



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Position: Senior Seed Business *Expert of the WASSD program*
Type of contract: International
Reference: 15/SB/2024
Location: Dakar (Senegal) with continental mobility
Opening Date: 05/12/2024
Closing Date: 26/12/2024

Observations: Recruitment pending program launch

Presentation of CORAF and the Program

The West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) was founded in 1987. CORAF (www.coraf.org) currently brings together the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 West and Central African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The vision of CORAF in its Strategic Plan 2018-2027 is a future where people and communities in West and Central Africa will achieve food and nutrition security and are prosperous. Its mission is to ensure sustainable improvement to the productivity, competitiveness, and markets of the agricultural system in WCA.

To achieve the goals of socio-economic development and people's well-being, African agriculture must significantly improve its productivity while maintaining the sustainability of diversified and quality agri-food systems.

High yield gap, estimated at 75% of potential yield and low average growth rate for most agricultural products (lower than the 6% target set by the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme or CAADP) are worrying, given the substantial investments made in the sector over the last 10 to 15 years.

Limited availability of agricultural inputs, inadequate distribution networks in isolated communities, poor quality and counterfeit seeds, as well as high prices for certified seeds and inputs are ongoing challenges in West Africa and major barriers to agricultural productivity and growth. To address these shortcomings, donors and West African governments have been working through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional bodies to develop and operationalize consistent quality control procedures, strengthen seed systems and make trade in inputs easier, faster and cheaper.

ECOWAS has received financial support from USAID/West Africa for the development of a regional agricultural input strategy (RAIS). CORAF has developed on behalf of ECOWAS/CILSS/UEMOA the strategy that outlines an integrated approach to increase agricultural inputs, including seeds, crops, livestock and aquaculture. As part of the implementation of the strategy, CORAF designated as the technical secretariat has received funding for the implementation of the West Africa Seed Sector Development Programme (WASSD). The project aims to increase the availability and access to quality seeds, improve yields and food security, while strengthening the private sector and political environment.

The overall objective of the Seed Sector Development Programme in West Africa (WASSD) is to improve agricultural productivity through improved access for farmers to greater use of improved agricultural inputs and technologies provided by private sector companies in West-Africa, and a collaborative engagement with a multitude of regional and national organizations and associations.

Job title	
As part of the implementation of the program, CORAF is seeking a Senior Seed Business Expert from the WASSD (H/F) program.	
Mission	
Support and work with partners to implement policy actions to create an enabling environment for seed business development through the WASSD programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support partners in identifying and documenting commercially viable crop varieties, seed stocks, demand, skill needs and constraints on seed activity; • Identify and document the constraints associated with updating improved seeds and complementary technologies; • Design and implement an effective strategy to strengthen private sector participation in seed trade in African countries; • Facilitate the active participation of potential seed users in project scaling activities; • Support and facilitate seed procurement in different countries; • Engage the private sector and other end-users to update improved crop varieties; • Supervise and/or coordinate the development of briefing notes for effective advocacy and political engagement; • Design and implement an effective capacity building program for seed companies; • Participate in the planning, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of the project in accordance with the instructions of the CORAF Directorate; • Prepare and submit periodic and mandatory activity reports; • Contribute to knowledge management and institutional memory; • Perform any related activity at the request of the hierarchy. 	
Profile	
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in Agronomy, Agro-economics, Business Management, Marketing and related disciplines.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum of ten (10) years' experience in agri-food, marketing, purchasing, administration, business management and financial analysis in the agricultural field; ▪ Minimum of five (05) years' experience in project management, including USAID; ▪ Experience of at least seven (07) years in Results-Based Management (RBM); ▪ Minimum of five (05) years' experience in writing or participating in the writing of technical documents; ▪ Minimum of five (05) years' experience in data collection and analysis; ▪ Minimum of five (05) years' experience in agricultural research, agricultural and rural advisory services, extension, education, and capacity building; ▪ Minimum of ten (10) years' experience in a multicultural environment.
Soft skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Humility; ▪ Courtesy; ▪ Ability to work under pressure; ▪ Discretion; ▪ Be methodical; ▪ Organizational capacity; ▪ Team spirit; ▪ Adaptability; ▪ Integrity; ▪ Sense of priorities; ▪ Ability to listen; ▪ Analytical capacity;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to anticipate; ▪ Responsiveness.
Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Office 365 (Word; Excel; PowerPoint ; Access) ▪ Outlook ; ▪ Collection software: KOBOCOLLECT
Languages	Bilingual (French/English) both orally and in writing
Mobility	On the Continent
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge of CORAF; ▪ Demonstrated interest in agriculture, food security and development;
Application procedures	
Application Package	<p>It must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cover letter addressed to the Executive Director, Dakar, Senegal. The file should be named as follows: Initial of first name +Last in mask_LM. For example, ADIALLO_LM); ▪ A detailed CV, with the names and contacts of three mandatory references (e-mail, address, and telephone). The CV file should be named as follows: Initial of first name +Last name in caps_CV_month and year. For example, ADIALLO_CV March 2024.
Contact	Applications should be sent to Youmann Executive Search
Deadline for filing	26/12/2024 at 11:59 PM

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.