



Leader de l'Innovation Agricole en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre
Leading Agricultural Innovation in West and Central Africa



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an Individual Consultant for the development of the CORAF regional strategy for nutrition sensitive agriculture

Call opening: 04/02/ 2025

Call close: 19/02/2025

CEI No. 01-2025

1. The Food System Resilience Programme (FPRP) is a flagship regional investment programme to strengthen the resilience of the food system in West Africa through a strategic regional approach. The program will fund investments in three mutually reinforcing thematic areas: (1) Digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention and management; (2) the sustainability and adaptability of the food system's productive base (sustainable land and watershed management, agroecological approaches); and (3) regional food market integration and trade (development of the regional staple food value chain). Each area will be led by a regional institution mandated (AGRHYMET, CORAF and ECOWAS) to ensure coordination and build sustainable capacity.
2. The main objective of this assignment is to develop a regional comprehensive nutrition sensitive agriculture strategy that provides clear guidelines for the development of cutting edge technologies and innovations by research organizations with a nutrition lens.
3. The tasks to be performed and other information related to the conduct of the mission are described in the terms of reference below.
4. The CORAF Executive Director therefore invites interested candidates ("Consultants") with the required profile as indicated in the mandate to express their interest.
5. Interested candidates must provide a notice of expression of interest and an updated CV with references highlighting the performance and experience of similar services.
6. Candidates are advised that the provisions of paragraph 3.14 of the "Public Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Finance Borrowers" of July 2016, revised in November 2017 and August 2018 (the "Regulations") World Bank rules on conflicts of interest will apply.

Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles
West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development

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7. Candidates will be selected based on the consultant's qualifications as described in the "Bank's Procurement Rules".

8. Interested candidates can obtain additional information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat by e-mail on working days at: n.lamien@coraf.org with a copy to procurement@coraf.org.

9. Consultants interested in this call must submit a letter of interest outlining performance and experience from similar contracts and a detailed CV with copies of diplomas and work certificates to the following email address: procurement@coraf.org by 19/02/2025 at 5:00 PM GMT.

Dr Moumini SAVADOGO
Executive Director

For the recruitment of an individual consultant for the development of the CORAF regional strategy for nutrition sensitive agriculture

1. Background

CORAF is an international non-profit organisation comprising the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 countries in West and Central Africa. CORAF relies on partnerships to stimulate agricultural innovation with a view to contributing to prosperity and food and nutritional security in West and Central Africa. Currently, CORAF, with the support of World Bank, is implementing the Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP). The FSRP is a multi-sectoral initiative led by regional organisations including ECOWAS, CILSS, and CORAF to foster regional integration in three mutually supportive priority areas for food system resilience in West Africa.

Component 2 aims at improving the resilience of the productive base of the food system and contribute directly to the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative. The FSRP adopts approaches based on Nutrition-Smart Agriculture (NSA) and value chains. NSA aims at simultaneously improving farm incomes and nutritional outcomes through specific agricultural interventions. NSA practices and technologies help to address local nutrition issues and increase the productivity and income of farms and/or the agri-food sector. Nutrition-smart agriculture is a subset of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. It focuses on the production side of the food value chain, where farmers and agri-food businesses decide "what" and "how" to produce and where the agricultural sector designs and implements actions and policies to improve nutrition.

The FSRP initiative is timely and should help to transform the food systems in West Africa to make them sustainable, inclusive and nutritionally sensitive. Since the 1960s, investment in agriculture has improved agricultural production in West and Central Africa. However, despite the progress made, agricultural production is still not enough to meet the quantitative and qualitative food needs of the population; starvation and malnutrition in all its forms remain priority public health and development issues in almost all the countries in the region. In addition to malnutrition due to deficiencies, which is endemic in the region and on which very little progress has been made, there is the nutritional transition, with its corollary of obesity and non-communicable diseases. These different forms of malnutrition now coexist at national and regional levels, but also sometimes at community and family levels.

There is a global consensus that agricultural production must increase to feed an ever-growing population, but it is also recognised that agricultural production must be transformed to become healthier, fairer and more sustainable, producing the quantity and quality of food necessary for optimal growth and the maintenance of a healthy and active life. This concern has been taken into consideration in the SDGs, particularly SDG 2, which aims to end hunger, ensure food security and better nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. In that vein, ECOWAS has developed a Regional Agenda for enhancing the Integration of Nutrition into regional agriculture policies and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is planning to do the same in the coming months. Strengthening the capacity of agricultural research institutions to develop and promote technologies, innovations and practices that prioritize the year-long production nutrient rich foods and help farmers to get out of poverty is one of the priority actions identify by ECOWAS to be taken to implement this agenda.

The adoption of nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices is key to maximising the impact of the food and agriculture sector on people's nutritional status while minimising the unintended negative nutritional consequences of agricultural policies and interventions on the food chain. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture includes consistent consideration of nutrition objectives, outcomes and indicators in national and regional food and agricultural policies and programmes, as well as in macroeconomic policies and broader development strategies. Agriculture research institutions in the region have the potential to greatly contribute to the development and promotion of nutrition sensitive agriculture and nutrition smart agriculture by contributing to the development of sustainable and effective solutions to address food and nutrition insecurity including knowledge, innovations and solutions that promote consumption of nutrient-rich foods.

CORAF's ten year strategic plan 2018-2027 aims to enable smallholders, peri-urban farmers and producer organizations to become market-oriented and to become competitive entrepreneurs in sophisticated markets, while ensuring food and nutritional security for the population of WCA. Working to allow people of the region to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security is one of the priority intervention areas of CORAF. It is therefore very important for CORAF to have a regional nutrition sensitive strategy that will help the CORAF and its constituencies to better equip to promote farming and food systems that help to battle nutrition challenges. A nutrition sensitive strategy will help CORAF to better mainstream nutrition in its research and development investments to achieve the objectives of its strategic plan and also those in line with international and continental agenda.

The present Terms of Reference are proposed for the recruitment of an individual consultant to assist CORAF in the development of a regional nutrition sensitive agriculture strategy for West and Central Africa.

2. Objective

The main objective of this assignment is to develop a regional comprehensive nutrition sensitive agriculture strategy that provides clear guidelines for the development of cutting edge technologies and innovations by research organisations with a nutrition lens.

Specifically, it aims at:

- Conducting a capacity needs assessment of research organisations in West and Central African for the integration of nutrition into technology development and scaling.
- Conducting a scoping study of the challenges, opportunities and policies for integrating nutrition into agriculture research and development in the region.
- Diagnosing of the challenges preventing the massive scaling of nutritional sensitive agriculture technologies in West and Central Africa.
- Prioritising actions for nutrition-sensitive agriculture with a focus on FSRP.

3. Methodological approach

The strategy shall be developed through a participatory process involving various stakeholder groups. Methodologies shall be chosen in a way to inspire contributions and secure broad-based ownership. Regional and national stakeholders will be consulted. This process is expected to be highly participatory through the engagement of critical stakeholder such as research organization, national extension directorates, farmer organization, policy makers, etc. This could be through online meetings, workshops and face to face interactions. The process is expected to start with a comprehensive desk review of literature across the region to take stock

of what has been achieved. This is followed with capacity needs assessment of National Agriculture Research System (NARS) within the region. Following this will be a scoping and diagnosis studies to tease out the fundamental issues for the development of the strategy. Findings from these studies will lead to stakeholder engagements through workshops and online meetings for a draft strategy. To ensure ownership and inputs from stakeholders, the draft strategy will be validated and finalized in the form of a validation workshop. The consultant will elaborate the detailed methodology in close consultation with CORAF.

4. Outputs

- Inception reports and proposed methodology
- Literature review and report of policy analysis and challenges diagnosis
- Stakeholders' consultation summary
- Draft comprehensive nutrition sensitive agriculture strategy for West and Central Africa integrating:
 - o Existing policy measures and political will for investment in nutrition-sensitive technologies and innovations from the agricultural sector development policy documents in West and Central Africa identified,
 - o Identification of challenges associated with scaling up nutrition-sensitive technologies and innovations in West and Central Africa,
 - o Proposed strategies for improving the capacity of research organisations in West and Central Africa for the integration of nutrition into technology development and scaling for enhanced food and nutritional security.
 - o Mitigation strategy for overcoming identified challenges to integrating nutrition into food security research and development within the region.
 - o Guidelines for formulating nutritional sensitive agriculture technology development project, programmes and policies.
 - o Catalogue of opportunities and policies for integrating nutrition into food security research and development.
 - o An effective scaling strategy for nutritional sensitive agriculture technologies and innovations.
 - o CORAF Nutrition sensitive agriculture strategy including five-year strategic plan, implementation plan and funding mechanism for the developed nutritional strategy.
 - o Priority actions for nutrition-sensitive agriculture with a focus on FSRP

Consultant’s reporting obligations

Deliverable	Expected timeline
Inception reports and proposed methodology	Two weeks after signature of contract
Literature review and report of policy analysis and challenges diagnosis Stakeholders' consultation summary	Twelve weeks after signature of contract
Draft strategy report	18 weeks after signature of contract
Validation of the draft strategy report	22 weeks after signature of contract
Final version of the nutrition strategy report	24 weeks after signature of contract

5. Consultant task

The consultant specific tasks, under CORAF supervision, will include:

- Conducting a comprehensive literature review on existing NSA strategies and best practices globally and regionally
- Completing a policy analysis of agricultural and nutrition policies across member countries
- Organizing and executing stakeholder engagements activities, including virtual workshops, surveys, or interviews
- Drafting NSA strategy, incorporating feedback from CORAF and other stakeholders
- Final report with actionable recommendations

6. Period of execution

The activity will be carried out in 45 working days over the period of 6 months. The final nutrition sensitive agriculture Strategy shall be available by end of July 2025.

7. Qualifications of consultant

- PhD in public nutrition, health nutrition, Community Nutrition, food sciences or any related fields.
- At least 8 years of experiences in nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems;
- Expertise in strategy document development.
- Strong understanding of nutrition-sensitive agriculture concepts, business approaches such as food fortification, food quality standards and safety, and other related best practices.
- At least 8 years of relevant experience in policy and program analysis and development research in a range of sub-Saharan African country contexts.
- Knowledge of global and regional nutrition policies, guidelines, and frameworks.
- Strong analytical and research skills, with the ability to synthesize complex information and generate actionable recommendations.
- Knowledge of multisectoral drivers of malnutrition required.
- Knowledge of global and country level nutrition architecture required.
- Fluency in English and French and good oral and written communication.