

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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**Recruitment of a consultant to support CORAF in operationalizing a  
framework for managing bio risks**

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**Opening Date: February 5, 2020**

**Closing Date: February 19, 2020**

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**CEI No. 03-2020**

A new Cooperative Agreement signed between the USAID and CORAF in June 2017 is facilitating the implementation of a five-year program named Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED) in West Africa. The program with three components: (i) CORAF Capacity strengthened for effective coordination of agricultural research and development in West Africa (ii) Innovative scaling framework for Agri-input technologies and innovations established in West Africa and (iii) Use of quality Agri-inputs in West Africa increased is being implemented within the framework of the current Strategic Plan (2018-2027) and associated Operational Plan (2018-2022).

The CORAF Strategic Plan encompasses three Priority Intervention Domains (PID) namely (i) Agriculture, food, and nutrition security; (ii) Policy, institutions, markets and trade; and (iii) Gender, youth and social equity. To ensure appropriate interventions in the identified PIDs, the following Activity Pillars (AP) were identified: (i) Establishing Communities of Practice on scaling T&Is for sustainable impact; (ii) Integrated regional capacity strengthening in agri-food research and innovation; and (iii) Knowledge management and Foresight. Under PID 1, a key thematic area identified by stakeholders to be addressed within CORAF's IAR4D framework is the **Management of foreign invasive pests** which falls under Component 2 of PAIRED.

Currently, the Fall Army Worm (FAW) (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is threatening maize production in many parts of sub-Saharan African including West Africa. In recent times, the pest has become global, having spread from its native American distribution to Africa and Asia since 2016. In its larvae stage and in the absence of natural control or good management, it can cause significant damage to crops. The rapid spread and concerns about potential yield losses are major public concerns in several countries especially in Africa, where food security remains a development challenge. The recurrence of the incidence of invasive diseases and pests across national borders calls for a concerted regional effort to manage such threats.

The need to better prepare for, and respond to, emerging biological risks is capital at regional and country levels and has been articulated into one of the major pillars, namely, foresight and anticipation, of the 2018-2027 Strategic Plan of CORAF. Foresight and anticipation require the setting up and operation of a robust framework for containing emerging biological risks through strategic

collaboration. Experience has clearly demonstrated that responses to pests and diseases without borders, through a set or sum of individual country plans, without regional coordination backed by regional economic commissions may make implementation difficult. Sustainable pest management practices adapted to West and Central Africa countries' socio-economic-environmental contexts need to be identified or developed, tested and upscaled to mitigate the potential impact of FAW on crop production and food security in areas already subjected to high level of vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition.

CORAF is therefore inviting applications from qualified consultants to develop an effective framework and mechanism for the effective management of FAW and other invasive pests in its mandate region. Interested consultant may obtain further information from [www.coraf.org](http://www.coraf.org) website.

Selection of the appropriate consultant will be based on the World Bank guidelines on "Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011, revised on July 2014" and approved by USAID.

### **Duration of the consultancy and expertise required**

Total number of payable days for the consultancy is 84 days spread over a 6-month period.

### **General Selection Criteria**

- Minimum qualification: A Master's degree in Plant Protection or any other related field. A PhD will be an advantage;
- Proven knowledge of pest control in West Africa with at least 8 years working experience in the agricultural sector particularly in the management of emerging productivity bio-risks;
- Excellent analytical skills and experience in working with national and sub-regional organizations;
- Good knowledge of agricultural development in West Africa as well as the portfolio and interventions of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS with regards to pest control;
- Excellent communication skills preferably in both French and English.

Consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to [procurement@coraf.org](mailto:procurement@coraf.org) highlighting their suitability based on the above criteria and a detailed CV, not later than **February 19, 2020, at 5:00 pm**.

**Dr Abdou TENKOUANO**

**Executive Director of CORAF**

## Terms of references

### Recruitment of a consultant to support CORAF in operationalizing a framework for managing bio risks

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#### Background

Agriculture is key to economic growth, poverty reduction and food and nutritional security in Africa. Agricultural technologies have the power to drive economic development and improve food and nutritional security around the globe. Sustainable alleviation of poverty in West and central Africa (WCA) can only be achieved by enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of African agriculture. However, agriculture in WA is facing a number of challenges. In addition to poor access to quality inputs, climate change associated with erratic rainfalls and emergence of diseases and exotic pests are putting the region under the risks of not meeting its development goals including food security.

Fall Armyworm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda*, a moth that is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas is among one of these exotic pests that can dramatically affect agriculture productivity in West Africa. FAW originated from America where it is recognized as one of the most damaging crop pests. It prefers to feed on cereals, particularly maize which is a major food crop in West Africa. The arrival and rapid spread of FAW is therefore seen as a major threat to agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security in the region.

FAW was reported for the first time in Africa in 2016 (Goergen et al. 2016, Cock et al. 2017), discovered in northern Nigeria, the pest has already managed to spread to at least 40 African countries. In the past two rainy seasons, FAW has devastated many farms across the region with losses in millions of dollars. The threat of FAW looms over the region and this has alerted Governments across the region as well as a range of development partners and the scientific community. It is apparent that the sporadic and uncoordinated interventions in managing the threat of FAW are likely to undermine the effective management of FAW in the region.

The need to better prepare for, and respond to, emerging biological threats like the FAW has been articulated into one of the Priority Intervention Domains: **Knowledge management and Foresight** of the 2018-2027 Strategic Plan of CORAF. Foresight and anticipation require the setting up and operationalizing a robust framework for containing emerging biological risks through strategic collaboration. Experience has clearly demonstrated that responses to pests and diseases without borders, through a set or sum of individual country plans, without regional coordination backed by regional economic commissions may undermine the achievement of desired goals. CORAF is far advanced in facilitating the establishing a coordination mechanism that makes it possible to pool resources and to prevent stakeholder organizations from duplicating efforts so there will be a coherence of concerted efforts and the capitalization of synergies.

In this regard, CORAF chairs the Bio risk Management Facility (BIMAF) which is a consortium of key technical institutions across the region with a range of expertise to tackle challenges from emerging bio risks associated with climate change. BIMAF will work in close collaboration with selected National and Regional Centers of Specialization (N/RCoS) to develop appropriate technologies and innovations, in the area of their respective areas of specialization. The N/RCoS will work with the National Plant Protection Offices (NPPOs) to ensure effective deployment of the control options among different actors in the field. CORAF's Executive Secretariat, with its Convening Power, will play the role of "Regional Control Station" and will thus take care of the administrative and financial management and subsequently any regional activity.

CORAF Regional Coordination will provide the primary vehicle for strengthening coherence for management of emerging productivity risks within West and Central Africa and promoting cooperation and collaboration among national research institutes and their development partners in addressing regional agriculture challenges. It will also provide an important means of articulating regional concerns and priorities and acting as a bridge between regional and national agendas.

The present terms of reference specify the conditions under which CORAF seeks to recruit a consultant (short term), Specialist in plant protection, to help develop and implement CORAF's management approach of the FAW and other emerging productivity bio-risks.

### **Global objective**

The objective of this consultancy is to assist CORAF in developing an appropriate framework and mechanism for the effective management of FAW and other invasive pests in its mandate region.

### **Key tasks are as follows:**

- Define the role that best suits CORAF with respect to anticipating and managing bio risks particularly the FAW;
- Identify key stakeholders involved in the management of FAW in the region;
- Review existing interventions by relevant stakeholders in the area of FAW control and management in the region;
- Develop a framework for an Early Warning System for the prevention, surveillance and control of pests including the FAW;
- Support CORAF in implementing its emerging productivity bio-risks management approach;
- Determine capacity building needs for various stakeholders in managing bio risks;
- Support the holding of key stakeholder meetings on biorisks;
- Perform other tasks requested by his supervisor for which his collaboration is required.

### **Required deliverables**

- Best fit role for CORAF in anticipating and managing biorisks identified
- Key stakeholders involved in managing FAW in the region identified
- Strategic interventions on FAW in West Africa identified
- A framework for the bio risk management facility established

- Capacity strengthening needs for stakeholders in managing bio risks identified
- Key stakeholder meetings of bio risk management held

## **Methodology**

The Consultant will work in close collaboration with the Director of Research and Innovation, the PAIRED project manager as well as the senior Scaling specialist. There will be working meetings with FAO, UEMOA, IITA, National Centers specialization, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, ICIPE and other relevant national and regional stakeholders. The consultant will also organize regional training meetings for key stakeholders in the region on innovative approach to manage FAW.

## **Reporting**

All reports, notes and minutes prepared by the consultant must be written in French and English. The documents to be presented must be in hard copy and in electronic formats in Word, Excel or PowerPoint.

## **Duration and period of the consultancy**

Total number of payable days for the consultancy is 84 days spread over a 6-month period.

## **Selection criteria**

- Minimum qualification: A Master's degree in Plant Protection or any other related field. A PhD will be an advantage
- Proven knowledge of pest control in West Africa with at least 8 years working experience in the agricultural sector particularly in the management of emerging productivity bio-risks
- Excellent analytical skills and experience in working with national and sub-regional organizations
- Good knowledge of agricultural development in West Africa as well as the portfolio and interventions of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS with regards to pest control
- Excellent communication skills preferably in both French and English.

## **Submission of documents**

Applicant should submit a covering letter and a detailed CV including names and contacts of three references (e-mail, address, and phone) to the Executive Director of CORAF by email through [procurement@coraf.org](mailto:procurement@coraf.org) not later **than February 19, 2020, at 5:00 pm.**