CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Anticipation and management of biological risks to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change in West and Central Africa (BIORISKS)

Recruitment of an individual consultant for the final evaluation of the BIORISKS project

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Opening of the call: 08/04/2026
Closing date of the call: 22/04/2026

CEI N° 07-2026

BACKGROUND

In recent years, African farmers have had to deal with plant diseases (bananas, cassava) caused by microorganisms or other pathogens such as Fall armyworm, desert locusts and other biotic pests, highlighting the need to set up national and regional biosecurity systems based on surveillance and early warning. Thus, the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) is leading a project funded by the European Union, through the DeSIRA initiative, over a period of 5 years, entitled "Anticipating and managing biological risks to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change in West and Central Africa - BIORISKS". This project is being implemented in partnership with the Central and West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE) programme. Conducted in 13 institutions in 10 countries in West and Central Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo), the WAVE programme uses a regional approach, initially focused on the coordinated management of viral diseases of African root and tuber plants, particularly cassava.

To increase production, yield stability and incomes from major food and fruit crops in 10 countries in Central and West Africa by controlling current and future threats posed by cassava viral diseases, European corn borer and fruit flies in mangoes, enabling national stakeholders and regional networks to appropriately manage biological risks, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and institutions in the management of cassava viral diseases in Central and West Africa. Activities undertaken in this direction, such as the implementation of R&D on cassava viruses in Central and West Africa, the coordination of awareness-raising actions and the mapping of activities related to FAW and fruit flies, the establishment of an effective surveillance, early warning and monitoring system of diseases/pests for cassava viral diseases, The FAW in maize and mango fruit fly in Central and West Africa, the harmonization of policies on cross-border regulation related to the management of cassava viral diseases, will be carefully examined

to identify progress towards analysing the results and overall impact of the project. The project's logical framework will serve as a reference tool for this evaluation.

The overall objective of the mission will be to assess, since the beginning of the project, the progress made and the results achieved in achieving the development objectives set for the project. The evaluation will compare performance across different intervention areas, to identify sustainable outcomes, challenges and lessons learned. These results will inform future project planning and allow strategies to be adjusted to consolidate gains in the targeted districts.

The logical framework of the project will be the reference tool for this final evaluation of the BIORISKS project. It is in this context that this call for expressions of interest (CEI) is launched, in order to recruit a consultant to make an exhaustive assessment of the progress made by the project, to identify its strengths and weaknesses and to propose avenues for reflection for a second phase.

The tasks to be carried out as well as other information related to this call for expressions of interest are detailed in the terms of reference below.

CORAF invites consultants who meet the qualification criteria as indicated in the terms of reference, to express their interest in this call.

Consultants interested in this call must submit an expression of interest indicating that they are qualified to perform such services (Understanding of Terms of Reference, Methodology, references for the execution of similar contracts, publications, CVs and other experiences under similar conditions, etc.).

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

Interested consultants can obtain additional information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat by sending correspondence by e-mail to ousmane.ndoye@coraf.org with a copy to procurement@coraf.org.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Executive Director of CORAF and submitted by email to procurement@coraf.org **address by April 22, 2026 at 5 p.m. GMT at the latest.**

Dr. Moumini SAVADOGO
Executive Director

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FINAL EVALUATION

Final evaluation mission of the BIORISKS project

I- BACKGROUND

The growing demand for safe and nutritious food from a rapidly growing population, as well as the commitment to preserve biodiversity and other natural resources, is a major challenge for global agriculture already threatened by climate change. Extreme and unpredictable climate events have both direct immediate impacts and pervasive indirect impacts, such as those related to increased pressure from biotic stresses. Indirect impacts often last longer than direct impacts and the solutions to address them are much more complex. This is because the unpredictable changes in temperature and humidity underlying climate change often result in equally unpredictable changes in the survival and reproduction patterns of pests and agricultural diseases resulting in (i) the expansion of habitat for pests and endemic diseases, (ii) an increased number of breeding cycles per season, and (iii) the invasion of alien pests, with consequences for food, food systems and the environment. In Africa, staple crops that are essential to the survival of millions of poor people are increasingly threatened.
According to FAOSTAT (2017), more than 56% of the world's cassava is produced in Africa. However, the average yield of cassava in sub-Saharan Africa is significantly lower than the potential yield of the crop due to various production constraints. Among these, pests and diseases are crucial factors. Cassava mosaic virus disease (CMDV) and cassava brown streak disease (CBSD) are the main biotic constraints to cassava production in Africa and can cause yield losses of up to 100% (Hahn et al., 1980; Bellotti, 2001). MVMM causes malformation of cassava leaves and hinders plant growth, resulting in lower root yields. According to Legg et al. (2006), MVMM alone causes an estimated 47% loss in cassava yield, equivalent to more than 13 million tonnes per year in nine countries in East and Central Africa.

In recent years, African farmers have had to deal with plant diseases (bananas, cassava) caused by microorganisms or other pathogens such as Fall armyworm, desert locusts and other biotic pests, highlighting the need to set up national and regional biosecurity systems based on surveillance and early warning. Thus, the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) is leading a project funded by the European Union, through the DeSIRA initiative, over a period of 5 years, entitled "Anticipating and managing biological risks to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change in West and Central Africa - BIORISKS". This project is being implemented in partnership with the Central and West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE) programme. Conducted in 13 institutions in 10 countries in West and Central Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo), the WAVE programme uses a regional approach, initially focused on the coordinated management of viral diseases of African root and tuber plants, particularly cassava.

To increase production, yield stability and incomes from major food and fruit crops in 10 countries in Central and West Africa by controlling current and future threats posed by cassava viral diseases, European corn borer and fruit flies in mangoes, enabling national stakeholders and regional networks to appropriately manage biological risks, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and institutions in the management of cassava viral diseases in Central and West Africa. Activities undertaken in this direction, such as the implementation of R&D on cassava viruses in Central and West Africa, the coordination of awareness-raising actions and the mapping of activities related to FAW and fruit flies, the establishment of an effective surveillance, early warning and monitoring system of diseases/pests for cassava viral diseases, The FAW in maize and mango fruit fly in Central and West Africa, the harmonization of policies on cross-border regulation related to the management of cassava viral diseases, will be carefully examined to identify progress towards analysing the results and overall impact of the project. The project's logical framework will serve as a reference tool for this evaluation.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and improved food and nutrition security in ten countries in West and Central Africa.

The main expected result of the project is improved productivity, yield stability and incomes of major food and fruit crops in ten target countries in Central and West Africa for control of current and future threats of cassava virus diseases, Fall armyworm (FAW), mango maggot and other biological hazards.

In order to increase production, yield stability and incomes from major food and fruit crops in 10 countries in Central and West Africa by controlling current and future threats posed by cassava viral diseases, maize armyworm and fruit flies in mangoes, enabling national stakeholders and regional networks to appropriately manage biological risks, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and institutions in viral disease management in Central and West Africa. Activities undertaken in this direction, such as the implementation of R&D on cassava viruses in Central and West Africa, the coordination of awareness-raising actions and the mapping of activities related to FAW and fruit flies, the establishment of an effective surveillance, early warning and monitoring system of diseases/pests for cassava viral diseases, The FAW in maize and mango fruit fly in Central and West Africa, the harmonization of policies on cross-border regulation related to the management of cassava viral diseases, will be carefully examined to identify progress made in order to analyse the results and overall impact of the project. The project's logical framework will serve as a reference tool for this evaluation.

It is in this context that this call for expressions of interest (CEI) is launched, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of the activities implemented and whether the concrete results (productivity, farmers' income) correspond to the initial targets and also to propose avenues for reflection.

II- OBJECTIVE OF THE MISSION

The objective of the final evaluation is to measure the overall impact of the project and its sustainability, as well as the desired or undesired outcomes observed in the targeted communities. The aim will be to present a clearer view of the constraints, lessons learned, best practices, opportunities as well as successful aspects of the project implementation.

More specifically, the project will be evaluated using the DAC criteria of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The following questions will guide the evaluation of performance in the three countries:

For relevance:

(i) Evaluate the project's intervention logic and identify to what extent has the project achieved its strategic objectives?

(ii) To what extent has the project improved the disease/pest surveillance system for cassava viral diseases, Asian maize armyworm and mango fruit fly implemented in West and Central Africa?

(iii) What are the current levels of use of new cultivation practices (Plant Nuru Village, agricultural techniques, etc.) and how have they evolved compared to the reference situation?

For consistency:

(iv) To what extent does the project align with national, regional or international policy objectives to promote effective decision-making and policy formulation in the surveillance and management of cassava viral diseases?

(v) Does the project align with the organizational policies of the different implementing partners of the project (CORAF, UFHB-WAVE)?

For efficiency

(vi) Evaluate the activities implemented and the results obtained in relation to the objectives set in the project;

(vii) Determine how all reported indicators contribute to the achievement of the impact and effect results of the project;

(viii) Has the project had any unintended effects, positive or negative? What changes were perceived as most useful by the target communities?

(ix) What factors have contributed to or hindered the achievement of the strategic objectives and how?

For efficiency

(x) Assess whether the project has used resources (financial, human, technical) in the most economical way possible to achieve its objectives;

(xi) Assess whether the current state of expenditure is in line with the implementation of the project;

For sustainability

(xii) Assess the key strategies put in place to ensure the sustainability of the results obtained at the level of research institutions and producer organizations;

(xiii) What should be the governance and management systems at the community level and government ownership to ensure continuity after the end of EU cash or in-kind assistance?

The evaluation will be based on a combination of the following methods (non-exhaustive list): literature review, review of available monitoring and evaluation data, and primary data collection. Data collection methods during field visits will include:

- Focus group discussions to obtain broad views on outcomes and issues of concern.
- In-depth interviews with key stakeholders to gather data on individual perspectives and experiences.
- key informant interviews (partners, beneficiaries and other officials)
- participant surveys to collect data at the indicator level.

The evaluation team will need to adopt a rigorous methodological approach to ensure the quality, credibility and use of the evaluation. Finally , it will be necessary to formulate recommendations in response to the identified constraints, with the aim of improving the performance of future projects.

The selected consultant will also have to reflect on and propose strategic themes likely to constitute research axes for a second phase of the project.

III- DELIVERABLES

It is expected that this consultation mission will produce a detailed report documenting the progress made and the constraints encountered, lessons learned, best practices, opportunities as well as the successful aspects of the implementation of the project.

Proposals for improvement solutions are also expected as part of the implementation of similar future projects.

IV- QUALIFICATIONS DU CONSULTANT

1- Hold a PhD in one of the fields of agricultural sciences;
2- Have at least 10 years of experience in agricultural research and development.
3- Have at least 10 years of experience in the evaluation of development projects and programs with OECD criteria.
4- Have at least 5 years of experience in the evaluation of development projects and programs.

V- DURATION OF THE MISSION

The consultant's mission will extend over a period of two (2) months from the date of award of the contract with thirty (30) effective man-days. The consultant will work closely with the BIORISKS project coordination team. The report of the consultation should be submitted to CORAF for assessment.

VI- SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Executive Director of CORAF and submitted by email to procurement@coraf.org, **on April 22, 2026 at 5 p.m. GMT at the latest**.

CORRUPTION, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

Fraud, corruption: *bidders, suppliers, contractors and their subcontractors must comply with the strictest ethical rules when signing and executing contracts. In particular, they must avoid any act of corruption and any fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive maneuver with the aim of awarding or obtaining a contract awarded by CORAF. Any deviant behavior will be subject to appropriate sanctions (termination 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 must not be in a conflict of interest. Two scenarios can be considered:

- *The Company provides goods, works or services (other than consulting services) that follow or are directly related to the consulting services for the preparation or execution of a project that it or its affiliate 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 tender documents or contract specifications, and/or in the evaluation process of said contract; or (ii) who may 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 the abuse or attempt to abuse a state of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes, including but not limited to profiting financially, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another person;*
- *"Sexual Abuse" (SA), defined as any physical intrusion or threat of physical intrusion of a sexual nature, either by force or under unequal conditions or by coercion;*
- *"Sexual Harassment" (SH) is defined as any unwanted sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical behavior with a sexual connotation by Contractor's personnel towards other members of Contractor's personnel or the Client*

Any company that is found to be in a situation of conflict of interest or sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment will not be awarded a CORAF contract.

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