CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of an individual consultant for finalizing ASTI data analysis, report writing and dissemination

Call opened: February 29, 2024
Closing date: March 13, 2024

AMI No. 04-2024


CORAF’s vision is to ensure prosperity and food and nutrition security in West and Central Africa (WCA); and, its mission is to sustainably improve productivity, competitiveness and agricultural markets in its field of intervention by satisfying the main demands expressed by client groups to the research systems of the sub-region.

Quantitative data are essential to improving the understanding of the crucial role of agricultural research in enhancing agricultural productivity, trade, poverty reduction, and improving nutrition, particularly in a context of rapid population growth and climate change.

Policymakers, research managers, donor organizations, and other stakeholders need reliable and up-to-date quantitative data to analyze research investment and capacity trends, identify key gaps and neglected areas including accurate gender statistics in agricultural research (Gender-disaggregated data on agricultural science capacity, representation of female researchers in staffing, and access to decision-making positions in research institutes), set future investment priorities, promote efficient resource use, and ensure effective coordination and coherence of agricultural research initiatives.

In close collaboration with national agricultural research institutes and other national partners, CORAF led the collection of ASTI data in West and Central Africa with the support of IFPRI. Initially planned to cover five (5) West African countries, CORAF facilitated synergy with the CAADP-XP4 program and expanded ASTI data collection to cover seventeen (17) West and Central African countries.

Given these significant achievements, CORAF is seeking a senior consultant to synthesize reports that will provide a comprehensive overview of trends, challenges and policy recommendations in agricultural R&D in West and Central Africa while ensuring the Sustainability and relevance of the ASTI.
The Executive Director of CORAF invites qualified consultants as indicated in the terms of reference below to express their interest in this call.

The tasks to be performed and other information are detailed in the terms of reference below. Consultants interested in this call must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform such services (letter of expression of interest, CVs, references concerning the performance of similar contracts, experiences in a similar field, experiences under similar conditions, etc.).

The consultant will be selected according to the individual consultant selection method in accordance with CORAF's Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures.

Interested candidates can obtain further information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat via e.njukwe@coraf.org and copy at procurement@coraf.org.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by e-mail to procurement@coraf.org no later than March 13, 2024 at 17:00 GMT.

Acting Executive Director
Dr Alioune FALL
TERMS OF REFERENCE
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Recruitment of a Consultant for finalizing ASTI data analysis and reports writing and dissemination

I. Background and Justification

Quantitative data are essential to improving the understanding of the crucial role of agricultural research in enhancing agricultural productivity, trade, poverty reduction, and improving nutrition, particularly in a context of rapid population growth and climate change.

Policymakers, research managers, donor organizations, and other stakeholders need reliable and up-to-date quantitative data to analyze research investment and capacity trends, identify key gaps and neglected areas including accurate gender statistics in agricultural research (Gender-disaggregated data on agricultural science capacity, representation of female researchers in staffing, and access to decision-making positions in research institutes), set future investment priorities, promote efficient resource use, and ensure effective coordination and coherence of agricultural research initiatives. Working closely with national agricultural research institutes and other in-country partners, CORAF led ASTI data collection in West and Central Africa with support from IFPRI. Initially scheduled to cover five (5) countries in West Africa, CORAF facilitated synergy with CAADP-XP4 program and expanded ASTI data collection to cover seventeen (17) countries in West and Central Africa.

Data collection and data cleaning is in its final stages and over the coming months, the outputs of this work will provide valuable insights into recent developments in the inputs, performance, and outcomes of agricultural research and development (R&D) in the region.

Considering these significant achievements, CORAF is seeking a senior consultant to synthesize a report that will provide a comprehensive overview of agricultural R&D trends, challenges, and policy recommendations across West and Central Africa while ensuring the long-term sustainability and relevance of ASTI.

II- Objectives and expected results

The senior consultant will spearhead the development of the regional synthesis report and formulate a comprehensive set of policy recommendations arising from the data analysis.

The specific objectives assigned to the senior consultant are as follows:

- Finalization of data collection/analysis with gender lens;
- Writing a series of country factsheets and a regional synthesis report (in close collaboration with FAO);
- Dissemination and outreach of final products and key findings to partners and stakeholders;
- Formal presentation of key findings in existing/planned stakeholder events or virtually.
III- Deliverables

Specifically, the senior consultant will produce the following deliverables:

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<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Data collection/analysis finalised for 17 West and Central African countries</td>
<td>30 March 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing 17 country factsheets in close collaboration with FAO</td>
<td>15 May 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing a regional synthesis report</td>
<td>31 May 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribute, in close collaboration with CORAF’s staff, to the dissemination and outreach of final products and key findings to partners and stakeholders.</td>
<td>15 June 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal presentation of key findings in existing/planned stakeholder events or virtually</td>
<td>30 June 2024</td>
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IV- Consultant profile

The senior consultant must meet the following requirements:
- Doctorate in economics, agricultural economics, statistics, public policy or a related field;
- 8 years' post-doctoral experience in a relevant job;
- Excellent skills in data management and analysis software;
- Experience of agricultural development issues and processes, preferably related to agricultural research and development;
- Excellent writing and analytical skills;
- Proven ability to carry out in-depth statistical analyses and communicate the results;
- Experience in carrying out documentary analyses of publications, research reports, etc.;
- Fluent in English and French (written and spoken).

V- Mission duration

The duration of the consultant’s assignment is 4 months.

VI- Submission

Applications will include a letter of interest, CVs, references and experience in the field. The submission package must be sent to the Executive Director pi of CORAF, Executive Secretariat, 7, Avenue Bourguiba, BP 48 Dakar RP, Senegal, and submitted by e-mail to procurement@coraf.org no later than 17:00 GMT on March 13, 2024.

Only the successful candidate will be contacted for the remainder of the selection process.

VII- Other provisions

CORAF reserves the right to relaunch the call for expressions of interest if the applications received have not been satisfactory.
CORRUPTION, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

Fraud, corruption: bidders, suppliers, contractors and their subcontractors must observe the strictest rules of ethical conduct when signing and performing contracts. In particular, they must avoid any act of corruption and any fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive maneuvers with the aim of granting or obtaining a contract awarded by CORAF. Any deviant behavior will be subject to appropriate sanctions (cancellation of the contract, exclusion from future contracts awarded by CORAF, dismissal of CORAF staff guilty of these acts.

Conflicts of interest: CORAF rules require that any company participating in a procurement procedure is not in a situation of conflict of interest. Two scenarios can be considered:

- The company provides goods, works or services (other than consulting services) which follow or are directly related to the consulting services for the preparation or performance of a project which it has provided or which its affiliated company has provided;
- The company (including its staff) has a close business or family relationship with a CORAF staff member: i) who is directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the bidding documents or contract specifications, and/or in the evaluation process for said contract; or (ii) who could be involved in the performance or supervision of the same contract.

The term "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)" includes the following meanings:

- "Sexual Exploitation" (SE), defined as abusing or attempting to abuse a state of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including but not limited to profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another person;
- "Sexual Abuse" (SA), defined as any physical intrusion or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, either by force or under unequal conditions or by coercion;
- “Sexual Harassment” (SH) is defined as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors or other verbal or physical behavior with a sexual connotation by Contractor staff towards other Contractor staff or the Client;

Any company that proves to be in a situation of conflict of interest or of sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment will not be granted a contract from CORAF.

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