

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual consultant to conduct a socioeconomic follow-up survey, and develop the consolidated baseline survey report

Opening Date: April 9, 2021

Closing Date: April 22, 2021

CEI No. 07-2021

In June 2017, the USAID awarded CORAF to facilitate the implementation of a five-year program named *Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED)* in West Africa. The PAIRED is being implemented through three interdependent components: (i) CORAF capacity strengthened for effective coordination of agricultural research and development, (ii) Innovative scaling framework for Agri-input T&Is established in WA and (iii) Use of quality Agri-inputs in WA increased.

This program primarily aims to undertake systemic reforms that will improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism of CORAF to move the organization towards becoming a stellar instrument for regional coordination of agricultural research, and to put it on a path to financial stability and sustainability. The reforms will result in a solid and resilient organization with a new strategic orientation capable of providing a high-quality, demand-led package of core services. This will be supported by a dynamic marketing and communication strategy and effective resource mobilization plan, within a robust technical and fiduciary accountability framework.

PAIRED which aims to sustainably improve agricultural productivity and food security and alleviate poverty will encourage establishment of innovative scaling framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations and promote the use of quality agri-input in West Africa. It will foster a progressively conducive policy environment for technology generation, dissemination and use across the region and beyond that will impact positively on technology generation, dissemination, and utilization.

The baseline survey was conducted in each of the target country (Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) during the fiscal year 2020 by the CORAF/PAIRED M&E officer in collaboration with the implementation partners of PAIRED. CORAF now invites individual consultants from ECOWAS countries to use the data collected during the baseline survey to complement analyses and to write the consolidated report of the baseline survey of the six countries and conduct a follow-up socio-economic survey to help track technologies adoption, challenges and lessons learnt and provide information on the key performance indicators.

The Executive Director of CORAF invites candidates who meet the qualification criteria, as indicated in the terms of reference, to express their interest in this recruitment.

The tasks to be performed as well as other information relating to the consultancy are detailed in the attached terms of reference.

The consultant will be selected according to the selection method based on the Consultant's qualification in accordance with 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 correspondences to z.kpavode@coraf.org.

Required expertise and duration of the consultancy

This consultancy is open to citizen from ECOWAS countries. The above-mentioned tasks to be performed are intended as a guide and should not be viewed as an inflexible specification as it may be modified following discussion with the selected consultant. The time allocated to the consultancy is 45 days spread over a 03-month period from April to June 2021.

General Selection Criteria

- Minimum qualification: A master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, socioeconomics, Management, or any related field. A PhD will be an advantage.
- At least 08 years of experience in conducting baseline studies, midterm and end-term assessment/evaluations, impact assessments or similar assignments in agricultural development programs and projects and in evaluation of governance systems.
- A proven record of undertaken consultancy services with international or national agricultural organization on various research and development issues.
- A track record of writing reports evidenced by publication record, such as study reports, books, chapters in books, conference papers and journal articles.
- Ability to provide accurate, high quality analysis and documents under pressure.
- Proven knowledge of agriculture sector in West Africa.
- 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 and copy to z.kpavode@coraf.org highlighting their suitability based on the above criteria and a detailed CV, not later than **April 22, 2021, at 5:00 pm GMT**.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
Executive Director of CORAF

Terms of references

Recruitment of an individual consultant to conduct a socioeconomic follow-up survey, and develop the consolidated baseline survey report

A. Context

Agriculture is key to economic growth, poverty reduction and food and nutritional security in West and Central Africa (WCA). The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF) under its five-year, regional USAID-funded program, PAIRED aims at establishing an Innovative scaling framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations and to promote the use of quality agri-input in West Africa. The program will foster a progressively conducive policy environment for technology generation, dissemination and use across the region and beyond. This program aims to sustainably improve agricultural productivity and food security and alleviate poverty in the region. PAIRED consists of three mutually reinforcing components that will provide CORAF with financial, technical, and human resources to execute its core mandate. The three components are: (i) Strengthening CORAF's Institutional Capacity, (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.

At the start of the implementation of the program, the baseline surveys were conducted in each of the target country (Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) during the fiscal year 2020 by the CORAF/PAIRED M&E officer in collaboration with the implementation partners. The socio-economic surveys are projected to be conducted on the annual basis in target countries by partner organizations with backstopping from CORAF. The main objective of these surveys is to track the adoption of T&Is and generate data, knowledge, and information on how far the agricultural technologies have been adopted by smallholder farmers and diffused over time and space.

B. Objectives of the assignment

Services are requested for a consultant who will use the data collected during the baseline survey to complement analyses and to write the consolidated report for the six target countries of PAIRED and conduct a socio-economic follow-up survey in the countries, as planned in the program's FY21 workplan.

C. Scope and scheme of work

The consultant is expected to undertake the following major activities:

1. Work with CORAF M&E Specialist to update and finalize the survey protocol that allows harmonization of socioeconomic data collection in target countries for use at the regional level.
2. Design and develop data collection tools (in electronic format) that allow capturing status of technologies adoption as well as Key Performance Indicators.
3. Finalize, in collaboration with CORAF M&E Specialist, field survey plan and organize logistics for the survey.
4. Coordinate and ensure that survey supervisors apply the approved data (primary and secondary) collection tools and sampling methods in the field.
5. Conduct data analysis and produce a detailed draft report of the socioeconomic follow up survey and circulate it to the project and other relevant stakeholders for comments and review.
6. Complement analyses and conduct the baseline data analysis and produce a detailed draft consolidated report and circulate it to the project and other relevant stakeholders for comments and review.

7. Consolidate the country reports as well as the regional report and ensure that all achievements are captured.
8. Revise and finalize socio-economic survey report as well as the updated baseline survey report by including comments and key suggestions.

The consultant will work virtually from his/her base. All requested background documents, information and database will be provided to the consultant. The consultant could find additional information via appropriate channels (websites, existing reports, etc.) to complement those received from CORAF. The Consultant will be travelling to the target countries (Benin, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) for supervision purpose in the field to assess the quality of the data collected. In the context of COVID-19 where travelling conditions are difficult and tight, online consultations may be the best approach.

The consultant shall report through the CORAF/PAIRED M&E Specialist to the PAIRED Manager on the assignment and on all other logistics until the deliverables are submitted as required. The consultant is expected to undertake the services with the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, competence, and integrity.

D. Outputs or deliverables

The following outputs are expected from the consultant's activities:

- Data on technologies adoption as well as key performance indicators collected and consolidated.
- Report on technologies adoption including challenges and lesson learnt and key performance indicators published.
- The consolidated baseline survey report made available.

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 and in Word.

E. Duration of Assignment

The duration of this consultancy will be 45 effective working days spread over a 03-month period from April to June 2021.

F. Qualifications and Experience Required

The following qualifications are required:

- Minimum qualification: A master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, socioeconomics, Management, or any related field. A PhD will be an advantage.
- At least 08 years of experience in conducting baseline studies, midterm and end-term assessment/evaluations, impact assessments or similar assignments in agricultural development programs and projects and in evaluation of governance systems.
- A proven record of undertaken consultancy services with international or national agricultural organization on various research and development issues.
- A track record of writing reports evidenced by publication record, such as study reports, books, chapters in books, conference papers and journal articles.
- Ability to provide accurate, high quality analysis and documents under pressure.
- Proven knowledge of agriculture sector in West Africa.
- Excellent communication skills preferably in both French and English

APPLICATION PROCESS

Consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to procurement@coraf.org and z.kpavode@coraf.org highlighting their suitability based on the above criteria and a detailed CV, not later than **April 22, 2021, at 5:00 pm GMT**.