

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of a consultant to train CORAF impact assessment practitioners' network in impact evaluation

Opening Date: June 10, 2021

Closing Date: June 24, 2021

CEI No. 17-2021

In June 2017, the USAID awarded CORAF to facilitate the implementation of a program named *Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED)* in West Africa (WA). 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.

PAIRED Program primarily aims at undertaking 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. The Program will foster a progressively conducive policy environment for technology generation, dissemination and use across the region and beyond that will impact positively on agricultural productivity and food security.

CORAF is in the process of establishing a regional community of practice in impact assessment composed by socio-economists from NARIs in West and Central Africa to build an impact assessment practitioners' network. Therefore, and in accordance with PAIRED FY2021 workplan, CORAF is seeking a regional consultant to strengthen the capacities of the impact assessment practitioners' network.

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 by providing evidence that they are qualified to perform such services.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the rules set out in the Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures of CORAF.

Additional information can be obtained from the CORAF Executive Secretariat by sending correspondence to

Zinsou E. Kpavode, z.kpavode@coraf.org.

Consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) and a detailed CV to procurement@coraf.org highlighting their suitability based on the criteria mentioned in the attached TOR, not later than **June 24, 2021 at 5:00 pm GMT**.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO
Executive Director of CORAF

Terms of references

----- Recruitment of a consultant to train the impact assessment practitioners' network in impact evaluation

A. Context

Agriculture is key to economic growth, poverty reduction and food and nutritional security in West and Central Africa (WCA). USAID has supported the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF) for over 12 years during which considerable contribution has been made in strengthening CORAF to increase the availability of improved technologies, including quality seeds to millions of farmers thereby impacting on food production and incomes in WCA. The USAID is committed to continue its relationship with CORAF in moving to a more comprehensive program in delivering impactful results. In June 2017, the USAID West Africa Mission awarded CORAF, US\$ 15 Million to facilitate the implementation of a five-year program named a Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development (PAIRED) in West and (Central) Africa. PAIRED is being implemented through three interdependent components namely: (i) CORAF capacity strengthened for effective coordination of agricultural research and development, (ii) Innovative scaling framework for Agri-input Technologies and Innovations (T&Is) established in West Africa (WA) and (iii) Use of quality Agri-inputs in WA increased. Through Component 1, a Strategic Plan (2018-2027), an Operational Plan (2018-2022) and a Resource Mobilization Plan were developed and adopted by the CORAF General Assembly in April 2018. Both the SP and OP provided strategic directions for the finalization of Components 2 & 3 of the PAIRED program. Components 2 & 3 were approved by USAID in December 2018 and since FY19, all three components have been implemented concurrently. The PAIRED program will foster a progressively conducive policy environment for technology generation, dissemination and use across the region and beyond.

In addition, CORAF has a strong institutional vision to learn from its development programs and has a principle of integrating Monitoring and Evaluation approaches and impact assessment in all the projects it coordinates. Therefore, CORAF intend to establish, in accordance to PAIRED FY2021 Workplan, a community of practice in impact assessment composed of socio-economists from NARIs in West and Central Africa to build an impact assessment practitioners' network. In this regard, CORAF is recruiting a regional consultant to train the impact assessment practitioners in impact evaluation methodologies as part of the capacity building framework.

B. Objectives of the assignment

The purpose of the consultation is to strengthen the capacity of the impact assessment practitioners in impact evaluation by providing knowledge and skills.

Specifically, the training will help participants to familiarize themselves with impact evaluation through case studies and utilization of appropriate tools and software.

C. Scope and scheme of work

The consultant is expected to undertake the following major activities:

1. Design and develop the necessary training modules detailing the objectives of each course, the agenda, methodological and logistical details of each session and their plans, etc.
2. Design and prepare all the materials that will be distributed during the training, the exercises for each session, readings, etc.
3. Propose a timeline for the whole course of the training.
4. Conduct and facilitate training sessions.

5. Design training assessment tools.
6. Develop a training manual for each topic in digital version edited and ready for printing.
7. Develop the report of the training.

The training mission will take place physically in a place that will be determined in due time and will consist of training sessions with a focus on practice. It will make use of presentations on the topics of the different modules, interactive exchanges between participants and group work. As for the training material, apart from the PowerPoint presentations, the participants will be entitled to additional literature on the various training topics and a participant's notebook. Around 20 participants members of the community of practice in impact assessment will attend the training.

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:

- The training manual made available.
- The report of the training made available 10 days after the training.
- The training certificate distributed to all participants.

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 in Word and in electronic formats.

E. Duration of Assignment

The time allocated to the consultancy is 10 days spread over a 02-weeks period in July 2021. The mission duration is broken down as follows:

- 3 days for document preparation
- 5 days to conduct the training
- 2 days for the synthesis and the report.

F. Qualifications and Experience Required

The following qualifications are required:

- Minimum qualification: A master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, socioeconomics, or any related field. A PhD will be an advantage.
- At least 10 years of experience in both designing and implementing impact evaluations within the international development sector and in capacity building in impact evaluation or similar assignments.
- A proven record of conducting trainings in impact evaluation for international or regional organizations.
- A proven record of undertaken consultancy services with international or national agricultural organizations 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.
- Good ability to facilitate training workshop.
- Ability to provide accurate, high quality analysis and documents under pressure.
- Proven knowledge of agriculture sector in West and Central Africa.
- Excellent communication skills preferably in both French and English.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) and a detailed CV to procurement@coraf.org highlighting their suitability based on the above criteria, not later than **June 24, 2021 at 5:00 pm GMT**.