

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



West and Central
African Council for
Agricultural
Research and
Development



Consultancy Announcement

Baseline Study on Agro-processing Systems in West Africa

Project Title: Improving post-harvest quality and packaging of rice, sorghum/millet and cassava products to enhance marketability in West Africa
(Project Identification: CW/03/01CM/U/09-03)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background and context

Rice: Poor post-harvest practices used in rice production system, such as floor-drying, parboiling, milling and bagging pose significant problems in quality decline that has rendered the rice sector low in marketability and profit-making to producers and processors. The proposed project aims to put technological packages in the hands of rice producers and processors as a means of increasing food availability and incomes.

Sorghum/Millet: In millet and sorghum in the Sahelian zone processing is dominated by large scale feed processors and small-scale snack (e.g. millet in yoghurt), pastry and packed food (for couscous, *thiabsy* and local porridge, etc.) enterprises, most of whom are women groups. Their key constraints are poor access (quantity and quality) to raw material and processing technology. Whilst processors are constrained by insufficient access to quality raw material, producers' poor quality grain results in significant losses in their incomes.

Cassava: In cassava, the output of women cassava processing groups is reduced by 40% during the dry season as a result of drudgery vis-a-vis high labour cost in harvesting cassava roots. On the contrary, excessive glut and harvest losses occur at the peak of harvesting time. Additionally, the traditional peeling and grating methods of cassava into main products such as *gari*, flour and dough are grossly inefficient with low turnover, and sometimes injurious to health. A blend of 10% cassava flour with wheat flour is feasible. However, poor processing technology results in quality deterioration, storage losses and health hazards. Improvements and up-scaling of technologies for processing cassava into flour, *gari* and dough will ensure efficiency and reduction in post-harvest losses.

This call seeks to mobilize the strengths, expertise and resources for post-harvest technology development and transfer in West Africa to demonstrate appropriate post-harvest technologies for adoption. Improved techniques for rice milling, cleaning, de-stoning and par-boiling; cassava processing into flour, *gari* and dough, as well as sorghum and millet grain conditioning will be demonstrated, alongside packaging and labelling technologies. Capacities of the target groups

are to be strengthened to enable them adopt the techniques whilst their access in the acquisition of simple processing equipment facilitated through relevant linkages.

2. Components and Countries for project implementation

1. Rice: Senegal, Mali, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria
2. Sorghum/Millet: Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Nigeria
3. Cassava: Ghana, Nigeria, Benin and Togo

➤ *Three Consultants are required, one for each component.*

3. Objective The objective is to promote improved rice, sorghum/millet and cassava processing technologies to ensure food security, enhanced marketability and increased farmers and processors' incomes.

4. Terms for the consultancy

1. To consult key partners (input enterprises, quality control and certification agencies, CBOs, processing groups, NGOs, CG centres, NARS, Extension) in target countries to collect and analyze information on the current processing systems, including available technologies, equipment and major actors.
2. To examine the current policies on post-harvest systems, the role of other projects in promoting processing technologies and suggest possible synergistic relationship between these projects and this project.
3. To identify constraints in the promotion of processing technologies, suggest ways and opportunities for improving and promoting the technologies
4. To ascertain the present socio-economic status (food secure families, income status, access to credit, markets, etc.) of the target processing groups in the target countries.
5. To identify opportunities (technological, markets, standards and quality control), which exist in the promotion of processing technologies and propose effective partnership mechanism among these key actors in the promotion of processing technologies in the target countries
6. To establish potential socio-economic advantages of improved processing technologies on the lives of target groups.
7. To propose strategic options (technological, approaches, partnerships and socio-economic considerations) for achieving accelerated adoption of processing technologies
8. To prepare a detailed report addressing the terms given above

5. Duration of the Mission

CORAF/WECARD expects that the mission should cover 30 working days to be completed by 31st January, 2010 with Consultant's contracted and paid for.

6. Final Report

The Consultants are expected to submit a draft report to the CORAF/WECARD Secretariat 10 days after field visits and the final report, 7 days after the validation workshop.

7. Methodology

Prior to departure, the consultant will provide and discuss with CORAF/WECARD a draft methodology he/she plans to adopt in the study, including any questionnaires he/she plans to use. The Consultant will travel to selected countries, communities, organizations and institutions, where rice, cassava and millet/sorghum are the main focus as source of food and income.

1. Rice: Senegal, Mali, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria
2. Sorghum/Millet: Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Nigeria
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He will be expected to contact key target groups, projects, enterprises engaged yam production and marketing, seed multiplication and marketing, as well as FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, etc. He will contact national and international research organizations (NARS, IITA, WARDA and ICRISAT) ministries of agriculture, post-harvest (processing) projects to acquire relevant information, explore opportunities, including areas of collaboration and recent technologies and innovations available for transfer.

He is expected to use relevant documents and information from CORAF/WECARD, partners and other sources, as well as his/her experience, contacts, networking skills, email, telephone communications and the internet as supplementary means of collecting and collating the requisite information.

8. Honorarium

In conformity with CORAF/WECARD policy on remunerations for services rendered, the consultant will be paid an honorarium commensurate with his/her experience. The present assignment will be 30 Consultant-days payable honorarium. Modalities for disbursement of the funds will be specified in the service contract to be signed between the consultant and CORAF/WECARD.

9. Expertise required

The Consultant should have the following qualifications and expertise:

- (i) A Ph.D. or M.Sc. holder in Agricultural Economics (agro-processing systems) with at least 10 years experience in Agricultural Research, Development and Management at both the international and national levels
- (ii) A proof of knowledge and operations of the agricultural system in WCA, including the NARS, CG centres, networking, program and project coordination and agro-processing.
- (iii) Proven track record of having worked with Agricultural Development Initiatives at national and international levels in West and Central Africa
- (iv) Strong professional experience in analysis and identification of agro-input sub-sector, with particular reference to any of the three commodities, rice, sorghum/millet or cassava
- (v) Fluency in both English and French is an advantage
- (vi) Equal opportunity in gender considerations

10. Work-plan and Timetable

The consultant will have a total duration of 30 working days and will be expected to propose a work-plan and timetable for the exercise to be validated at the level of the Secretariat. *Period of consultancy is between 20th November 2009 and 3^{1st} January 2010.*

11. Mode of Application

The **dossier** required from the prospective candidates includes the following:

1. An application letter;
2. A detailed curriculum vitae containing the complete names of candidate, complete addresses (postal, email, phone and fax);
3. The names and complete contact details of at least three of your referees.

Modalities

4. The dossier should be addressed to **Director of Programs**, CORAF/WECARD, Executive Secretariat, N° 7 Avenue Bourguiba, BP 48 Dakar-RP, Senegal.
5. E-mail: secoraf@coraf.org
6. Application dossiers should reach the Secretariat not later than 15th Nov., 2009.
7. Only selected applicants will be contacted.