



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual consultant responsible for Developing a Strategy for Practicing Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems in WAAPP Countries

Opening of the call: 29 / 08 / 2017

Closure of the call: 13 / 09 / 2017

CEI No 15-2017

1. In coherence with the "PNIASA" and "PRIASA", the actors involved in the implementation of the Agricultural Productivity Program in West Africa, financially facilitated by the World Bank and technically coordinated by CORAF, want to develop a nutrition-sensitive strategy for the practice of agriculture and food systems. Therefore, in the formulation of the additional funding for WAAPP 1C, it has been considered to better address the inclusion of nutrition issues in the activities implemented. The objective of this consultation is to recruit an individual consultant responsible for developing a Strategy for Practicing Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems in WAAPP Countries
2. The main expected result of this work is a reference document to be used by WAAPP countries to effectively address the inclusion of nutrition in agricultural and food systems practice.
3. The tasks to be performed and other information relating to the conduct of the mission are detailed in the attached Terms of Reference.
4. The Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD invites consultants with the profile sought as indicated in the terms of reference to express their interest in this appeal.

5. Individual consultants should provide a record of expression of interest consisting of: (i) the methodology to be used to do the work requested, (ii) references concerning the performance and experience of similar services, (iii) and their updated CV.
6. The individual Consultant will be selected using the selection based on the individual consultant (IC) method in accordance with the World Bank guidelines on "Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011, revised on July 2014".
7. Interested consultants may obtain additional information from CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat by sending correspondence n.lamien@coraf.org with copy to secoraf@coraf.org from 8am to 12pm and from 15h to 17h GMT.
8. Expressions of interest must be submitted by e-mail to: procurement@coraf.org, on **13 / 09 / 2017** at 17:00 GMT at the latest.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
Executive director
CORAF / WECARD



Terms of Reference for Developing a Strategy for Practicing Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems in WAAPP Countries

Rationale

In general, the situation of malnutrition in West Africa remains a matter of concern. According to data from UNICEF-WHO-The World Bank Group (2015): <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.wrapper.nutrition-1-1>, regional prevalence of stunting, underweight and acute malnutrition among children under five in 2014 were 32.4%, 19.8% and 9%, respectively. In terms of trends, stunting fell slightly over 20 years, from 40.9% in 1990 to 32.4% in 2014. Underweight also declined during this period, but in still small proportions. It only decreased from 26.8% to 19.8% over the same period. Unlike micronutrient malnutrition, the percentage of overweight is slightly increasing from 3% to 3.5% between 1990 and 2014. Trends in regional data are also found at country level, most of which showing high malnutrition prevalence, including stunting. These data show that the populations' diet remains little diversified, with a predominance of cereal consumption. In contrast to the Sahelian countries, it should be noted better diversification, with additional consumption of roots and tubers in the coastal countries. Regardless of the area, consumption of food such as products of animal origin (including meat, fish, milk and egg) and fruit and vegetables remains low. Poor food diversification may be partly due to inadequate knowledge of nutrition and good nutritional practices, cultural factors, food availability, and the high price of certain products (such as meat, fish and fruit and vegetables).

The analysis of the problems of the agricultural sector and the search for solutions were for a long time focused on the low productivity of basic staple foods in terms of food self-sufficiency and sovereignty, in view of the inadequate production compared to the natural potential of the sub-region. Moreover, the economic dimension of agriculture continues to be one of the main justifications for its development, to the detriment of the social aspect and especially of nutrition. This has led to a low diversification of food production, with cereals having received more attention, to the detriment of fruits and vegetables whose availability at country level remains relatively low. While pursuing economic and food sovereignty objectives for basic products, the aspects of qualitative and diversification production should be taken into account, which could create market opportunities, contribute to improving agricultural populations' income sources and the availability of foods with high nutritional value such as horticultural and market gardening products, animal products and food forest products.

It is also recognized that there is little collaboration between agriculture and the other nutrition sectors at national and regional levels. In most countries of the subregion, the agricultural sector and the institution in charge of nutrition (usually housed within the Ministry of Health) have very few relations, particularly in policy processes. The same is true at regional level, with little collaboration between the West African Health Organization, in charge of nutrition matters and the ECOWAS Commission in charge of agriculture, as well as other regional structures involved in Agriculture and food security. One consequence is that national and regional agricultural policies and programs take very little account of nutritional aspects,

including their formulation, implementation or monitoring and evaluation. There is also evidence of insufficient human resources in nutrition in the national and regional agricultural sector. The majority of nutritionists at country level are generally made available to the Ministry of Health and few nutritionists are assigned to the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, few ministries of agriculture in ECOWAS countries have established structures addressing nutrition issues within their departments. The presence of nutritionists at the level of this sector would contribute to improving the integration of nutrition, particularly in the aspects related to programming, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The international community today is unanimous in calling for an agriculture and a food system more sensitive to nutrition. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture would aim to produce results "indirectly" contributing to improving the nutritional status of populations. It is a "concept that aims to narrow the gap between available and accessible foods and the foods needed for a healthy and balanced diet of all populations". This strategy emphasizes the multiple benefits associated with the ability of households and individuals to have a wide range of agricultural commodities for consumption, recognizing the importance of food as a key contributor to a good nutritional state. It is also based on the importance of agriculture as a means of improving the living conditions of populations - especially the groups most vulnerable to malnutrition, such as women of reproductive age – since it's an activity largely carried out in developing countries, especially in rural areas. Thus, FAO Regional Office for Africa, in its guidance note during the NAAASP and PRIASA formulation workshop, made the following recommendations for the inclusion of nutrition in the investment programs and agricultural policies.

- 1 **Inclure des objectifs et des indicateurs de nutrition explicites dès la conception des programmes, et, détecter et atténuer les potentiels impacts négatifs**, tout en recherchant des synergies avec les objectifs économiques, sociaux et environnementaux.
- 2 **Analyser le contexte local afin de concevoir des activités qui répondent aux différents types de malnutrition**, (la sous-nutrition chronique ou aiguë, les carences en vitamines et minéraux, l'obésité et les maladies chroniques) ainsi que leurs causes. L'analyse du contexte peut porter sur : les ressources alimentaires potentielles, l'agro-écologie, la saisonnalité de la production et des revenus, l'accès aux ressources productives (notamment la terre), les opportunités de marché et les infrastructures, les rôles spécifiques des hommes et des femmes, les possibilités de collaboration avec d'autres secteurs et programmes, ainsi que les priorités locales.
- 3 **Cibler les personnes vulnérables et améliorer l'équité** par l'approche participative, l'accès aux ressources et l'emploi décent. Les groupes vulnérables peuvent comprendre les petits exploitants, les femmes, les jeunes, les paysans sans terre, les pauvres des zones urbaines, les chômeurs.
- 4 **Collaborer et coordonner l'action avec d'autres secteurs** (santé, environnement, protection sociale, emploi, eau et assainissement, éducation, énergie) et programmes, au moyen de stratégies conjointes ayant des objectifs communs, afin de répondre simultanément aux multiples causes sous-jacentes de la malnutrition.
- 5 **Préserver ou améliorer les ressources naturelles** disponibles (eau, sol, air, climat, biodiversité), essentielles à la subsistance et la résilience des agriculteurs vulnérables ainsi qu'à une sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle durable. Gérer les ressources en eau, en particulier pour réduire les maladies vectorielles et assurer que les sources d'eau soient durables et sûres.
- 6 **Promouvoir l'autonomisation des femmes** en assurant leur accès aux ressources productives, à des activités rémunératrices, aux services de vulgarisation ainsi qu'à l'information, au crédit, à l'emploi et à des technologies qui leur permettent d'économiser du temps et de simplifier les corvées (notamment pour l'eau et l'énergie). Soutenir leur participation à la prise de décisions
- 7 **Faciliter l'augmentation et la diversification de la production de cultures riches en nutriments et de l'élevage à petite échelle** (par exemple produits horticoles, légumineuses, production animale et aquaculture, plantes cultivées sous-utilisées/oubliées et cultures biofortifiées). Les systèmes de production diversifiés sont importants pour les producteurs vulnérables car ils permettent de faire face aux chocs liés au climat et aux variations de prix, d'avoir une alimentation variée, de réduire les fluctuations saisonnières des revenus et des régimes alimentaires ainsi que de générer davantage des revenus mieux répartis entre les hommes et les femmes.
- 8 **Améliorer les techniques de transformation et de stockage** afin de réduire les pertes post-récoltes, d'augmenter la conservation et la disponibilité des aliments au-delà des saisons, tout en préservant leur valeur nutritionnelle et en assurant leur innocuité. Les processus de transformation respectueux des enjeux nutritionnels peuvent rendre les aliments sains faciles à préparer.
- 9 **Étendre les marchés et favoriser leur accès aux groupes vulnérables, en particulier pour la commercialisation d'aliments riches en nutriments** et autres productions pour lesquelles ces derniers ont un avantage comparatif en tant que producteurs. Cela peut fonctionner grâce à des techniques innovantes de promotion (telles que le marketing fondé sur le contenu nutritionnel), des activités générant de la valeur ajoutée, un accès aux informations sur les prix, et le renforcement d'associations d'agriculteurs.
- 10 **Assurer la promotion de la nutrition et une éducation nutritionnelle** orientée sur les enjeux de l'alimentation et les systèmes alimentaires durables. Ces activités doivent s'appuyer sur les connaissances, les comportements et les pratiques locales. Les connaissances en matière de nutrition peuvent renforcer l'impact de la production et des revenus des ménages ruraux, surtout pour les femmes et les jeunes enfants, et accroître la demande en aliments riches en nutriments au sein de l'ensemble de la population.



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Objectives

The overall objective of developing a practice strategy for agriculture and food systems responsive to nutrition is to ensure that WAAPP contributes to the achievement of the second sustainable development goal (SDG) of the United Nations. Specifically, it will be necessary to provide WAAPP countries with a framework for action on nutrition issues.

Results

The main expected result of this work is a reference document to be used by WAAPP countries to effectively address the inclusion of nutrition in agricultural and food systems practice.

Tasks to be Perform

On the basis of the recommendations of FAO Regional Office, listed above, the consultant will:

-) Carry out a documentary review;
-) Carry out a consultation on the national strategies and policies of 3 ECOWAS countries on issues related to nutrition inclusion in the practice of agriculture and food systems;
-) Carry out a consultation with few regional or international institutions dealing with nutrition issues;
-) Carry out the development of a strategy aligned with international guidelines but adapted to the implementation context and approach of the WAAPP;
-) Prepare indicator sheets on the achievement of the desired objectives;
-) Present the strategy to the stakeholders in the region for approval.

Consultant Profile

The resource person sought for this job should have:

1. A university degree of a minimum level of master's degree in nutrition/dietetics or related disciplines and preferably a doctorate level in these fields;
2. A good knowledge of nutrition challenges in the West African region;
3. Solid experience in promoting nutrition standards;
4. A good knowledge of strategies for achieving the second SDG;
5. A good understanding of the impact of agricultural practices and food systems on the nutritional quality of the West African region's population.

Duration of consultation

This consultancy mission is estimated at 25 man-days of actual work over a period of two months from the date of signature of contract.

Remuneration

In accordance with CORAF/WECARD policy on remuneration for services rendered, the service provider will receive a remuneration corresponding to his qualification and level of experience. The payment terms will be specified in the service contract to be signed between the service provider and CORAF/WECARD.