

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual consultant to support the greater integration of ECCAS countries and the ECCAS sub-region in CORAF activities

Opening Date: August 3, 2020

Closing Date: August 13, 2020

CEI No. 10-2020

CORAF is an international non-profit association of national agricultural research systems (NARS) of 23 countries, covering over forty percent of Africa's population, thus making it the largest sub-regional research organization on the African continent. The NARS of the CEMAC countries, except for Equatorial Guinea, are all founding members of CORAF. It was created in 1987 and assigned the responsibility to coordinate and facilitate ground-breaking and cutting-edge research outputs needed to unlock the agricultural potential of West and Central Africa. The vision and mission of CORAF are to achieve sustainable reduction of poverty and food insecurity through improved competitiveness, productivity, and agricultural markets in West and Central Africa.

The completion of several donor-funded programs such as the British Cooperation (DFID, 2013), the Australian Cooperation (AusAid, 2015), the common basket of programs between the European Union and Canada (MDTF, 2016) which covered all the countries in the CORAF region, and the financing gap of the second Operational Plan (2014-2018) have led to a refocusing of CORAF's operations specifically in West Africa, thanks to projects dedicated to ECOWAS countries, following the example of PAIRED, UEMOA and WAAPP (2A, 1B and 1C). ECCAS and CEMAC have adopted a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP-CEEAC/CEMAC) with the main objective of "contributing substantially and sustainably to meeting food and nutritional needs, increasing exports and incomes, and reducing poverty among rural populations in the member states".

CORAF's presence in Central Africa remains less pronounced, despite having strongly supported the creation of two important base centers in the sub-region: the Regional Hub for Applied Research on Central African Agricultural Systems (PRASAC) in 1996 and the African Centre for Research on Bananas and Plantains (CARBAP), which became an intergovernmental organization in 2013, and the first Regional Center of Excellence in Central Africa. New sub-regional projects are being developed in ECCAS, to which CORAF could contribute with its experience in supporting regional programs. The Support Project for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas of Central Africa (PREJAC) is the most mature project that has been submitted to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for funding.

Lastly, in an international environment shaped by climate change, emerging animal and plant diseases, and very recently by the COVID-19 pandemic, a context that requires regional, international, and even global approaches, this consultation intends to propose actions to be undertaken to improve the visibility of CORAF and consolidate its presence in Central Africa for the development of competitive and sustainable agriculture, and the improvement of market access to small producers.

The Executive Secretariat of CORAF intends to recruit an individual consultant to support the greater integration of ECCAS countries and the ECCAS sub-region in CORAF activities.

The tasks to be performed and other information related to the conduct of the mission are detailed in the terms of reference attached.

The Executive Director of CORAF invites Consultants with the qualifications demanded as indicated in the terms of reference to express their interest in this call.

Interested consultants in this call must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform such services (CV, references relating to the execution of similar contracts, publications, experience in a similar field, etc.).

Qualified consultants will be selected according to the rules contained in the CORAF Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures Manual.

Interested consultants can obtain additional information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat by sending correspondence by e-mail to n.amoah@coraf.org .

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to the following address: procurement@coraf.org no later than **August 13, 2020 at 4.30 p.m. GMT** at the latest.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO

Executive Director

TERMS OF REFERENCES

Recruitment of an Individual Consultant responsible for proposing approaches to support a greater integration of ECCAS countries and the ECCAS sub-region in CORAF activities

1. 1. Introduction

Created in 1987, the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) is a sub-regional organization that currently brings together the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of 23 countries, including 16 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) and 8 Central African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe). The NARS of the CEMAC countries, except for Equatorial Guinea, are all founding members of CORAF. CORAF is one of the four African Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs) that make up the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). CORAF's vision and mission is to achieve sustainable reduction of poverty and food insecurity through the improvement of competitiveness, productivity and agricultural markets in West and Central Africa (WCA).

CORAF's 2018-2022 Operational Plan, aligned with its 2018-2027 Strategic Plan, defines the trends, opportunities and challenges facing agricultural research and development systems in West and Central Africa. To respond to these opportunities and challenges, the Operational Plan describes the modalities for the implementation of CORAF's Strategic Plan (2018-2027). With these plans, CORAF aims at contributing to the achievement of the first objective of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) which is an agriculture-based development that eliminates hunger and reduces poverty and food insecurity. This objective will be achieved through the implementation of the agricultural policies of the Regional Economic Communities of West and Central Africa (ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS and CEMAC).

CORAF's general objective is strong and sustainable overall agricultural growth with an associated specific objective of sustainable improvements in productivity, competitiveness and agricultural markets for the target groups in West and Central Africa. The specific objective contributes to the general objective through the delivery of the following four outputs: Output 1 - Improved use of appropriate technologies and innovations in WCA; Output 2 - Increased adoption of strategic decision-making options for policies, institutions and markets; Output 3 - Improved institutional and human capacities in agricultural research for development; and Output 4 - Facilitation and satisfaction of target clients' demand for agricultural knowledge. CORAF is committed to delivering these four outputs under the Strategic Plan 2018-2027 through three well-coordinated Priority Intervention Areas (PIAs) supported by three pillars of activities nested within its strategy.

PIA 1 - Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition: This PIA addresses the following issues: (i) sustainably improved agricultural production with strong linkages to national food and nutrition security; (ii) effects of climate change on high-value food and non-food crops, livestock production and fisheries; (iii) management of emerging pests through the strengthening regional capacities for monitoring and management of pests; (iv) management of water resources with a focus on improving water products.

PIA 2 - Policies, Institutions, Markets and Trade; this PIA addresses : (i) improving value addition, agricultural value chains and marketing of high-value non-livestock and food crops, livestock and fisheries, (ii) improving

market access, (iii) increasing sustainable systems for seeds and other agricultural inputs, (iv) promoting the development of family enterprises to encourage smallholder farmers to invest in agricultural enterprises, and (v) promoting domestic agricultural industries.

PIA 3 - Gender, Youth and Social Equity: The objective of this PIA is to ensure equitable access to resources of agricultural research and development, opportunities and benefits for both men and women, and, in particular, for vulnerable groups in WCA. This will be achieved through: (i) targeting the specific needs of women farmers, processors, entrepreneurs and agricultural professionals to ensure that they have equal opportunities to benefit from program activities; and (ii) supporting youth employment.

2. Context of the consultation

The completion of several donor-funded programs such as the British Cooperation (DFID, 2013), the Australian Cooperation (AusAid, 2015), the common basket of programs between the European Union and Canada (MDTF, 2016) which covered all the countries in the CORAF region, and the financing gap of the second Operational Plan (2014-2018) have led to a refocusing of CORAF's operations specifically in West Africa, thanks to projects dedicated to ECOWAS countries, following the example of PAIRED, UEMOA and WAAPP (2A, 1B and 1C).

ECCAS and CEMAC have adopted a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP-CEEAC/CEMAC) with the main objective of "contributing substantially and sustainably to meeting food and nutritional needs, increasing exports and incomes, and reducing poverty among rural populations in the member states".

To provide support in the implementation of the agricultural policies of RECs, CORAF had signed in July 2008 with ECCAS and CEMAC cooperation agreements on agricultural research. To materialize these agreements, CORAF had initiated the development of the "Central African Agricultural Productivity Program (CAAPP)", just like the example of the West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP). This program was to be considered as the flagship program for the implementation of CAADP Pillar 4 in research, dissemination and adoption of agricultural technologies and innovations in Central Africa. At least five ECCAS member countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo and Gabon) had expressed a strong interest in benefiting from the funding that the World Bank (WB) was making available to countries to support their Agricultural Research and Development (AR4D) activities.

Since 2010, CORAF had also intensified advocacy with the WB as well as with countries, the General Secretariat and the ECCAS Presidency to accelerate the launching of the CAAPP. CORAF had even anticipated the start of the CAAPP by financing in 2014, environmental and social safeguard studies in the 5 CEMAC countries, studies that are essential for the start of the program. However, the institutional weakness of ECCAS and the slowness of decision-making by countries did not enable the sub-region to benefit from that opportunity. At the conclusion of all these processes, CORAF's presence in Central Africa remains even less pronounced, despite having strongly supported the creation of two important base centers in the sub-region: the Regional Hub for Applied Research on Central African Agricultural Systems (PRASAC) in 1996 and the African Centre for Research on Bananas and Plantains (CARBAP), which became an intergovernmental organization in 2013, and the first Regional Center of Excellence in Central Africa.

From 2017, CORAF supported Cameroon and Chad which had opted to join the new West and Central Africa Agricultural Transformation Program (WCAATP) supported by the WB. But the World Bank changed its

strategy to stop the WCAATP, and only Chad continues to receive funding for the Agricultural Diversification Support Program Framework (ProCAD) relating to technology transfer, with the support of CORAF.

New sub-regional projects are being developed in ECCAS, to which CORAF could contribute with its experience in supporting regional programs. The Support Project for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural and Peri-Urban Areas of Central Africa (PREJAC) is the most mature project that has been submitted to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for funding.

Additionally, in an international environment shaped by climate change, emerging animal and plant diseases, and very recently by the COVID-19 pandemic, a context that requires regional, international, and even global approaches, this consultation intends to propose actions to be undertaken to improve the visibility of CORAF and consolidate its presence in Central Africa for the development of competitive and sustainable agriculture, and the improvement of market access to small producers.

3. Objective of the consultation

The objective of the consultation is to propose to CORAF approaches to support the countries and ECCAS in strengthening their institutional, organizational and operational capacities in AR4D in the image of its achievements in West Africa, as well as in implementing their sub-regional agricultural policy, and particularly the regulation on seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship of youth and women, and technology exchanges.

4. Outputs and expected deliverables

- The main activities implemented, the results achieved, and the challenges encountered during the last 10 years are well documented;
- Important success stories and challenges are analyzed and presented in an appropriate manner;
- Proposals for approaches to integrate the countries of Central Africa and ECCAS are outlined;
- A consolidated global document complying with international drafting standards is submitted by the deadline.

5. Duration of the mission

The duration of the mission will be a maximum of 25 working days spread over a period from the date of signature of the contract to 30th October 2020, the date on which the final version of the report is expected. The Consultant will work with the internal Technical Committee in charge of reviewing documents at the Executive Secretariat.

6. Reporting requirements

The Consultant should begin work by 24th August 2020 and submit a first draft of the report by 28th September 2020. The work will be reviewed within one week and comments made to the Consultant by 5th October 2020. The consultant will then be expected to take the comments and suggestions into account in the final report to be submitted on or before 30th October 2020.

7. Compensation

In accordance with the CORAF policy on remuneration for professional services, the Consultant will be remunerated for 25 days of work based on his/her qualifications and level of experience. The terms of payment to the Consultant shall be specified in the service contract that shall be signed between him/her and the Executive Director of CORAF.

8. Profile of the Consultant

- Hold at least a master's degree in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Economics, or any other similar field. A Doctorate or a PhD would be an asset;
- Have an excellent knowledge of the functioning of CORAF and the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of West and Central Africa, as well as the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system and Advanced Research Institutions operating in the CORAF region;
- Have good knowledge of the functioning of the Sub-Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- Have a proven knowledge of agricultural development issues in the West and Central African sub-regions;
- Have solid credentials in the writing, synthesizing and editing of scientific and technical documents, reports, mission reports and terms of reference, among others;
- Proven experience in communicating and facilitating high-level multi-stakeholder workshops for institutions/programs in agriculture and scientific research;
- Have a good understanding of the World Bank and major development partners' procedures;
- Have a command of computer tools;
- Have the ability to use English and French as working languages.

8. HOW TO APPLY

Consultants interested in this call must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform such services (CV, references relating to the execution of similar contracts, publications, experience in a similar field, etc.).

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