

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual consultant to develop a tool for assessing the nutritional performance of agricultural and food technology practices in West and Central Africa.

Call opening date: 05/02/ 2025

Call closing date: 20/02/2025

CEI No. 02-2025

1. The Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP) is a flagship regional investment programme to strengthen the resilience of the food system in West Africa through a strategic regional approach. The programme will fund investments in three mutually reinforcing thematic areas: (1) Digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention and management; (2) Sustainability and adaptability of the productive base of the food system (sustainable land and watershed management, agroecological approaches); and (3) regional food market integration and trade (development of the regional food value chain). Each area will be led by a regional institution mandated (AGRHYMET, CORAF and ECOWAS) to ensure coordination and build sustainable capacities.
2. The main objective of this mission is to develop a tool for assessing the nutritional performance of agricultural and food technologies in West and Central Africa.
3. The tasks to be performed and other details relating 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 terms of reference 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. Applicants are advised that the provisions of paragraph 3.14 of the July 2016 Public Procurement Regulations for Borrowers of Investment Projects, as revised in November 2017 and August 2018 (the "Regulation") World Bank rules on conflicts of interest will apply.
7. Candidates will be selected based on the consultant's qualifications as described in the "Bank 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](mailto:procurement@coraf.org) .

9. Consultants interested in this call must submit a letter of interest describing the performance and experience of similar contracts as well as a detailed CV with copies of diplomas and work certificates to the following email address: procurement@coraf.org au by 20/02/2025 at 5:00 PM GMT.

Dr Moumini SAVADOGO
Executive Director

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recruitment of an individual consultant to develop a tool for assessing the nutritional performance of agricultural and food technologies in West and Central Africa.

1. Background

The Food System Resilience Programme (PRSA or FSRP) is a flagship regional investment programme to strengthen the resilience of the food system in West Africa through a strategic regional approach. The programme finances investments in three mutually reinforcing thematic areas: (i) Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food crises; (ii) Sustainability and adaptability of the food system's productive base (sustainable land and watershed management, agroecological approaches); and (iii) Market integration and trade (development of the regional staple food value chain). Each of the mandated regional institutions (AGRHYMET/CILSS, CORAF, ECOWAS) is responsible for each area to jointly achieve the objectives and build sustainable capacities.

The development objective of the PPRF (ODP-PDO) is to: “Strengthen risk management in regional food systems, improve sustainability of production base in targeted areas and develop regional agricultural markets.” The programme is helping to build resilience in food systems in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo (Phase 1); Ghana, Chad and Sierra Leone (Phase 2) and Senegal (Phase 3) through investments in regional risk management, trade in basic foodstuffs and sustainability of the production base.

The objective of component **2** is to improve the resilience of the food system's productive base and contribute directly to the Great Green Wall (GMV) initiative. With its two sub-components of (i) strengthening **regional agricultural innovation systems** and (ii) enhancing regional food security, Component 2 focuses on agricultural innovations that can contribute to regional food security. In this context, CORAF with its network of National Agricultural Research Systems (NSRFS) in the 23 countries in West and Central Africa has a large number of agricultural technologies and innovations ([MITA \(coraf.org\)](http://mita.coraf.org)). These technologies and innovations, along with several other practices, are used to solve a number of problems in the agricultural and food security field. Speaking of food security, the 1996 World Food Summit stated that “food security exists when all human beings have at any time,

Physical and economic access to sufficient, healthy and nutritious food to meet their energy needs and dietary preferences for a healthy and active life.”

There is a global consensus that while agricultural production must increase to feed an ever-growing population, it is also recognized that agricultural production must be transformed to become healthier, fair, sustainable, producing food in the quantity and quality necessary to allow optimal growth and maintain a healthy and active life. This concern is taken into account in the SDGs in particular, SDG 2 which aims to end hunger, ensure food security and better nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Engaging in this dynamic, PRSA/FSRP adopts a nutrition-smart agriculture (AIN) and value chain approach.

Smart agriculture for nutrition is a subset of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture includes a consistent consideration of nutritional objectives, outcomes and indicators

in national and regional food and agricultural policies and programmes, as well as in broader macroeconomic policies and development strategies. However, the IYC has more operational interest. It focuses on the production side of the food value chain, where farmers and agribusiness decide "what" and "how" Where the agricultural sector designs and implements actions and policies to improve nutrition. It aims to simultaneously improve farm incomes and nutritional outcomes through targeted agricultural interventions. IAIN practices and technologies help solve local nutrition problems and increase productivity and incomes of farms and/or the agri-food sector. However, in this mass of existing agricultural practices and technologies, it is still difficult today to assess their performance from the point of view of nutritional intelligence. It is also important that agricultural stakeholders, in particular policy-makers, Agricultural advisory stakeholders and researchers including breeders have a good understanding of the concept of nutrition-smart agricultural technology, but also that they have tools to assess the performance of the technologies available to them from a nutritional perspective.

CORAF through the FSRP/PRSA programme, wishes to recruit an individual consultant for the development of a tool for assessing the nutritional sensitivity of agricultural practices and technologies used in West and Central Africa. The aim is to scale up best practices and innovations for achieving food and nutrition security in West and Central Africa, starting with FSRP/PRSA countries.

2. Mission objective

The main objective of this consultation mission is to put in place a robust tool, easily usable by policy makers, researchers, agricultural technicians and advisors to evaluate before deployment or scaling up, the performance of agricultural practices and technologies in terms of nutritional sensitivity, that is to say their ability to increase productivity and agricultural and/or agro-industrial incomes while improving nutrition status.

3. Methodological approach

The methodological approach to be adopted for this assignment will be proposed by the consultant. The consultant is expected to build on the guidance of UNICEF, FAO and other institutions working on the subject to build a rigorous methodology together with the CORAF team.

4. Expected results

At the end of this study, the following results are expected:

1. An inventory of nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and technologies is being carried out in West and Central Africa;
2. Rigorous methodology is used to build a robust tool (not specific to a single practice/technology, precise, sensitive to changing conditions: able to take into account various aspects or conditions and present good and stable technical performance), easy to use, reliable, accepted and validated by potential users) are developed for the evaluation of the nutritional performance of these practices and technologies.
3. The identified practices and technologies are evaluated using the methodology and tool developed
4. Best practices and technologies are identified from their nutritional intelligence

5. An action plan is proposed for the dissemination of the developed methodology and tool followed by a second plan to scale up best practices and smart technologies to nutrition in West and Central Africa.

5. Tasks of the consultant

To achieve the expected results, the consultant under the supervision of the CORAF team will primarily need to:

1. Conduct a literature review to take stock of the current state of nutrition-sensitive practices and technologies used in West and Central Africa;
2. Conduct a literature review on guidelines/criteria developed by UNICEF, FAO and other organizations working on the subject;
3. Analyse the guidelines/criteria of these organizations and propose a rigorous methodology for assessing the nutritional performance of practices and technologies;
4. Build a simple but robust tool based on this methodology (Excel spreadsheet, computer program, web application, iOS/Android, software, etc.) Can be used by peers or others to assess the nutritional performance of any agricultural practice and technology;
5. Produce application-specific explanatory documents (user manual, guide, etc.) to facilitate the use of the tool;
6. Conduct an initial assessment using the tool developed to assess the nutritional performance of practices and technologies identified in task 1;
7. Propose training modules and plan for capacity building and tool dissemination;
8. Propose an action plan for scaling up best practices and nutrition-smart technologies;
9. Propose a technical document (Policy Brief or InfoNote) based on the information gathered at the regional workshop on nutrition-sensitive agriculture led by CORAF
10. Write a mission end report.

6. Deliverables

1. A Start-up report outlining the mission understanding and methodology to be adopted in the mission, including a list of guidelines/criteria developed by UNICEF, FAO and other organizations working on the subject;
2. A list of potentially nutrition-sensitive practices and technologies used in West and Central Africa;
3. The methodology used to assess the nutritional performance of agricultural practices and technologies;
4. The User's Manual or Guide for the Nutritional Intelligence Assessment of Practices and Technologies Tool;
5. Outline of the modules and training plan for the organization of future capacity building sessions for the dissemination of the tool
6. An action plan for scaling up best practices and nutrition-smart technologies
7. An end of mission report.

Delivery periods for deliverables

Deliverables	Bidding periods
Start-up report	2 weeks after signing the contract
List of potentially nutrition-sensitive practices and technologies used in West and Central Africa	6 weeks after signing the contract
Methodology and tool for assessing the nutritional performance of agricultural practices and technologies	10 weeks after signing the contract
Practice and Technology Nutrition Intelligence Assessment Tool User Guide	12 weeks after signing the contract
Proposal of outline of modules and training plan for the organization of future capacity building sessions for the dissemination of the tool	12 weeks after signing the contract
Action plan for scaling up best practices and nutrition-smart technologies	13 weeks after signing the contract
Mission End Report	13 weeks after signing the contract

7. Consultant Profile

The consultant shall:

- Have a PhD in agronomy, nutrition and food or any other degree deemed equivalent;
- Have a minimum of 8 years' experience in the application of statistical and IT tools used in agricultural research for development;
- Experience in developing assessment tools in agriculture, nutrition, food system.
- Have at least 5 years of relevant experience in conducting similar studies or managing projects for the improvement of human food and nutrition using agricultural practices and technologies in West and/or Central Africa;
- Have a good knowledge of the related nutritional challenges and agricultural research in West and Central Africa (provide evidence);
- Have a good capacity for innovation, writing and synthesis;
- Proficiency in French and English is essential for this mission.

8. Duration and location of the mission

The mission will be a total of **45 Men/Days** over a three-month period from March to May 2025. The consultant will work virtually from his base and will travel as required by the CORAF team.

9. Application and selection procedure

Interested candidates should send their expression of interest and full curriculum vitae by email to procurement@coraf.org no later than 20/02/2025 at 17:00 GMT. Consultants will be selected according to the agreement defined in the “Selection and use of consultants for IBRD loans, IDA allocations and grants by World Bank borrowers” guidelines of January 2011.