

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual Consultant to facilitate and coordinate regulation and harmonization of agri-inputs policies in ECOWAS region

Opening date: June 28, 2024

Closing date: July 8, 2024

CEI No. 10-2024 - RELAUNCH

Created in 1987, CORAF (West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development) is an international non-profit association of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 West and Central African countries, covering over 40% of the African population, making it the largest sub-regional research organization on the African continent. It works to improve food and nutrition security and prosperity in West and Central Africa. It works in partnership with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) made up of public agricultural research institutes, universities and other tertiary sector institutions, farmers' groups, civil society organizations, the private sector and any other entity engaged in the provision of agricultural research services. CORAF's countries of intervention are divided into the following three (3) agro-ecological zones: the Savannah and Sahel zone of West Africa, with seven countries (Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad), the coastal zone of West Africa with eleven countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo) and the Central African zone, with five countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo).

The African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and CORAF have signed an agreement in January 2024 to Facilitate domestication and Implementation of the regionally harmonized seed regulations in the ECOWAS region.

CORAF has been instrumental in facilitating policy and regulatory reforms in the areas of seeds and Agro-input sub-sectors in West and Central Africa. As a strategic technical partner and given its critical role in the region, CORAF was designated by ECOWAS, CILSS and UEMOA to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the harmonized regional regulation for seeds and seedlings in the member States.

To achieve the objectives, CORAF is looking for an individual consultant who will oversee the implementing the activities planned within the framework of the regulation and harmonization of agri-inputs policies in the ECOWAS region.

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 apply 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 (i) letter of expression of interest, (ii) a detailed curriculum vitae with the names and contacts of three references (e-mail, address, and telephone).

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

Expressions of interest should be submitted by e-mail to procurement@coraf.org no later than **July 8, 2024, at 17:00 GMT** by specifying the title of the consultation in the subject of the email.

Acting Executive Director
Dr Alioune FALL

Terms of References

Recruitment of an individual Consultant to facilitate and coordinate regulation and harmonization of agri-inputs policies in ECOWAS region

1. CONTEXT

Created in 1987, CORAF is an international non-profit association of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 West and Central African countries, covering over 40% of the African population, making it the largest sub-regional research organization on the African continent. It works to improve food and nutrition security and prosperity in West and Central Africa. It works in partnership with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) made up of public agricultural research institutes, universities and other tertiary sector institutions, farmers' groups, civil society organizations, the private sector and any other entity engaged in the provision of agricultural research services. CORAF's countries of intervention are divided into the following three (3) agro-ecological zones: the Savannah and Sahel zone of West Africa, with seven countries (Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad), the coastal zone of West Africa with eleven countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Liberia, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo) and the Central African zone, with five countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo).

The African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and CORAF (West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development) have signed an agreement in January 2024 to *Facilitate domestication and Implementation of the regionally harmonized seed regulations in the ECOWAS region*. Specifically, the activities to be implemented by CORAF will contribute to two output indicators of the TAAT II project:

Output indicator 1.1: Policies adopted on delivery of climate smart inputs.

Output indicator 1.2: Institutions receiving capacity development interventions on national seed systems (e.g., training, workshops, policy dialogue, etc) (disaggregated per organisation type, stakeholder type, etc).

The TAAT Policy Enabler facilitates the creation of an enabling environment for technology adoption by farmers through policy reform interventions that help to build strong seed systems and hasten variety release and registration, spur market incentives and efficiency along agricultural value chains, facilitate access to quality inputs through accreditation of agro-input dealers and facilitate domestication and implementation of regionally harmonized regulations for delivery of technologies across similar agro-ecological zones in Africa.

Between 2018 and 2019, CORAF was a key strategic partner to facilitate the implementation of TAAT Policy activities in West Africa. This partnership with CORAF will add value to the outputs of the TAAT Policy compact Enabler in two ways:

- (i) The first is that through CORAF's wider geographical coverage of West and Central Africa where CORAF has been supporting farmers for over a decade and has the knowledge to help the compact deploy policy interventions aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of small-scale producers and to promote the agribusiness sector.
- (ii) The second is because CORAF has been instrumental in supporting the implementation and domestication of regionally Harmonized seed regulations. CORAF will assist the Policy Enabler compact on ensuring an environment supporting growth of the seed industry across the continent.

CORAF has been instrumental in facilitating policy and regulatory reforms in the areas of seeds and Agro-input sub-sectors in West and Central Africa. As a strategic technical partner and given its critical role in the region, CORAF was designated by ECOWAS, CILSS and UEMOA to coordinate and facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the harmonized regional regulation for *seeds* and seedlings in the member States.

To achieve the objectives, set out in the TAAT project action plan, CORAF is looking for a consultant who will oversee the implementing the activities planned within the framework of the regulation and harmonization of agri-inputs policies in the ECOWAS region.

2. OBJECTIFS

The aim of the mission is expected to facilitate the creation an enabling environment through the implementation of the policy harmonization.

Specifically, the consultant will be executing the following activities:

- To make an advocacy towards elimination of policy bottlenecks hindering farmers access to fertilizer and certified seeds;
- To prepare the Country Policy briefs on the priority actions towards fertilizer and seed sector reforms;
- To organize a High-level National policy dialogue on the status of implementation of regionally harmonized regulations for Fertilizer in ECOWAS;
- To provide a technical assistance in the revision and/or drafting of policy and regulatory instruments.

3. RÉSULTATS

At the end of the service, the consultant will have to produce results that will contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in the action plan, revolving around these following points:

- An advocacy towards elimination of policy bottlenecks hindering farmers access to fertilizer and certified seeds is done;
- A country Policy briefs on the priority actions towards fertilizer and seed sector reforms is prepared;
- A High-level National policy dialogue on the status of implementation of regionally harmonized regulations for Fertilizer in ECOWAS is organized;
- A technical assistance in the revision and/or drafting of policy and regulatory instruments is provided.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The consultant in charge of the mission will work closely with the management team of the project. Generally, the main tasks assigned to the consultant are as follows:

- Ensure coordination within the team and interface with CORAF;
- propose a detailed implementation plan for this project area;
- Define indicators for monitoring and evaluating project activities and results (effects and impacts);
- Facilitate any other activity related to the harmonization of seed policies
- Define the coordination and implementation mechanisms as well as the partnerships, synergies and governance required to achieve greater impact and sustainability;
- Develop the program's results framework aligned CORAF operational plan 2023-2027;
- Contribute to the reporting of project documents for submission to donors;
- Any other related CORAF activities.

5. CONSULTANT PROFILE

The senior consultant must meet the following requirements:

- Doctorate / Ph.D in seeds and seed regulations, economics, agricultural economics, public policy and any other equivalent diploma;
- at least 5 years' professional experience in implementing agricultural policies;
- In-depth knowledge of national and regional regulations in the ECOWAS region;
- Knowledge of the specific challenges facing ECOWAS farmers in terms of agri inputs use
- Excellent skills in project management and partnership;
- Excellent writing and analytical skills
- Experience in carrying out documentary analyses of publications, research reports, etc.
- Fluent in English and French (written and spoken)

6. MISSION DURATION

The duration of the consultant's assignment is 11 months payable on the basis of a monthly flat rate .

7. CANDIDATE

Consultants interested in this call for tender should submit an expression of interest and a detailed CV to procurement@coraf.org, highlighting their ability to meet the criteria mentioned in the attached terms of reference, no later than **July 8, 2024 at 17:00 GMT**.

8. OTHER PROVISIONS

CORAF reserves the right to reissue the call for tenders if the applications received are unsatisfactory.

Only selected applications will be contacted.

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

Fraud, corruption: *bidders, suppliers, contractors, and their subcontractors must observe the strictest rules of professional ethics when awarding and performing contracts. They must avoid all acts of corruption and all fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive maneuvers with the aim of awarding 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 personnel guilty of these acts.*

Conflicts of interest: *CORAF rules require that any company taking part in a procurement procedure should not be in a situation of conflict of interest. There are two possible scenarios:*

- *The company supplies goods, works or services (other than consultancy services) which follow on from or are directly linked to consultancy services for the preparation or execution of a project which it or an affiliated company has supplied ;*
- *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 tender documents or contract specifications, and/or in the evaluation process for the said contract; or ii) who may be involved in the execution or supervision of the said contract.*

The term "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)" has 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 threat of physical intrusion of a sexual nature, either by force or under unequal conditions, or by coercion ;*
- *Sexual Harassment" (HS) is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature by Contractor personnel towards other Contractor or Owner personnel;*

Any company found to be in a situation of conflict of interest or sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment will not be awarded a CORAF.

(End of the document)