and Use; VCU), characterization (Distinct, Uniform and Stability; DUS), including cataloguing, seed quality control, certification;
- He/she should be knowledgeable in the agricultural research and development and plant breeding, genetic resource management or seed systems in West and Central Africa.;
- He/she should be an experienced professional with extensive technical and management experience in agricultural development programs, preferably plant breeding and seed industry development in West and Central Africa, in particular;
- Ability to work with, coordinate and inspire, multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams in a multi-partner environment, and to engage in both local and high level policy dialogue with clients;
- Capability to facilitate knowledge building and results-based management within the context of ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS agenda;
- Ability to contribute to maintaining constructive working environment and excellent relationships with internal and external stakeholders;
- Capacity and willingness to travel extensively within the sub-region and internationally;
- Computer literate and fully familiar with the Microsoft Office, database software; well-organised, with good planning and problem-solving abilities with good writing and editing skills in scientific literature and/or 'general' material;
- Ability to write, read and speak English and French with Level "A" in one and at least an average of Level "B" in the other. A working knowledge of Portuguese would be an added advantage.

Candidates should be a citizen of any of West and Central Africa Region.

3. WORKING WITH ECOWAS

ECOWAS is not just looking to fill a vacancy. Whenever it recruits, it is looking for individuals, who share its values, are adaptable and resourceful, and who will complement the team and contribute to the development of the Organisation.

Salary and remuneration will depend on the skills, experience and track record of the successful applicant, and will be internationally competitive. ECOWAS invests heavily in creating a culture of quality, professionalism, mutual support and team work.

This contract will be for a period of three months.

The position will be based at the CORAF Secretariat, Dakar, Senegal.

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