

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Recruitment of individual consultants to identify the
challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss
in Mali and Sierra Leone**

Date published: November 17, 2020
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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. 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.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is collaborating with CORAF to undertake a study on the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss in Mali and Sierra Leone. The work is intended to identify the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss and subsequently provide evidence-based policy recommendations.

The Executive Director of CORAF invites candidates with the required qualifications indicated in the terms of reference to express their interest in this call and indicating the country by e-mail to the following address: procurement@coraf.org not later than **December 1, 2020 at 17.00 GMT**. 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 **Pauline Ngandoul DIOUF**: p.diouf@coraf.org.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
Executive Director



TERMS OF REFERENCES

Recruitment of individual consultants to identify the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss in Mali and Sierra Leone

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 West Africa region faces protracted challenges linked to environmental degradation, ubiquitous poverty, conflicts, rural exodus, etc. against the background of prevalent gender inequality.

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 no specific study has evaluated the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with CORAF to undertake a stock taking study on COVID-19 pandemic on and food loss in two countries in West Africa. The work is intended to identify and understand the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss. It is expected that the findings will suggest solutions and provide evidence-based policy recommendations. The Executive Director of CORAF invites candidates with the required qualifications indicated in the terms of reference to express their interest in undertaking this assignment.

Objectives of the assignment

General Objective: The general objective is to improve the management of postharvest food loss under pandemics like COVID-19

The specific objectives are:

- Identify and understand the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on food loss especially for smallholder farmers
- Suggest solutions to address post-harvest under pandemics
- Suggest evidence-based policy recommendations.

Activities of the assignment: The individual consultant will undertake the following activities:

- Participate in a virtual inception meeting with the research team and other selected stakeholders to explain the roles, the methodology and expected outputs;
- Conduct a desk study reviewing reports and available literature on how measures taken by governments to combat the spread of COVID-19 led to increased food loss among the smallholders and other stakeholders along the food value chain.
- Conduct a quick appraisal on the food loss situation in the country, focusing on how the COVID-19 has contributed to aggravate the situation, and identifying best practices/solutions that countries used/are using to reduce the postharvest/food losses among smallholders.

Expected outputs: A country report containing identified and suggested solutions together with evidence-based policy recommendations that the country could use to reduce food losses during and post COVID-19.

Candidate Profile: The required candidate will have the following profile:

- Hold an advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in economics, engineering or related discipline
- Conversant with ECOWAS Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans
- Proven experience in engaging policy makers
- At least 5 years professional experience in agricultural value chain analysis and post-harvest food loss management
- Excellent writing skills in either French or English with working knowledge of the other is highly desirable.

Duration of assignment: 15 working days between **December 2020 and March 2021**

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.