

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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**Recruitment of individual consultants to undertake a study on *The Impact of Government's COVID-19 responses on food systems and livelihoods in the Sahel:***

**Project Coordinator (1)  
Regional Consultant (1)  
Country Consultants (5) Cape Verde, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger)**

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**Opening Date: November 5, 2020**

**Closing Date: November 26, 2020**

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**CEI No. 17-2020**

### Background

The world continues to be confronted by the increasing devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the health and economies of nations at varying levels of vulnerabilities and consequences. There is growing fear that with no cure and vaccine at the moment, the pandemic will wreak havoc to an already over-stretched African continent particularly in the Sahel zone in West Africa. The Sahel zone faces protracted challenges linked to environmental degradation, ubiquitous poverty, conflicts, rural exodus, etc. against the background of prevalent gender inequality. It is characterized by 15% of its population undernourished, while 30% of children under-five have stunted growth (FAO, 2019).

In a bid to manage the disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic in West Africa, the Ministers of Agriculture and Food of ECOWAS held a video conference on March 31, 2020 on the impact of COVID-19 and crop pests on Food and Nutrition Security in West Africa. They noted the following economic measures taken in all countries: partial or total containment of populations, limiting the mobility of people, closing borders, closing urban, peri-urban and rural markets that structure the relationship between supply and demand. While acknowledging the positive effects of these measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they also mentioned the initial negative impact on food and nutritional security including: price increases for basic necessities, poor access to food for vulnerable people, drastic drop in the marketing of perishable market garden and fruit products, higher transport costs, difficult access to seeds, fertilizers, plant protection products etc. It is worth noting that responses to COVID-19 varied across countries, but no specific study has evaluated the precise impact of the various policy measures taken on food and nutrition security.

IDRC launched a call for proposals to document how responses to economic and health shocks associated to COVID-19 have been protecting and/or undermining food production, availability and access, and how it has impacted gender relations and equity for the most vulnerable. The work is intended to collect and analyse evidence from sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on food insecurity hotspots and components of the food systems where multiple stressors intersect. The outcomes of the initiative will inform the development of more efficient and equitable responses to fragility and shocks. The CORAF led component of this initiative will therefore carry out strategic investigations linked to the specific measures taken in five Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali, Niger, and Senegal) as well as their relative impact on the livelihoods of farmers and herders and as much as necessary other key stakeholders in their respective value chains. It is expected that the findings will inform policy formulation that will facilitate a stronger resilience of farmers and pastoralists to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic as well as future pandemics. The duration of the project is one year.

The Executive Director of CORAF invites candidates with the required qualifications indicated in the terms of reference to express their interest in this call for the positions of Project Coordinator, Regional and Country level consultants. Interested candidates should submit an application indicating that they meet the requirements for the respective positions.

Selection will be based on the rules contained in the CORAF Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures Manual. Interested candidates can obtain additional information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat via [m.maiga@coraf.org](mailto:m.maiga@coraf.org).

Expressions of interest must indicate the country selected by the consultant and be submitted by e-mail to the following address: [procurement@coraf.org](mailto:procurement@coraf.org) no later than **November 26, 2020 at 17.00 GMT**.

**Dr Abdou TENKOUANO**  
Executive Director

# TERMS OF REFERENCES

## **Recruitment of individual consultants to conduct a study on *The Impact of Government's COVID-19 responses on food systems and livelihoods in the Sahel***

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### **Background**

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## **Objectives of the assignment**

The general objective of this assignment is to conduct a study that will contribute to improving food and nutrition security in West Africa against the background of physical and biological risks particularly COVID-19 and future pandemics.

### ***The specific objectives are as follows:***

1. Take stock of the responses and determine their impact on food production, availability, access, and coping mechanisms
2. Identify gaps in COVID-19 responses including gender inequality for improved preparedness in future pandemics
3. Propose policy considerations for future pandemics

### ***The expected results are as follows:***

1. Negative and positive COVID-19 related policies identified and documented
2. Lessons learned from the implementation of COVID-19 responses to economic and health shocks in the country of study documented.
3. Ramifications on gender relations and equity for women, youth, and vulnerable groups due to responses associated with COVID-19, as well as social relationships identified and documented.
4. Policy recommendations for a tailored, efficient, and equitable disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction framework for responses to future shocks proposed and validated by stakeholders.
5. Capacity needs for contributing to policy formulation identified

## **Methodological approach**

In each country the study will be conducted in a participatory and inclusive manner to ensure the ownership of the findings by the decision makers. The process will be coordinated by a lead consultant at the regional level. The study will comprise six main steps:

1. Inception workshop at regional and national levels
2. The development of common data collection tools (survey questionnaire, checklist and guidelines for key informant surveys and focus group discussions)
3. Data collection, data analysis and development of the draft report
4. Validation workshop in each country validate findings
5. Combination of national findings to develop the regional report
6. Final regional workshop for the validation of the overall regional report

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## 1. Project Coordinator

The Project Coordinator will report to the CORAF Director of Research and Innovation. Specific responsibilities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Under the supervision of the Director of Research and Innovation, the Coordinator will ensure coherence, soundness, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of interventions to achieve the specific objectives of the project; and provide coordination and technical oversight and support to project team and collaborators.
- The Coordinator will work very closely with the lead and country consultants, CORAF's professional and support staff, the donor and other affiliated organizations. S/he will foster a collaborative, supportive and well-coordinated project team across the countries. S/he will ensure effective communication within the project as well with relevant external parties.
- The Coordinator will coordinate organization of cost-effective and high impact planning meetings and training workshops; and ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluating progress towards project milestones and quality and timely reporting to IDRC

### *Candidate Profile*

The successful candidate will have the following profile:

- An advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in social sciences or related field (e.g., economics, agricultural economics, extension etc.).
- With a proven record of project management acquired through a minimum of 5 years of demonstrated capacity to lead in an international, multidisciplinary, and cross-cultural environment.
- Work experience in Western and Central Africa and prior professional experience interacting with donors, national government departments and non-governmental organizations are distinct advantages.
- Conversant with CAADP framework and linkages with the Regional Economic Communities
- Proven experience in engaging policy makers
- Knowledgeable in gender and social inclusion
- Excellent skills in writing and editing scientific literature
- The candidate must be willing to travel regularly in the region.
- Fluency in either French or English with working knowledge of the other is highly desirable.

**Duration of the assignment:** ONE (01) YEAR

## 2. Regional Consultant

### *Responsibilities*

- Supervise national consultants in collaboration with project coordinator
- Supervise the development and pre testing of data collection tools
- Collect regional data
- Coordinate regional analysis
- Lead the development of the regional policy recommendations
- Participate in the end of project workshop and the validation of results and recommendations

### *Deliverables*

- Regional report including the following:
  - Gaps in COVID-19 responses
  - Regional policy recommendations
  - Preparedness for future pandemics

### *Required expertise*

The study will be conducted by a team of six experts in agricultural economist. The most experienced will be the regional consultant leading the team.

- Hold an advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in economics/agricultural economics, with strong experience in policy analysis,
- Considerable knowledge and experience in carrying out surveys and statistical analysis
- At least 15 years professional experience in agricultural value chain analysis in West Africa,
- Proven knowledge of regional institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS) and agricultural policies and strategies in West Africa and the Sahel.
- Knowledgeable in issues related to gender and social inclusion
- Speak and write French or English fluently and be able to work in the second language.

**Duration of assignment:** 66 working days during one year

- 3. Country Consultants:** One each for Cape Verde, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger

***Tasks***

- Organize national training workshops
- Participate in the development of data collection tools
- Pre-test data collection tools
- Collect data and conduct data analysis
- Organize country report validation workshop
- Participate in regional analysis and regional report validation workshop
- Organize country preparedness strategy validation
- Participate in the development of the regional preparedness strategy for future pandemics
- Organize country policy recommendations validation workshop
- Participate in the end of project workshop and results and recommendations validation

***Required expertise***

- Hold an advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in economics/agricultural economics, with strong experience in policy analysis,
- Considerable knowledge and experience in carrying out surveys and statistical analysis
- At least 10 years professional experience in agricultural value chain analysis in West Africa,
- Proven knowledge of regional institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS) and agricultural policies and strategies in West Africa and the Sahel.
- Knowledgeable in issues related to gender and social inclusion
- Speak and write French or English fluently and be able to work in the second language.

***Deliverables***

- National report including the following:
  - Gaps in national COVID-19 responses
  - National policy recommendations
  - Preparedness for future pandemics

**Duration of assignment:** 48 working days during one year