



TARSPRO
Technologies et Innovations Agricoles pour
l'Accroissement de la Résilience des Systèmes de Production
et des Exploitations Familiales en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre.
Par CORAF



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**FOR PROPOSALS FOR THEMATIC SUB-PROJECTS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF TARSPRO II**

CALL OPENS: 02/03/2026 CALL CLOSES:

15/04/2026

AMI No. 03-2026

March 2026

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1. Background

The TARSPRO Programme (Agricultural Technologies and Innovations for Increasing the Resilience of Production Systems and Family Farms in West and Central Africa) is a regional initiative implemented by CORAF with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Phase 1 of the programme was implemented from November 2020 to April 2025 and covered five countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger in West Africa and Chad in Central Africa. TARSPRO aims to address the growing challenges of food insecurity, rural poverty, low resilience of agricultural systems and limited access to agricultural technologies and innovations in the sub-region.

In a context marked by the effects of climate change, demographic pressure, insecurity, low productivity of family farms and rapid urbanisation, family farming in West and Central Africa must adapt quickly. One of the most effective levers for addressing all these constraints remains the generation and use of agricultural research results in the form of agricultural technologies and innovations (T&I). These A&I come from various agricultural sectors, each with intrinsic potential to resolve a constraint and improve productivity within family farms. However, although many agricultural technologies and innovations (A&I) have been developed and their effectiveness demonstrated by scientific research in recent years, the dissemination and adoption of these A&I on a large scale has remained low. It is in this context that the TARSPRO project was designed to accelerate the scaling up of relevant agricultural T&I for smallholder farmers, with a particular focus on young people, women and people with disabilities. The ultimate goal of the project is to contribute to ensuring sustainable food, nutritional and economic security for the populations of the targeted areas. The first phase of the programme was launched with the aim of disseminating existing, proven T&I for the benefit of the beneficiaries. Three specific objectives were pursued, namely (i) Strengthen the resilience of the food production system of 2 million producers and processors, 50% of whom are women and 60% young people, with more than 10 million indirect beneficiaries; (ii) Sustainably meet the demand for knowledge and know-how (technologies and innovations) of at least 40% of family farms in the intervention areas; (iii) Ensure effective coalition and synergy of actions between actors in agricultural development, research, extension and the private sector. To achieve these objectives, TARSPRO's intervention logic was based on eight areas of action: (i) Identification of relevant T&I; (ii) Selection of T&I with high potential for scaling up; (iii) Availability and accessibility of T&I; (iv) Dissemination of T&I through appropriate mechanisms. ; (v) Generation of new T&I; (vi) Capacity building; (vii) Synergies and stakeholder coalitions; and (viii) Communication and visibility.

The project relied on innovative and participatory mechanisms in the five countries to ensure the dissemination of T&I:

- **33** multi-stakeholder **Innovation Platforms (IPs)** were operationalised in the five countries;
- **10 Community Immersion Hubs (CIH)** enabled the demonstration and local appropriation of technologies and innovations and their scaling up;
- **5 Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs)** were established to integrate climate-sensitive approaches;
- **5 Agricultural Technology Parks** have been commissioned for experimentation, demonstrations and training;

A baseline study conducted in 2022 provided robust baseline data on beneficiary and non-beneficiary households in the five countries, covering aspects related to agricultural yields, income, food consumption (SCA) and food insecurity (HFIAS). A total of **8,538 households** were surveyed. At the end of Phase 1 of the Programme, the main results recorded by the project are:

- 322 agricultural technologies and innovations identified, including:
 - 78 nutrition-sensitive
 - 64 gender-sensitive
 - 62 climate-sensitive
 - 10 effective T&I for post-harvest loss management

This initial phase revealed that PICs and PIs are the main tools for scaling up T&I among EAFs, while PTIA and VICs upstream in the chain are the places where T&I are targeted, demonstrated and used to attract private actors and/or political leaders to adopt and build business plans around T&I. A total of 950,000 direct beneficiaries were counted, representing 47.5% of the initial target, with detailed data collected and recorded in a dedicated database.

Women and young people have been heavily involved in the project, from the selection of T&I to their use in EAFs. Approximately 40% of those adopting the new technologies are women and 60% are young people.

Analysis of the results achieved during phase 1 of TARSPRO shows that the project has **responded to structural needs** in terms of **food and nutritional security**.

The activities of the first phase of the TARSPRO project were perfectly in line with the logic of regional integration, not only through the vision and theory of

CORAF change, on the agricultural policies of the sub-region and beneficiary countries, as well as the recent guidelines from Kampala (African Union) and Nouakchott (Sahelian countries) on accelerating the scaling up of research results for the transformation and resilience of agriculture to climatic and socio-political shocks. Relying on INRAs to diagnose the needs of farmers, livestock breeders and processors, the project has carried out relevant interventions that are aligned with the national objectives and policy frameworks of the various countries. Its interventions have complemented those deployed by other development projects and programmes in the intervention areas. The Community Immersion Points (CIPs) and Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) that were set up and run created an environment conducive to learning and knowledge sharing. This phase of TARSPRO made it possible, on the one hand, to deploy the strategy for targeting and deploying impactful T&I and, on the other hand, to put in place communication tools that have created added value in the value chains of the targeted products by increasing the number of T&I deployed and available, on which knowledge has been strengthened for the benefit of the EAFs.

However, these effects have remained small-scale and need to be amplified. To this end, CORAF and its technical and financial partner, Swiss Cooperation, following an assessment of the implementation and lessons learned from phase 1 of TARSPRO, have agreed to launch a second phase of the project called TARSPRO2. This call for expressions of interest is part of this approach and aims to recruit private operators to support CORAF in the implementation.

- **Objectives and expected results of TARSPRO II:**

In a regional context marked by the continuous deterioration of production resources and the constant threat of food and nutritional insecurity, T&I are the preferred means of improving agricultural productivity and community resilience. To achieve this, two challenges must be addressed: firstly, their widespread dissemination within EAFs, and secondly, their efficient use by beneficiaries. TARSPRO2 therefore has the following main objective: ***to increase the production and resilience of EAFs through the use of disruptive agricultural T&I in the regions targeted for TARSPRO2 intervention.***

This phase of the project aims to accelerate the scaling up and facilitation of the use of proven and demonstrated T&I with evidence, to support the emergence of companies producing and distributing high-demand T&I, to foster business relationships between actors in different value chains, and to create well-paid jobs, especially for young people and women, for resilient EAFs.

This second phase of the TARSPRO programme specifically targets the following major achievements:

Table I: Expected outcomes and outputs of TARSPro II

Achievements / Outcomes	Outputs	Indicators and targets
R1: Increased use of technologies and innovations by target groups	O1: Increased use of appropriate technologies and innovations increased	1. Number of beneficiaries with access to technologies and innovations for their production 2. Total area per country under T&I promoted by the project
R2: Increased availability of agricultural technologies and innovations	O2: The availability of appropriate technologies and innovations is increased	Number of technologies and/or innovations selected and disseminated at scale
	O3: Capacity building for private sector actors, leaders and policy makers on appropriate technologies and innovations is increased	Number of beneficiaries (leaders, decision-makers) of demonstrations and training on T&I by country
R3: Strengthening regional coordination of the project	O4: Administrative management, and communication of the project are ensured	Number of accountability documents prepared

2. Specific objectives of the call for expressions of interest

Specifically, during TARSPro II, the aim will be to:

1. Support beneficiary organisations (multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (PIs), cooperatives, groups or unions, etc.) with a view to improving their operational autonomy.
2. Support beneficiary organisations in developing business plans around the T&I targeted by sector iphase 1 of TARSPro.
3. Support beneficiary organisations accessing financing for the implementation of their micro-projects (business plans).
4. Facilitate the creation of business networks around beneficiary organisations through contractual partnerships between stakeholders, with a view to facilitating the marketing of the products produced.

The main results expected from each TARSPRO2 sub-project implementation operator are:

- Beneficiary organisations formed around the sectors targeted by each theme benefit from coaching and capacity building for their members.
- Business plans based on disruptive T&I targeted by sector are developed for the benefit of beneficiary organisations that are members of the consortium and micro-project leaders.
- Beneficiary organisations have access to credit for the implementation of their business plans through innovative financing mechanisms.
- Exclusive micro-projects for women and young people are set up and supported in order to provide access to financing and implementation.
- Business networks between beneficiary organisations and aggregators for the sale of products are formalised through contracts.

3. Scope of the call for expressions of interest

This call for expressions of interest targets value chains and T&I to be promoted in the beneficiary countries of the TARSPRO II intervention. The call is open at regional level and aims to support EAFs in the sectors of interest targeted by TARSPRO2. The thematic areas targeted by the call are:

- (i) *Sustainable intensification and valorisation of climate- and nutrition-sensitive cereal varieties (maize, sorghum, rice)*
- (ii) *Sustainable intensification and promotion of high-yielding, climate-sensitive varieties of legumes and oilseeds (cowpea, soybean and groundnut)*
- (iii) *Sustainable intensification and diversification of products based on nutrition-sensitive sweet potato and cassava varieties,*
- (iv) *Intensification of dairy and beef production through perennial forage production.*

Two (02) lots are open for applications in each country, and **any operator capable of creating a favourable environment for bidding on both lots in the same country is eligible**. The lots are constituted as specified below:

Table II: Lots and priority themes covered by the TARSPRO II call for projects in each country of intervention

LOTS	Priority themes for sub-projects	Eligible areas	Minimum number of direct beneficiaries expected
LOT 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable intensification and promotion of cereal varieties (maize, sorghum, rice) that are sensitive to climate and nutrition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cereals (maize, rice, sorghum) Roots and tubers Vegetables (organic/conventional), Certified seeds/cuttings Agri-food processing Marketing 	100,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable intensification and diversification of products based on sweet potato and cassava varieties sensitive to 		100,000
LOT 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable intensification and promotion of high-yield, climate-sensitive varieties of legumes and oilseed crops (niébé, soybeans and peanuts) that are sensitive to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legumes and oilseeds (cowpeas, soybeans, groundnuts) Vegetables (organic/conventional), Certified seeds Agri-food processing Marketing 	100,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensification of milk and beef production by perennial fodder production. 		60,000

4. Roles of stakeholders in the implementation of TARSPRO II

Each theme will be addressed in the implementation through innovation platforms, targeting stakeholders in the production, agri-food processing and marketing sectors. Specialised operators interested in implementing

implementation of these themes should pay particular attention to the technical and institutional environment desired by TARSP II and defined as follows:

- **Direct beneficiaries:** this status is recognised for those involved in family farms (EAFs), some of whom are members of formalised organisations in any sector or link in the sectors covered by TARSP II. These organisations may be multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, cooperatives (SCOOPs), unions or associations (of producers, processors, traders, women or young people, etc.) operating in one of the eligible sectors. These beneficiaries are the **central actors** in the implementation of the consortia's activities.
- **Specialised private operators:** these are any legal structures such as NGOs/associations/consultancy firms or any other type of organisation with expertise in rural development in general and agricultural advisory services in particular. They play a facilitating, advisory and support role for beneficiary organisations in identifying their support needs and translating them into sub-projects in line with the eligible themes of TARSP II.
- **From the micro-project implementation consortium:** In the overall approach expected of specialised private operators implementing and applying for this call for expressions of interest, **each consortium to be formed must necessarily include one or more organisations of actors who will be the targets and direct beneficiaries of the intervention.** These organisations must be formally established under one of the recognised legal statuses such as multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (PIMs), cooperative societies (SCOOPs), unions or associations (producers, processors, traders, young people, women, etc.). In addition to these beneficiary organisations, each consortium is expected to include microfinance institutions, private companies distributing agricultural equipment and products, and any other actors likely to support the consortium in achieving its objectives.
- **From the perspective of improving productivity,** priority will be given to exploiting the T&I targeted in the first phase as having strong potential for widespread dissemination and impact on the resilience of EAFs. These include varieties of cereals, legumes, root crops and tubers that have been shown to perform well in the context of climate change. For the value chains targeted in animal production, namely local milk production and/or processing, small ruminants such as the highly prolific Maradi red goat and fodder crop varieties such as maralfalfa, etc. are particularly recommended technologies.
- **In terms of creating the conditions for the acquisition and use of agricultural technologies and innovations,** the main mandate of specialised implementing operators will be to support family farms in accessing finance and remunerative markets through mechanisms

various collective marketing systems for agricultural products (warrantage, group sales, institutional sales, etc.). The use of agricultural insurance products is strongly encouraged and desired. Indeed, the major obstacle to the adoption and use of proven and desired T&I by producers remains access to financing. This obstacle exists on two levels: on the one hand, for private companies wishing to invest in the reproduction and marketing of T&I, and on the other hand, for potential users who must pay for access to them. This difficulty in raising funds in the agricultural sector is inherent in the risk associated with agriculture in general and family farming in particular, which is the main activity of the populations of West and Central Africa. In order to reduce this risk and facilitate access to financing, support for T&I users will be required to ensure the success of production plans based on the targeted T&I. In order to increase the solvency of beneficiaries, consortia are therefore expected to take an entrepreneurial approach to their interventions.

- **On promoting nutrition and gender:** A comprehensive approach to gender and nutrition is required in the implementation of the project in order to address the nutritional challenges faced by the target communities, but also to accelerate the empowerment of women and young people. Actions to create business opportunities and improve productivity will be targeted at women and young people. The process of selecting technologies and innovations to promote has been designed to prioritise technologies with high adoption potential that are gender-sensitive, nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart. The deployment of actions aims ultimately to enable target communities to have access to a rich and diverse diet throughout the year. In addition to their productivity, the technologies were targeted based on their adaptation to the effects of climate change, through numerous demonstrations in the VICs (early maturity, drought tolerance, dual-purpose varieties, nutrient richness, etc.). With a view to greater empowerment of women and young people, the involvement of cooperatives specific to these categories of actors is strongly expected to provide support for specific projects in the fattening of small ruminants such as the Maradi red goat, market gardening and agri-food processing (soya, PDCO, cereals, vegetables, etc.). In addition to agricultural production activities, emphasis could be placed on any other promising and attractive niche for these young people and women, such as the aggregation of agricultural production backed by digital platforms on social networks, or any other form of e-commerce. They will receive training on targeted topics to improve their resilience in the face of challenges, particularly unemployment and low inclusion in decision-making processes.

- **Positioning of INRAs and CORAF:**

The main task of the INRAs, public institutions and constituent members of CORAF, will be to make technologies and innovations available to private companies by scaling up (basic seeds, equipment prototypes, breeds, etc.).

improvements, etc.). They will also monitor the implementation of actions in the field for the benefit of beneficiaries, in order to anticipate the needs of family farms in terms of T&I and capacity building, through regular consultations with all the actors in the consortia involved in the themes in each country. These research centres will provide innovative solutions to address the concerns of farms. They will also provide training for trainers acting as intermediaries for private implementation operators, so that they are better equipped to closely supervise technology users. The INRAs will thus facilitate the transfer of skills to consortium stakeholders.

- **The CORAF Executive Secretariat** will continue to coordinate, monitor and evaluate, communicate and manage knowledge, and ensure environmental safeguards. It will establish agreements with the INRAs on the one hand and with specialised private operators on the other, once they have been recruited. Close coordination between the actions deployed by TARSPRO II in the countries and government initiatives for agricultural development and youth employment would be a major asset in achieving the objectives. Indeed, policy makers are important allies for the dissemination and adoption of agricultural innovations. In some cases, they can protect these innovations by taking appropriate decisions to positively influence access to agricultural T&I for as many people as possible. CORAF is therefore taking this reality into account in phase 2 of TARSPRO. It encourages the operators who will be selected to seek synergies with these major agricultural initiatives in the countries of intervention (agropastoral offensives, FSRP, etc.), but also with youth employment programmes, in order to be more in line with the current visions of the governments of the beneficiary countries. To this end, the CORAF Executive Secretariat will invest heavily in two areas, namely the monitoring of actions to deploy technologies and innovations in real time and institutional communication that will enable policymakers to monitor and assess the impact of actions on populations.

5. Eligibility Criteria

- **Potential candidates:**

This call for expressions of interest is open to any legal entity, NGO/association/consultancy firm or any other type of organisation with expertise in rural development in general and agricultural advisory services in particular, based in West or Central Africa. Candidates' bids will be received in indivisible lots as specified in Table 2 and must explicitly specify the country where the intervention will be carried out if selected. The beneficiary countries of TARSPRO II are Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in West Africa and Chad in Central Africa. Specialised operators interested in implementing

themes of one or both lots in one of the five countries of intervention may submit a bid in response to the call for expressions of interest.

6. Under TARSPRO II Thematic Projects:

6.1. Maximum duration

The duration of TARSPRO II thematic sub-projects will be a maximum of 36 months with a six-monthly evaluation plan. The milestones for the various indicators must therefore be defined in accordance with this timetable. The implementation contracts between CORAF and each specialised operator awarded one or two lots will be annual, with renewal conditional on the results of the annual evaluation.

6.2. Budget/amount of funding per theme.

The annual amount of the TARSPRO II grant for the implementation of sub-projects for each lot will depend on the themes addressed, as specified in Table III. Bids for year 1 must cover the period from June to December 2026. The budgeting of sub-projects must follow the template provided in the annex to this call for expressions of interest.

Table III: Estimated budget for implementing the themes

LOTS	Priority themes for sub-projects	Provisional budget (CFA francs)		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
LOT 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable intensification and promotion of cereal varieties (maize, sorghum, rice) sensitive to climate and to nutrition. 	37,500,000	62,500,000	25,000,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable of and diversification of products based on sweet potato and cassava varieties sensitive to nutrition. 	36,000,000	60,000,000	24,000,000
LOT 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable intensification and promotion of high-yield, climate-sensitive varieties of legumes and oilseeds (cowpeas, soybeans and groundnuts). 	45,000,000	75,000,000	30,000,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensification of dairy and beef production through perennial forage production. 	36,000,000	60,000,000	24,000,000

NB: All activity costs must be detailed and will be subject to justification upon contract execution.

6.3. Specific requirements

It should be noted that only applications submitted by consortia will be considered for this call for expressions of interest, namely implementing entities bringing together beneficiary organisations structured as multi-stakeholder innovation platforms (IPs) around the value chains targeted by TARSPRO II, consulting firms with experience in mobilising agricultural microcredit and advising on family farm management, agricultural financing and insurance institutions, agricultural product aggregation companies, etc. Indeed, the new dimension that these private operators will have to take on is supporting beneficiary organisations in accessing agricultural financing and implementing production based on the adopted T&I. Expressing interest in the choice of operators by country will require, as a priority, proof of the establishment of this favourable business environment, which is a guarantee of the success of the intervention and the realisation of the TARSPRO II theory of change.

7. Submission procedures and timetable

This call for expressions of interest will be launched on **2 March 2026** on the CORAF platforms and those of the Agricultural Research Institutes (INRAs) of the TARSPRO II beneficiary countries. Additional channels appropriate to each country may be used at the discretion of the INRAs. Sub-project proposals prepared by specialised operators will be accepted from **1 to 15 April 2026 at 16:30 GMT**, after which they will no longer be accepted.

All bids must be sent electronically to candidature.TARSPRO2@coraf.org and by DHL courier to the address below. The postmark date will serve as proof of compliance with the deadline.

To the **Executive Secretariat, CORAF**

7, Avenue Bourguiba, B.P. 48 Dakar RP, cp 18523, Dakar, Senegal **Tel.**

+221 33 869 96 18

Email: secoraf@coraf.org

The evaluations and results of the pre-selection of candidates will be published on the CORAF website on **10 May 2026**, and notifications to pre-selected candidates will be sent by e-mail. Negotiations and contracting will take place from **11 to 25 May 2026**, and notifications for the start of sub-project implementation will be sent on **1 June 2026**.

8. Establishment of technical and financial

All applications for this call for expressions of interest must be based on the forms attached to this call for expressions of interest and must be completed in accordance with the guidelines below.

:

8.1. Presentation of the consortium and its members (Form 1):

It must include the following sections: (i) presentation of the consortium and its purpose; (ii) Presentation of consortium members (Organisation applying to be a specialised operator for TARSPRO II, beneficiary organisation(s) of the interventions (PIM, associations, SCOOP, etc.), other consortium members (*identity/legal status, field of activity, experience relevant to the expectations of the call for expressions of interest, etc.*))

8.2. Technical proposal (Form 2):

This chapter must include the following sections: (i) Sub-project summary sheet, (ii) Detailed project (Context/Issues, objectives, expected results, Methodological approach, logical framework, timetable, Project sheets or business plans).

8.3. Detailed sub-project budget (Form 3):

Please use the template provided in Form 3 to prepare your financial offer.

8.4. Supporting documents

The appendices section must include all supporting documents for the information provided, namely the partnership agreement or consortium declaration specifying the mandate of the leader acting on behalf of the other members (power of attorney), letters of support, commitment or membership to the designated representative of the consortium, receipts, approvals, CVs of key personnel from each member organisation of the consortium, certificates of satisfactory completion of previous services, supporting documents for previous experience and any other documents that may provide evidence of the statements contained in the tenders.

9. Submission format:

- a. Online platform (link) or email for **digital files** and by post for **physical files**.
- b. Accepted languages: French or English, which are the two working languages of CORAF.

10. Selection criteria

The selection process will be conducted by a committee of independent, multidisciplinary experts set up for this purpose. Evaluations will be based on the nature of the lots subscribed to by the consortia. The first stage will involve a pre-selection based on the relevance and innovation of the proposal. Only bids that have obtained at least 50% of the points will be considered for the final selection in stage 2.

- **Scoring grid** (weighting):

- Suitability of the consortium for the sub-project (25%).
- Relevance of the sub-project (20%).
- Innovation (20%).
- Technical and financial feasibility (20%).
- Impact/sustainability (15%).

11. Contractual Terms and Financing

Applications selected following the evaluation and selection process will be notified in writing for contract negotiation. The amounts allocated per sub-project will depend on the relevance of the technical proposals and may not exceed the amounts allocated to each theme defined in Table III, namely 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 CFA francs per year per sub-project.

12. Information on this AMI

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