

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an Individual Consultant to conduct a diagnostic study on gaps in investment policies, strategies and programs for sustainable agricultural mechanization in West and Central African countries.

Call opening: 29/11/ 2024

Call close: 13/12/2024

CEI No. 22-2024

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 goal of this activity is to engage an experienced Agricultural Mechanization Expert to join the project implementation teams and support the implementation of activities related to SAM.
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.
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 13/12/2024 at 5:00 PM GMT.

Dr Moumini SAVADOGO
Executive Director

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job Title: Agricultural Mechanization Expert

Duration: 60 days

1. Background

Agricultural mechanization in Africa is considered an indispensable pillar for attaining the zero Hunger Vision by 2025, as stated in the Malabo Declaration of 2014, Aspiration 1 of the AU's Agenda 2063, and Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the access and use of mechanization in Africa at small and medium scale levels, and especially among women and youth, is still minimal compared to other continents such as Asia and South America; with many farmers still using hand tools such as hoes. It is estimated that over 60% of farm power is still provided by people's muscles - mostly from women, the elderly and children, with the rest being from drought animals (25%) and engine power (less than 20%). The current situation clearly indicates that the commitment to end hunger by 2030 will be challenging unless deliberate actions are taken to ensure farmers have access to sustainable agricultural mechanization and other key inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizer, etc. For that to happen, countries must develop and integrate mechanization policies and strategies in their agricultural development plans. Furthermore, investment in agricultural mechanization along the food value chain must be enhanced to enable actors to intensify their production and increase timeliness and efficiency. Such actions will also likely retain and attract the youth to agriculture.

The World Bank is implementing the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), a flagship regional investment programme of more than US\$1 billion. It is aimed at strengthening the food system's resilience in West and Central Africa through a strategic regional approach. The programme supports 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). AGRHYMET, CORAF and ECOWAS coordinate the three components. 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 provides support for countries to develop evidence-based policies, mechanization strategies, and investment programs that create an enabling environment, improve access to sustainable agricultural mechanization technologies, good agricultural practices and innovations, and strengthen the capacities of sustainable mechanization actors along the food value chain, including agricultural machinery manufacturers, using digital training materials. Moreover, a project financed by the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) will implement four activities in close collaboration with actors from civil society, academia, and the private sector to promote SAM in West Africa and expand the access of smallholder farmers to SAM technologies, services and information. These target activities are (i) support for the establishment of a digital platform promoting SAM in Africa, (2) pilot bundles of SAM services with other CSA technologies in Ghana, (iii) prepare a strategic policy document on SAM in West Africa, (4) provide targeted technical advice to FSRP Project Implementation Units (PIUs) to promote SAM in selected FSRP countries.

2. Reporting Lines

The Consultant will work under the overall supervision of the CORAF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and direct supervision of the CORAF FSRP Project Coordinator; Dr Niyidouba Lamien. The Specialist will also work in close collaboration with the Engineer Saidi Mkomwa, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) the implementing agency for KGGTF project. This assignment is scheduled for 60 days on a full-time basis over the period of August to December 2024. Any subsequent extension will be a retainer contract (the consultant will only work when and as required)

3. Scope of the Assignment

In the context of implementing the FSRP and the KGGTF projects in West Africa, CORAF seeks to engage an experienced Agricultural Mechanization Expert to join the project implementation teams and support the implementation of activities related to SAM. The incumbent will support the implementation of four key tasks, which include to:

- (i) Undertake a diagnostic study to review the existing agricultural mechanization investment policies, strategies and programmes in PRSA countries and to highlight shortcomings/limitations of sustainable.
- (ii) Lead the preparation of Agricultural Mechanization Profiles for 8 ECOWAS Member States.
- (iii) Support the development of ECOWAS Regional F-SAMA Implementation Strategy and Roadmap.
- (iv) Prepare F-SAMA Country Implementation Strategies and Roadmaps (Compacts) for selected countries, commencing with one country in ECOWAS region (preferably Ghana).

Specifically, the consultant will perform the following tasks:

I. Task 1: Diagnostic study to review the existing agricultural mechanization investment policies, strategies, and programmes in PRSA and to highlight shortcomings/limitations of sustainable

- Prepare and submit a detailed methodology and approach, including a realistic schedule of implementation of the study.
- Undertake a review of the current situation of agricultural mechanization in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Nigeria, including reviewing key documents such as the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in West Africa (F-SAMA).
- Learn about the agricultural mechanization environment, the deployment of strategies and the success of agricultural mechanization in the target countries mentioned above.
- Review current agricultural mechanization investment policies, strategies and programmes along the food value chain in selected countries with the main review criteria including relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact/effect and long-term sustainability.
- Conduct field missions in the selected countries to consult with key stakeholders, conduct interviews with actors of national agricultural mechanization systems, and undertake a participatory identification of the gaps, shortcomings/limitations of these policy documents.
- Prepare and submit a study report, including recommendations to update these documents to enhance access to and use of sustainable agricultural mechanization.
- Continuously share information with the ACT teams implementing activities under the World Bank KGGTF project.

II. Task 2: Lead the preparation of Agricultural Mechanization Profiles for 8 ECOWAS Member States + Chad

- Participate in the selection of the country teams of experts to undertake drafting of national agricultural mechanization profiles in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Nigeria.
- Work closely with the World Bank KGGTF project lead implementing agency, ACT, to provide support in coordinating activities for preparing the profiles.
- Support and work closely with ACT in developing tools, instruments, and guidelines to be used by the national teams in preparing the national profiles.
- Together with the ACT team, provide guidance and support to the national teams in collecting information, conducting interviews, and organizing and conducting meetings while preparing the national profiles.
- Support the review process for the drafted national agricultural mechanization profiles, working closely with the reviewers, the focal point from ACT, and experts from the collaborating partner institutions such as FAO, ECOWAS, etc.
- Participate and provide inputs during the validation workshop and support finalizing the country profiles.

III. Support the development of an ECOWAS Regional F-SAMA Implementation Strategy and Roadmap

- Participate in the initial preparations to elaborate on the contents, working closely with ACT, ECOWAS, and other partners.
- Contribute to developing tools, instruments, and guidelines for preparing the ECOWAS F-SAMA Regional Implementation Strategy and Roadmap.
- Provide inputs during the writing of various chapters of the ECOWAS F-SAMA Regional Implementation Strategy and Roadmap, working closely with the ACT and other collaborating partners.
- Review the draft ECOWAS F-SAMA Regional Implementation Strategy and Roadmap while providing inputs from the diagnostic study of the mechanization policies and strategies.
- Participate in the validation process of the final ECOWAS F-SAMA Regional Implementation Strategy and Roadmap document.
- Support the ACT team in ensuring that comments from the validation workshop are considered when finalizing the document for submission.

IV. Development of F-SAMA Country Implementation Strategies and Roadmaps (Compacts) for selected countries, commencing with one country in ECOWAS region (preferably Ghana).

- Participate and contribute to the identification of a pilot country for the development of the first F-SAMA Country Implementation Strategies and Roadmaps (Compact)
- Contribute to developing tools, instruments, and guidelines for preparing F-SAMA Country Implementation Strategies and Roadmaps (Compact) for a selected country in the ECOWAS region.
- Support the preparation of the development of one compact in collaboration with ACT and with other stakeholders, including the Directors of Agricultural Mechanization and Engineering Services (DAMES) and other national stakeholders.
- Participate in reviewing the draft compact with national experts, ACT, FAO, ECOWAS, etc.
- Participate and contribute to the validation process of the final ECOWAS F-SAMA Regional Implementation Strategy and Roadmap document.

- Support the ACT team in ensuring that all the main comments from the validation workshop are considered when finalizing the document.

4. Expected Outputs/Results

The main expected products from the engagement of the consultant include:

- Identified policy deficiencies/limitations, agricultural mechanization strategies and investment programmes and a set of recommendations for sustainable agricultural mechanization along food value chains in study countries.
- Validated agricultural mechanization profiles for 8 ECOWAS Member States.
- A validated ECOWAS regional F-SAMA implementation strategy and roadmap.
- An F-SAMA country Implementation Strategy and Roadmap (Compact) for one pilot country.

5. Qualifications and Experience

The incumbent is expected meet the following minimum requirements:

- The Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization experts must have at least a Master's Degree in Agricultural Engineering or Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.
- At least 10 years' demonstrated experience in the field of sustainable agricultural mechanization, including strategic planning, strategy and policy formulation, capacity development, investment, and research and development along the food value chain in Africa.
- Demonstrated experience designing, developing and formulating national sustainable agricultural mechanization policies, strategies and roadmaps.
- Possess a thorough knowledge of the agricultural policy development process and excellent capacity for agricultural policy analysis.
- Demonstrated ability to conceptualize, develop, plan and manage diagnostic studies.
- Possession of experience in promoting access and use of sustainable agricultural mechanization using various methods and tools, including proven business models.
- Previous experience working in West Africa with national and local governments, RECs development partners, private sector and NGOs. in developing and promoting access and use of sustainable agricultural mechanization, especially in West Africa.
- Possession of strong skills in coordination, intercultural communication and networking.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently in a multicultural environment and to develop harmonious and effective working relationships.
- Demonstrated experience in similar assignments elsewhere.
- Be fluent in French or English. Ability to work in other languages spoken in West Africa would be an added advantage.