



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

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an Individual Software Architect Consultant for the Implementation and Monitoring of CORAF Platform and Site Design and/or Redesign Projects

Opening date: July 8, 2024

Closing date: July 22, 2024

CEI No. 12-2024

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) was founded in 1987. CORAF (www.coraf.org) currently includes the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 countries in West and Central Africa: 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 mentioned 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 be prosperous. Its mission is to achieve sustainable improvements in productivity, competitiveness and agricultural markets in West and Central Africa.

CORAF, a major player in agricultural research in West and Central Africa, recognizes the crucial importance of digital knowledge in knowledge management to promote the sustainable development of agriculture in the region. He is involved in several initiatives to promote agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa.

These initiatives involve setting up, redesigning and maintaining several platforms and websites to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and resources in the agricultural field.

In this context, CORAF is looking for a Software Architect consultant to ensure the implementation and monitoring of design projects and/ or redesign of these platforms and sites.

The Executive Director of CORAF invites candidates with the required qualifications indicated in the terms of references to express their interest in this call.

Interested candidates must submit an application indicating that they meet the requirements for the relevant position.

The selection will be based on the rules contained in the manual of administrative, financial and accounting procedures of CORAF.

Applications will include one (i) letter of expression of interest (ii) a detailed curriculum vitae (+diplomas and proof of similar services).

Interested candidates can obtain further information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat via a.nadinga@coraf.org in copying: procurement@coraf.org.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by e-mail to procurement@coraf.org no later than **22 July 2024 at 17:00 GMT**.

**Acting Executive Director
Dr Alioune FALL**

Terms of References

Recruitment of an individual Software Architect Consultant for the Implementation and Monitoring of CORAF Platform and Site Design and/or Redesign Projects

1. Context

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) was founded in 1987. CORAF (www.coraf.org) currently includes the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 countries in West and Central Africa: 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.

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2. Purpose of the Consultation

The main objective of this consultation is to recruit a consultant with solid expertise in software architecture to ensure the quality, reliability and performance of the technological solutions developed by CORAF. The consultant will thus contribute to the continuous improvement of the organization's platforms and websites.

3. Responsibilities and Tasks

To achieve this objective, the consultant will be responsible for several key responsibilities and tasks, including:

- Analyze user needs and functional requirements of different design projects and/or redesign of platforms and sites.
- Design solution software architecture in collaboration with technical teams and relevant stakeholders.
- Designing and implementing the continuous integration platform for updating all web platforms
- Actively participate in the development of necessary features and modules, using best practices in software development.
- Oversee the implementation of projects, ensuring compliance with quality standards, deadlines and budgets.
- Design and develop platforms and websites using appropriate programming languages and Framework.
- Monitor and coordinate development activities, ensuring consistency and integration of different components of platforms and sites.
- Organize and conduct training and awareness sessions for end users and administrators of platforms and sites.
- Ensure the preventive and corrective maintenance of CORAF platforms and websites, ensuring their proper functioning, security and scalability.
- Ensure regular technological monitoring to identify opportunities for improvement and innovation in the field of software architecture.

4. Expected deliverables

Deliverables expected from the consultant include:

- Analysis of needs and detailed functional specifications for each platform and site design or redesign project.
- Architectural diagrams and architecture documents clearly describing the proposed software architecture, including technological choices and development standards.
- Review of source codes of the functionalities and modules developed, accompanied by exhaustive technical documentation.
- Implementation of a system ensuring continuous CI/CD integration and updating
- Regular reports on the progress of projects, ensuring compliance with quality standards, deadlines and budgets.
- Platforms and websites developed and deployed according to defined specifications and requirements.
- Prepared training material and successfully organized training sessions for end users and administrators.

- Preventive and corrective maintenance reports describing activities performed to ensure proper operation, security and scalability of platforms and sites.
- Technology watch reports presenting the latest trends, tools and practices in the field of software architecture, with recommendations for their future integration into CORAF projects.

5. Profile Required

The consultant will have the following qualifications and skills:

- Master's degree in computer science with a specialisation in software development or engineering or equivalent.
- Proven experience as a Software Architect, specialising in the development of web and software platforms.
- Mastery of software development methodologies, programming languages and Laravel and Javascript framework.
- Excellent expertise in continuous integration and the following platforms: Chef, Jenkins, Ansible
- Experience in database design and data modelling
- In-depth knowledge of the software development process and related technologies
- Excellent understanding of design patterns and architectural styles
- In-depth knowledge of the operation and design of agile software development
- Expertise with content management systems
- Excellent project management skills and ability to lead multi-disciplinary teams.
- Ability to communicate effectively with the various parties involved in projects.
- Knowledge of best practice in IT security and data protection.
- Experience in agricultural or rural development in Africa would be an asset.

6. Duration and Place of Consultation

The time allocated to the assignment is fifty (50) Man/Days and established over a 5-month calendar period until December 2024 with the possibility of renewing or increasing the number of days depending on needs.

For each specific service order, the consultant will make a financial proposal based on the activities/tasks requested. This proposal will be evaluated and approved by CORAF according to the number of days and the rate of fees retained. Only the days actually worked will be paid for and deducted from the time allocated.

The work can be done on site at CORAF headquarters or remotely, depending on the needs of the organization.

7. Submission of Applications

Interested candidates are invited to submit their detailed CV (+diplomas and proof of similar services), along with a cover letter explaining their interest in the consultation and how their experience meets the requirements of the position, at procurement@coraf.org no later than **22 July 2024 at 17:00 GMT**.

8. Other provisions

CORAF reserves the right to relaunch the call for expressions of interest if the applications received have not been satisfactory.

CORRUPTION, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

Fraud, corruption: *bidders, suppliers, contractors and their subcontractors must observe the strictest rules of ethical conduct when signing and performing contracts. In particular, they must avoid any act of corruption and any fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive maneuvers with the aim of granting or obtaining a contract awarded by CORAF. Any deviant behavior will be subject to appropriate sanctions (cancellation of the contract, exclusion from future contracts awarded by CORAF, dismissal of CORAF staff guilty of these acts.*

Conflicts of interest: *CORAF rules require that any company participating in a procurement procedure is not in a situation of conflict of interest. Two scenarios can be considered:*

- *The company provides goods, works or services (other than consulting services) which follow or are directly related to the consulting services for the preparation or performance of a project which it has provided or which its affiliated company has provided;*
- *The company (including its staff) has a close business or family relationship with a CORAF staff member: i) who is directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the bidding documents or contract specifications, and/or in the evaluation process for said contract; or (ii) who could be involved in the performance or supervision of the same contract.*

The term "**Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)**" includes the following meanings:

- **"Sexual Exploitation" (SE)**, defined as *abusing or attempting to abuse a state of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including but not limited to profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another person;*
- **"Sexual Abuse" (SA)**, defined as *any physical intrusion or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, either by force or under unequal conditions or by coercion;*
- **"Sexual Harassment" (SH)** is defined as *any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors or other verbal or physical behavior with a sexual connotation by Contractor staff towards other Contractor staff. or the Client;*

Any company that proves to be in a situation of conflict of interest or of sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment will not be granted a contract from CORAF.

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