

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual consultant-trainer, for the capacity building of young researchers in national research systems in writing proposals for research projects in the countries of implementation of the PRSA.

Opening date: 17/07/ 2024
Closing date: 02/08/2024

AMI No. 14-2024

1. The Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP) is a flagship regional investment programme aimed at strengthening 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) sustainability and adaptability of the productive base of the food system (sustainable land and watershed management, agroecological approaches); and (3) integration of regional food markets and trade (development of the regional staple food value chain). Each domain will be led by a mandated regional institution (AGRHYMET, CORAF and ECOWAS) to ensure coordination and build sustainable capacity.
2. The main objective of this consultation is to strengthen the capacity of young researchers in the national research systems of the different PRSA countries in writing research project proposals .
3. The tasks to be performed and other information relating to the conduct of the mission are described in the mandate below.
4. The Executive Director of CORAF therefore invites interested candidates («Consultants») with the required profile as indicated in the mandate to express their interest.
5. Interested applicants should 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 section 3.14 of the July 2016 “Government Procurement Regulations for Borrowers of Financing of Investment Projects”, revised in November 2017 and August 2018 (the “Regulations”) regarding the World Bank’s conflict of interest rules will apply.
7. Candidates will be selected based on the selection based on the qualifications of the consultant described in the Bank’s “Procurement Regulations”.

8. Interested candidates can obtain additional information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat by e-mail every working day at: n.lamien@coraf.orgavec copy at procurement@coraf.org .
9. Consultants interested in this call should submit a letter of interest outlining the performance and experience of similar contracts and a detailed CV with copies of diplomas and work certificates to the following email address: procurement@coraf.org **no later than august 2 2024 at 5:00 PM GMT.**

Dr Alioune FALL
Executive director

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For the recruitment of an individual consultant-trainer, for the capacity building of researchers from national research systems in the proposal writing of research projects in the implementing countries of the Food Systems Resilience Programme (PRSA/FSRP) in West Africa.

1. Background

The Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) is a flagship regional investment programme of more than US\$1 billion aimed at strengthening the resilience of the food system in West Africa through a strategic regional approach. The programme funds investments in three mutually reinforcing thematic areas: (1) Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food crises (Component 1); (2) Sustainability and adaptability of the productive base of the food system (Component 2); and (3) Market integration and trade (component 3). The 3 components are directed respectively AGRHYMET, CORAF and ECOWAS which also ensures the overall coordination.

The Programme Development Objective (ODP-PDO) is to “Strengthen the risk management of regional food systems, improve the sustainability of the production base in targeted areas and develop regional agricultural markets.”

Specifically, the programme will contribute to increasing the resilience of 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 the thematic areas listed above.

Sub-component 2.1 plans to strengthen national and regional research centres. To this end, CORAF proposes to organise a regional training workshop for at least 25 research staff from the national research systems hosting the centres on the drafting of proposals for research proposals.

Indeed, Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) is at the heart of the generation of agricultural technologies and innovation necessary for the transformation of agriculture. Moreover, the strengthening of institutional and human capacity in AR4D is one of the four outcomes targeted by CORAF in its 2018-2027 strategic plan.

To enable National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) to succeed in calls for research proposals, CORAF proposes to equip national actors to write bankable research proposals. It is with this in mind that CORAF proposes to recruit a competent consultant equipped to lead a regional training workshop in research proposal writing.

2. Mission Objective

The main objective of this consultation is to strengthen the capacity of young researchers in the national research systems of the different PRSA countries in research proposal writing and resource mobilization.

3. Methodological approach

The methodological approach to adopt during this training is to focus on the theoretical aspects but especially on the tools of strategic development and planning of research projects. Then, group work should be organized to allow participants to carry out practical exercises in writing proposals for research projects. Thus, the workshop should be as interactive as possible. Like previous trainings, CORAF will work to digitize the modules for online sessions that will reach a greater number of beneficiaries.

4. Expected Results

At the end of the training workshop the following results are expected:

1. Participants are familiar with the research strategies of the calls for research project proposals of the main donors in the sector;
2. Participants are equipped with the various techniques for writing research proposals that can be used;
3. The techniques of writing specific proposals on AR4D projects are mastered.

5. Duties of Consultants

To achieve the expected results, the consultant should focus on organizing and facilitating the theory training workshop to support practical exercises. The main tasks assigned to the consultant are:

1. Develop training syllabuses in support of the methodological approach outlined in this ToR;
2. Develop the modules and the training manual with a detailed provisional timetable;
3. Prepare materials, tools and other facilities required for practical work;
4. Conduct training facilitation (theory and practice);
5. Write a training report after the workshop.

6. Deliverables

1. A start-up report describing the understanding of the mission and the different training modules (the detailed outline of the content of each module), a workshop animation plan indicating the methods and tools of animation to be used and a training manual;
2. Training materials including PowerPoint presentations;
3. An end-of-workshop report that documents the process and results achieved.

7. Consultant Profile

The consultant should:

- Hold a PhD in Agronomy, Agroecology, Socio-Economy, Project Management, Strategic and Structural Planning or any other degree deemed equivalent;
- Be a university teacher or Tier A researcher
- Have a minimum of 10 years of experience in the development and management of research and development projects in the agricultural field;
- Have written and won at least 3 regional research projects,
- Have a good knowledge of the challenges related to agricultural research in West and Central Africa;
- Demonstrated experience facilitating/facilitating research proposal writing workshops;
- Good writing and synthesis skills;
- Good knowledge of donor procedures and requirements would be an asset;
- Master French and English.

8. Duration and location of mission

The mission will have a total of **10 consultation Men/Days including preparation days, facilitation/moderation days of the Workshop and reporting days. All over the period August-September 2024. The consultant will work virtually from the location where he is based and will travel to the workshop in the chosen country.**

9. Application Process and Selection

Interested candidates should send their expression of interest and full curriculum vitae by email to procurement@coraf.org **no later than august 2 2024 at 5:00 PM GMT**. The consultants will be selected according to the agreement defined in the guidelines “Selection and use of consultants under IBRD loans, IDA allocations and grants by World Bank borrowers” of January 2011.