Capacity strengthening Initiative for Fellows from National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of West and Central Africa (Associate Fellow Program)

Terms of Reference for the recruitment of two (02) Associate Fellows

Opening Date : 8th July 2022
Closing Date : 22nd July 2022

1. Context

CORAF is an international non-profit association working to enhance prosperity, food, and nutrition security in West and Central Africa. CORAF partners with national agricultural research systems (NARS) consisting of public agricultural research institutes, universities and other tertiary institutions, farmer groups, civil society organization, the private sector and any other entity engaged in the provision of agricultural research services. CORAF delivers on three activity pillars related to a) scaling technologies and innovations for impact; b) regional integrated capacity strengthening and coordination; and c) knowledge management, foresighting and anticipation, each of which can address the urgent need to improve the knowledge base and evidence-based dialogue upon which practice and policy responses to climate change are built.

CORAF’s 2018-2027 Strategic Plan particularly emphasizes on foresighting to build consensus and inform decision-making on research priorities. It is in line with this strategy that the CAADP-XP4 and TARSPro are pursuing the objective of enhancing science-led climate relevant agricultural transformation in support of the NARIs. CAADP-XP4 and TARSPro projects aims to improve capacities in order to strengthen and support agricultural knowledge and innovation partners at all levels. Key specific activities of the CAADP-XP4 and TARSPro are to establish and operationalize multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation, to develop capacities for application of foresight and to deploy CSA technologies and innovation.

During the last decade, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) West Africa has collaborated with CORAF, to carry out numerous regional and country level efforts in convening researchers and policy makers to revitalize an effective engagement between them to meet the challenges of climate change. Leveraging off this work, the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project will be supporting CORAF to further this agenda to provide actionable foresight technical support in the region. The AICCRA project helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. It is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. AICCRA works to increase access to climate information services and climate-smart agriculture technologies in Africa to millions of smallholder farmers across Africa. The sub-regional component of AICCRA in West Africa is implemented through building multi-actor partnerships of existing scientific and educational networks and centers in order to achieve outcomes that cannot be achieved easily, if at all, by engaging with individual partners at country level.

CORAF is looking for two (02) talented and motivated Associate Fellows to support the implementation of the AICCRA West Africa regional sub-regional component. The positions are part of the Associate Fellow Program launched by CORAF in 2013, a Capacity strengthening Initiative for Fellows from National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of West and Central Africa.
2. **Objective**

CORAF specifically aims to recruit two (02) young agricultural research and development professionals from the NARS. They will support CORAF in its role of coordination and facilitation of regional research actions as well as management of the knowledge produced through agricultural research. In return, the Associate Fellows will have the opportunity to strengthen their skills in project management, results-based management, and communication.

3. **Expected outputs**

The 02 Associate Fellows will contribute to activities and deliverables of AICCRA West Africa sub-regional component under CORAF. Specifically, they will contribute to:

- Development of regional synthesis products on CSA & CIS technology, knowledge, approaches, and tools to support effective adoption and implementation at scale and policy processes;
- Build capacity of public and private sectors next users to support implementation of CSA technology packages;
- Enhance the capacity of public institutions and private firms to provide climate service delivery models;
- Document successful mechanisms and processes for dissemination and scaling climate information services and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) across West and Central Africa;
- In collaboration with AICCRA WA cluster, further CORAF’s agenda on foresight analysis capacity embedding into key regional and national policy and prioritization processes, through facilitation, capacity strengthening, and backstopping.

4. **Qualifications and requirements**

- Master Degree or PhD in agriculture related field, climate change or related discipline, agricultural economics, social policy, rural geography or development, or any other discipline in relation with agricultural research for development.
- Strong communication and analytical skills, with ability to convey (both verbally and in writing in French and in English) complex information to stakeholders of varying levels of experience or ability
- Ability to analyse and capture results from various reports, collate data and information from various sources to generate synthetic reports
- Skills and experience on monitoring and evaluation will be an asset
- Be a young agricultural research and development professionals, no more than 40 years old, from one the 23 NARS, with potentials enabling him or her to benefit from capacity strengthening for agricultural research and development

**Fellow 01 - Ref. IRECCS FW1**

- Substantial knowledge and research experience in climate-smart agriculture and climate information services in West Africa
- Experience in participatory action research in smallholder farming systems in West Africa
- Experience in the use of research to achieving development outcomes will be considered an advantage

**Fellow 02 - Ref. IRECCS FW2**

- Experience in participatory or transformative scenario planning, and multi-stakeholder processes in West Africa
- Experience in policy analysis and research with focus on agriculture, natural resources, and gender and social inclusion
- Experience in the use of research to achieving development outcomes will be considered an advantage
5. Terms of employment

The Fellowship is for a duration of 12 months, starting in August 2022. The successful candidates will be based in CORAF headquarters in Dakar, Senegal, with possibilities to travel in the sub-region of West and Central Africa. The successful candidate will benefit a round trip air ticket from the home country, a monthly allowance (to cover all his or her basic expenses: housing, food, transport, communication, etc.) of 1,000,000 FCFA (One million FCFA/month), an office with furniture, and health insurance covering the period of the fellowship.

6. Applications

Applicants are invited to send (i) a cover letter clearly indicating selected associate program reference as mentioned on section 4 and illustrating their suitability for the above position against the qualifications, competencies, skills, and explaining how the fellowship will be useful to them and to their Institution (02 pages maximum) together with (ii) a detailed curriculum vitae, including names and addresses of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate’s professional qualifications and work experience; (iii) authorization letter from Director General of the Institution of the applicant indicating that salary and benefits will be maintained during the associate program period. Applications from women are particularly encouraged. Applications should be submitted electronically to rh@coraf.org and addressed to Executive Director of CORAF, 7 Avenue Bourguiba, Dakar, Senegal, no later than 22nd July 2022, at 17h00 GMT.