

Call for Expression of Interest

**Recruitment of three individual consultants for national training
courses on strategies for scaling agriculture technologies in West
Africa**

Opening Date: April 3, 2019

Closing Date: April 15, 2019

CEI No. 04-2019

West Africa (WA) and the Sahel region are home to about 387 million inhabitants, which represents over 5% of the world's population. The average annual growth rate of the population in WA stands at 2.7% against an annual agricultural productivity growth of less than 2% (CORAF, 2017). Much of the concern over feeding Africa by 2050 relates to the relative slowing down of food production in the face of rapidly growing populations. Food demand is projected to increase, especially in the growing urban centres of West Africa to about 60% to 80%, but agricultural yields are not keeping pace, with gaps estimated to be 75%. As the population grows and fields shrink from generation to generation, farmers must produce more food on less land. As a result, African farmers have faced an inexorable pressure to intensify their production (Jayne et al., 2016).

Intensification of production requires adoption of cutting-edge technologies and innovations. A multitude of constraints are the cause of the high yield gaps at farm level including increasing land degradation and low soil fertility, pests and diseases, climate change, etc. Against this background, poor access and availability of farmer preferred and market-oriented agri-inputs continue to undermine farmers' efforts towards increased and sustainable agricultural productivity and production. Despite the efforts of stakeholders, the use of agri-inputs remains low with negative consequences on agricultural productivity in West Africa. CORAF with support of USAID is implementing a regional project entitled Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development in West Africa (PAIRED). Under this initiative, CORAF with its partners will fostered establishment of Innovative scaling framework for agri-input Technologies and Innovations in West Africa to insure sustainable scaling and adoption of best-bet agriculture technologies and innovations. In this regard, CORAF solicits the services of appropriate consultants to develop and deliver national training courses on strategies for scaling agriculture technologies in West Africa.

CORAF is inviting individual consultants for the mission mentioned above. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Executive Secretariat.

The Consultants will be selected according to the rules contained in the Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures of CORAF.

Required expertise and duration of the consultancy

The training will be conducted by a consultant. The time allocated to the consultancy is 10 days. The training shall be delivered in May and June 2019.

General Selection Criteria

Criteria
At least 10 years of experiences in Integrated Agriculture research for development
Extensive knowledge in farming systems in West Africa, with focus on the research, production, adoption and extension delivery system of the major food commodities
Familiar with the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) approach and the management of value chains
Track record in training on social change, communication for development, technologies dissemination and adoption
Knowledge of agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa within the overall global development context
Good command of French for francophones countries and English for anglophone countries

- 1. Applications of the individual consultants will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria mentioned above and the selected consultant will be invited for negotiation.**
- 2. Consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest highlighting the execution and experience of similar contracts and a detailed CV.**
- 3. Expressions of Interest (Eoi) must be submitted by e-mail to the following address: procurement@coraf.org not later than the 15th April 2019 at 12:00 GMT.**
- 4. CORAF Executive Secretariat reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the Eoi or annul the Eoi process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the applicants(s). For more information, you will find attached the terms of reference of the mission.**

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
Executive Director of CORAF

Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development in West Africa (PAIRD)

Cooperative Agreement AID-624-A-17-00002

Concept note

National Training courses on innovative strategies for scaling agriculture technologies in Africa

Introduction

West Africa has an abundance of natural and human resources yet remains one of the poorest regions in the world. The agriculture sector is committed to achieving food security, nutrition and broad-based economic growth in West Africa; food demand is projected to increase by 60% to 80%, but agricultural yield is not keeping pace, with gaps estimated at 75% of potentially attainable yields. Agricultural productivity is inhibited by under-developed linkages between farmers and markets, limited access to affordable and reliable high-quality seeds and fertilizers, and lack of information on new agricultural technologies and best practices. As a result, the region has experienced some of the lowest per hectare crop yields in the world. Thus, import dependency has been growing fast in the region, however, this can be reversed by boosting the performance of smallholder agriculture.

Developing sustainable agricultural production is key to effective strategies for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and improved livelihoods for women, men, and children. Furthermore, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of eliminating hunger and poverty, West African countries need to prioritize agriculture and rural development in their development agenda.

Agricultural technologies have the power to drive economic development and improve food and nutritional security around the globe. Furthermore, there are also a number of proven agricultural technologies that are yet to be widely utilized in the developing world. Despite the efforts into technology generation, introduction, adaptation etc. the agricultural sector development in West Africa only experiences a slight move and it seems to plateau suggesting that other actions are required to sustain the growth of the sector.

There is a growing consensus among key stakeholders such as ECOWAS and a host of Development Partners including USAID that the effective scaling up of the already existing technologies will make a massive impact on livelihoods and overall economic growth in the region. As the designated Technical arm of ECOWAS, CORAF has therefore prioritized scaling of agricultural technologies in its current Strategic Plan (2018 – 2027) and is taking the lead to coordinate regional initiatives in scaling agricultural technologies and innovations. In addition, CORAF has demonstrated in recent years that the use of more systematic and innovative approaches can foster T&Is adoption, overcome productivity barriers and unlock West Africa's agricultural potential.

PAIRED is targeting of reaching millions of farmers with information that helps them assess and adopt cutting-edge technologies and innovations. Achieving this ambitious result will require the use of evidence-backed, cost-effective training and extension methods that are highly accessible to small-scale farmers; strategies that enable them to learn about, evaluate, and adopt new T&Is. Closing the productivity gap is not possible without new ways of making actors along the agriculture value chain to work together across the boundaries of farm, business, government, science and civil society. In addition, efficient scaling of technologies and innovations requires an enabling environment including an effective extension system, policy reform, expanding access to credit and financing, conserving natural resources, accounting for social, cultural and political realities on the ground; and building local cooperation and partnerships.

Training and development of staff capacity in charge of facilitating scaling up initiatives is important. Lack of adequately trained human resources is often a major constraint to scaling up. Quality trainings are recommended as an essential component of scaling up process. Training helps to transmit procedural and technical expertise to key staff expected to be in charge of scaling process including training of trainers of national stakeholders. Training aims to allow key staff to understand the importance and challenges of agricultural innovations and scaling process. The training also aims to enable participants to understand the concept and strategies of scaling up and out, so they can play an active part in the scaling process.

Objective

The main objective of this training is to build capacity of West Africa agriculture stakeholders for innovative scaling approach to foster scaling-up and scaling-out of best bet agriculture technologies and innovations.

Expected results

By the end of this training, trainees will feel confident to design and implement scaling strategies leading to technologies and innovations adoption.

The main expected results are:

- Better understanding of concept and rationale of scaling up and out of technologies and innovations
- Enhance knowledge of key factors affecting scaling agricultural technologies in West Africa.
- Enhance capacity to design and plan sequences actions for effective and efficient scaling of technologies and innovations.
- Better knowledge of what is needed to build an established an efficient and sustainable scaling strategy

Methodology

The consultant will develop an appropriate training curricula and tools for the workshops. The training curricula and the tools will be validated beforehand by the PAIRED project team.

The training will be delivered in French for francophone countries and in English for anglophone countries. Target countries are Benin, Niger, Senegal, Mali, Nigeria and Ghana.

Participants

Participants will be from PAIRED target countries.

Period of completion of the regional training workshop

The training workshop should be organized during the months of May and June 2019 according to PAIRED's agenda.

Qualifications of the consultants

Education

Master or PhD in agronomy, agro-economy, socio-economy or any related fields.

Experiences

- At least 10 years of experiences in Integrated Agriculture research for development;
- Have extensive knowledge in farming systems in West Africa, having worked for at least 10 years in the agricultural sector with focus on the research, production, adoption, extension and marketing of the major food commodities;
- Familiar with the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) approach and the management of value chains;
- Have a good experience in training groups of diverse actors and facilitating learning on technologies scaling-up and out;
- Demonstrate a strong background in training in social change, communication for development, technologies dissemination and adoption;
- Fluency in French or English.

Consultant's task

- Develop training modules to achieve the expected results;
- Conduct regional training;
- Produce a training notebook for participants;
- Produce a training report.

Funding

All the activities, meeting, travel, operational cost will be funded by PAIRED's project.

[Fin du document]