

**Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour
la Recherche et le Développement
Agricoles**



**West and Central African Council
for Agricultural Research and
Development**

Terms of Reference for Facilitator

**Workshop for validating scoping study report on priority research
areas for sustainable natural resources management in West and
Central Africa**

REF:06/SE-CW/DP/2010

Opening date: 13 July, 2010

Closing date: 27 July, 2010

Introduction

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) is one of the four Sub Regional Organizations of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). Its vision is “*A sustainable reduction of poverty and food insecurity in West and Central Africa through increased agriculture-led economic growth and improvements in key aspects of the agricultural research system*”. CORAF/WECARD is currently composed of National Agricultural Research Systems of 22 member states in West and Central Africa (WCA). These countries cover an area over 11.5 million km² blessed with varied and valuable natural resources, which support livelihoods of about 70 % of the sub region’s population (about 318 million people), most of whom are dependent on agriculture. There are, however, growing concerns over the unsustainable use of the natural resource base with adverse consequences on the livelihoods of farmers and future generations.

In order to obtain rational justification for priority programs and institutional reforms that will facilitate the achievement of the target 6% growth in agriculture prescribed by the CAADP, CORAF/WECARD commissioned the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to conduct an analysis of the agricultural sector in West and Central Africa. The study brought to light potential contributions of specific commodities and cross-cutting themes to achieving the desired agricultural growth in the three zones of WCA. These results helped in identifying specific gaps for research and development interventions, which led CORAF/WECARD, during the process of revising its Strategic Plan and developing the Operational Plan, to make a strategic choice of a programme approach, that ensures a more general and global approach to implementing its Strategy.

The CORAF/WECARD Natural Resource Management Programme, one of the eight CORAF/WECARD programmes, identified by CORAF/WECARD stakeholders during the planning process, aims to contribute towards broad based agricultural productivity for the WCA region through:

- developing appropriate technologies and innovations for natural resource management;
- identifying and supporting the development of strategic-decision making options for effective natural resource management policy and institutions;
- strengthening and coordinating the sub regional agricultural research system relevant to natural resource management;
- facilitating and meeting the demand for agricultural knowledge relating to natural resource management for targeted clients.

In order to have a more specific and contemporary overview of natural resources management with regards to agriculture in West and Central Africa and in line with requirements of the CORAF/WECARD statutes, a scoping study was commissioned with the aim of identifying priority constraints and opportunities associated with natural resources management and developing a research agenda framework that will guide the NRM programme of CORAF/WECARD in directing and coordinating the

implementation of research and development activities for the sustainable management of natural resources in West and Central Africa.

Consultants hired for the study visited selected countries in each of the three CORAF/WECARD agroecological zones namely: Sahelian West Africa, Coastal West Africa and Central Africa. CORAF/WECARD normally invites stakeholders to a workshop in a bid to validate the report of the consultants. CORAF/WECARD wishes to recruit a facilitator to lead the validation workshop which is scheduled for 9 – 11 August 2010 in Douala, Cameroon. .

Objective

The objective of the facilitator will be to guide the plenary and work group sessions towards delivering the expected results of the workshop which are as follows:

1. Constraints and opportunities related to NRM research and development reviewed and validated
2. Relevant priority areas (themes, sub-themes and project ideas) for NRM research and development reviewed, validated and prioritized
3. Sustainable partnerships and related capacity strengthening requirements for effective NRM research and development determined
4. An effective framework and toll for coordinating NRM research and development in WCA developed.

Expected output

The expected outputs are:

- A well managed and coherent workshop resulting in the validation of priority research priority constraints and opportunities associated with natural resources management and a research agenda framework that will guide the NRM programme of CORAF/WECARD in directing and coordinating the implementation of research and development activities for the sustainable management of natural resources in West and Central Africa
- A workshop report not exceeding 5 pages summarizing the process and the main outcomes

Tasks

Under the supervision of the Workshop Management team led by the Director of Programmes the facilitator will ensure that the expected results and objective of the workshop are delivered and achieved, respectively.

In particular, the facilitator will:

- ensure the entire management of the workshop in the most appropriate direction thus guaranteeing the delivery of expected results;

- encourage constructive debates and participatory dialogue during all sessions;
- summarize the points debated and agreements resulting from discussions;
- make sure participants are well informed about the materials and documents that will be presented during each session and the expected results of each session;
- maintain the flow from one session to another by keeping participants informed on the progress realized, issues already addressed and consensus reached;
- ensure that all the workshop sessions start on and are carried out within the prescribed time and that they deliver the expected results;
- ensure the coherence of all sessions and that as much as possible consensus is reached with limited conflicts.

Methodology

The facilitator will propose a method for facilitating the workshop which will be validated by the workshop management team.

Qualification and Experience

The Facilitator should have the following expertise

- At least Five years experience in facilitating workshops;
- A proof of knowledge of the operations of the agricultural research system in WCA, including the NARS, CG centres, networks etc.
- Proven track record of having worked with Agricultural Development Initiatives at national and international levels
- Fluency in either French or English and notion in the other is an advantage

Duration of engagement

A total of 5 days will be assigned to the facilitator. 1 day will be used for preparing the assignment; 3 days for facilitation; and 1 day for preparing the report.

Presentation of offer

Those wishing to be considered for this consultancy should submit the following documents in either French or English to the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD through the Executive Secretary (secoraf@coraf.org) with a copy to the Manager, Natural Resources Management Programme (abdulai.jalloh@coraf.org) not later than 27th July, 2010:

- A letter of motivation
- A brief description of the methods that will be used to facilitate the workshop
- Financial offer
- Three references of previous facilitation exercise with costs