

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

RECRUITMENT OF A FIRM OR A TEAM OF CONSULTANTS FOR CAPITALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDES ON CORAF APPROACHES AND TOOLS FOR SCALING-UP AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Opening of the call: April 22, 2024

Closing of the call: May 10, 2024

CEI No. 07-2024

As a regional leader in agricultural research for development in West and Central Africa, CORAF is committed to promoting the adoption of technologies and innovations (T&Is) to increase agricultural productivity, strengthen food security and improve the livelihoods of rural populations. To this end, CORAF has developed an innovative system composed of several key elements, notably Innovation Platforms (IPs), Agricultural Technology Parks (ATPs), Community Immersion Hubs (PICs) and Climate Smart Villages (CSV) approach.

To date, 33 Innovation Platforms, 10 Community Immersion Centers (PIC), 5 climate-smart villages and 10 agricultural technology parks have been Established and operationalized by CORAF through iREACH, TARSPRO and FSRP projects in Benin, Burkina, Mali, Niger, Chad, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

Besides the iREACH, TARSPRO and FSRP projects, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme CAADP ex-pillar 4 (CAADP XP4), funded by the European Union through IFAD and implemented in West and Central Africa by CORAF, also emphasis on knowledge management. This commitment to knowledge management is reflected in the creation, dissemination, and use of relevant and accessible knowledge products, thus helping to inform agricultural policies and practices in Africa for sustainable development.

CORAF is looking for qualified firm or Team of consultants to support the capitalization and development of products for innovative approaches and tools in the agricultural sector.

Details of the tasks to be carried out and other information relating to the conduct of the mission are provided in the terms of reference below.

The Executive Director of CORAF invites firms/teams of consultants with the required profile as indicated in the terms of reference available upon request, to express their interest for this call. Firms/ Teams of consultants should provide a full expression of interest including references regarding performance and experience in similar services, updated CVs of key staff ...

The firm will be selected according to the selection method based on the qualification of the consultant in accordance with the CORAF Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures, in accordance with the criteria defined in the terms of reference. The first ranked firm/team of consultants will be invited for negotiation after having developed a technical and financial proposal based on the terms of reference.

Interested firms/teams of consultants may obtain additional information from the CORAF Executive Secretariat by sending a correspondence to a.nadinga@coraf.org and copying procurement@coraf.org.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to procurement@coraf.org on **May 10, 2024, at the latest at 5:00 PM GMT.**

Dr Alioune FALL
Acting Executive Director



TARSPRO
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche
République de Côte d'Ivoire



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recruitment of a team of consultants for capitalization and development of guides on CORAF approaches and tools for scaling-up agricultural technologies and innovations in West and Central Africa

1. Background

As a regional leader in agricultural research for development in West and Central Africa, CORAF is committed to promoting the adoption of technologies and innovations (T&Is) to increase agricultural productivity, strengthen food security and improve the livelihoods of rural populations. To this end, CORAF has developed an innovative system composed of several key elements, notably Innovation Platforms (IPs), Agricultural Technology Parks (ATPs), Community Immersion Hubs (PICs) and Climate Smart Villages (CSV) approach.

Key partners, including the World Bank, the University of Kansas and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), are supporting the implementation of these approaches in the field. These partners support CORAF initiatives through various relevant projects, such as the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), the Innovation, Research, Extension and Advocacy Coordination Hub (iREACH), and the Agricultural Technologies and Innovations Project for Increasing the Resilience of Production Systems and Family Farms in West and Central Africa (TARSPRO). These collaborations contribute to strengthen the capacity for innovation and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in the region by mobilizing technical, financial and institutional resources to support CORAF's activities on the ground.

IPs involve a wide range of stakeholders, including researchers, farmers, policymakers and the private sectors that gather for collaboration and mutual learning. The aim of these platforms are to

foster the emergence of new agricultural practices and technologies, the promotion of innovation in agricultural value chains and enhance stakeholder capacities. To be successful, IPs requires significant changes in behavior's, procedures, and institutional rules, and encourage the active participation of all stakeholders.

ATPs are spaces dedicated to demonstrate and disseminate promising agricultural technologies and innovations. They provide an opportunity for stakeholders in the agricultural sector to discover new practices, equipment and technologies and to experiment with them. ATPs also contribute to the improvement of agricultural production systems by serving as training and awareness creation centers for farmers and other stakeholders.

CICs are demonstration and learning hubs located at the heart of rural communities where farmers and other local stakeholders can discover and try out agricultural technologies and practices adapted to the requirements of communities. CICs organize guided tours, training and personalized agricultural advice to promote the adoption of innovations by local beneficiaries. These spaces are designed to promote mass adoption and physical access to agricultural solutions by bringing technologies and innovations closer to end users, including youth and women producers.

The CSV approach is an integrated approach to rural development with a focus on adaptation to climate change and the promotion of sustainable and climate smart agricultural practices. It aims to strengthen the resilience of farming communities to climate challenges while improving their livelihoods. This approach has six key components, including climate-smart technologies and practices, climate information services, agricultural and climate finance, endogenous producer knowledge, local and national institutions, and national and sub-national policies and plans. Implementing that approach involves several steps, including site selection, community engagement, baseline studies, prioritizing interventions, capacity building, monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

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2. Objective of this assignment

CORAF is looking for qualified firm or team of consultants to support the capitalization and development of products for innovative approaches and tools in the agricultural sector. Specifically, this will involve: (i) capitalizing on good practices and lessons learnt in implementing IPs, ATPs, PIC and CSVs; and (ii) developing detailed practical guide for each of these approaches and tools with

clear recommendations for their effective implementation; (iii) developing other specific communication/ knowledge products.

3. Duties and responsibilities

The firm/team of consultants will prepare a detail methodology for achieving the expected deliverables.

The main tasks of this consultancy will be to:

- Carry out an in-depth analysis of the Innovation Platforms, Technology Parks, Climate Smart Villages and Community Immersion Hub described in the text, focusing on their characteristics, objectives, and results.
- Capitalize on good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of these approaches and tools.
- Identifying key success and challenges, perspectives, and conditions for scaling.
- Develop a detailed practical guide for each approach and tool, with clear recommendations for their implementation and increase adoption.
- Develop other knowledge products specified in the "deliverables" section for effective communication. Work closely in collaboration with CORAF teams and local partners to validate these guides and integrate comments from stakeholders.

4. Expected Deliverables

The deliverables expected from the firm/team of consultants are:

- ✚ A capitalization document presenting the main conclusions of the analysis of the innovative agricultural approaches and tools of CORAF; namely Innovation Platforms, Technology Parks, Community Immersion Hubs, and the Climate Smart Village (CSV) approaches. This report should include a synthesis of good practices, lessons learned, and challenges encountered during the implementation of these approaches.
- ✚ A Practical guide for each approach, providing best practices on implementation and conditions for scaling. These guides should be tailored to the needs of practitioners in the field. They should include specific recommendations for overcoming potential issues.
- ✚ Presentation slides, workshop materials, and training modules designed to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building among stakeholders. These materials can be used to conduct training sessions and workshops which aimed to enhance understanding and uptake of innovative agricultural approaches.
- ✚ A final report that consolidates all the above, highlighting the main successes, challenges, and recommendations to support future implementation of innovative agricultural approaches and tools in the region.

In addition to that, the consultants are expected to develop specific knowledge products such as:

- ✦ Case studies offering detailed insights into the successful implementation of innovative agricultural approaches across various contexts. These studies should provide real-life examples of how these approaches have been utilized and their impact on agricultural productivity, food security, and livelihoods. Success stories complementing these case studies by showcasing tangible examples that illustrate the effectiveness and rationale behind these approaches.
- ✦ Technical fact sheets, which provide brief and practical information on key aspects on innovative approaches, including best practices, technologies recommendations and implementation guidelines. These fact sheets can serve as quick reference guides for practitioners in the field.
- ✦ Manuals or booklets providing step-by-step guidance for the use of specific tools or technologies related to the innovative approach. Those materials should be user-friendly and accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and extension workers.
- ✦ Disseminating Materials: Promotional materials to raise awareness of the innovative approaches and their benefits, such as brochures, flyers, posters, and other promotional materials. These materials may be distributed to key stakeholders and used at various events and campaigns.
- ✦ Video scripts to capture the essence of each approach/tool. These scripts will be used by the communication team to provide a visual narrative of the respective approach/tool, combining interviews, demonstrations, and testimonials to engage viewers and promote understanding in agricultural development.

The recipients of the products are CORAF, NARS, Centers of Specialization, authorities of the ministries concerned, farmer organizations, financial partners, implementing partners/NGOs, etc.

5. Required profile

We are looking for a firm / team of consultants whose proposed team must be composed of four (4) consultants with complementary skills organized with a team leader and associates.

Team of consultants	Profile	Area of Expertise	Expected Contribution
Team Leader:	An experienced professional with a background in social sciences, communication, agronomy, rural development, or a related	Experience in capitalizing on good agricultural practices and writing practical guides, with a minimum of ten	Provide leadership to the team of consultants, oversee the development of practical guides for innovative approaches and tools in the agricultural sector, ensure the synthesis of complex information in a clear and concise manner, facilitate

	field, holding an MSc or PhD degree.	years' experience in the field	communication and knowledge sharing among stakeholders, and coordinate closely with CORAF teams and local partners
Associate Consultant 1	A seasoned professional with expertise in agronomy, rural development, or related fields, possessing an MSc or PhD	In-depth knowledge of innovative approaches in agriculture, including innovation platforms, technology parks, community immersion hubs, and/or climate-smart villages	Expected Contribution: Conduct in-depth analysis of the innovative agricultural approaches and tools described in the terms of reference, capitalize on good practices and lessons learned, develop detailed practical guides tailored to the needs of practitioners, document success stories, collaborate closely with CORAF teams and local partners for validation and integration of feedback
	Experience in capitalizing on good agricultural practices (ten years 'experience)		
Associate Consultant 2	An experienced researcher or practitioner in the field of agricultural development, possessing an advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in social sciences, agronomy, or related fields	Advanced research, analysis, and writing skills, with the ability to synthesize complex information and develop practical recommendations for implementation.	Assist in the development of detailed practical guides for each innovative approach and tool, contribute to the documentation of success stories, collaborate with the team leader and other associates in validating guides and integrating stakeholder feedback, and support knowledge sharing and capacity building activities
	Experience in capitalizing on good agricultural practices (five years 'experience)		
Associate Consultant 3	A bilingual professional proficient in both French and English, with expertise in social sciences, communication, or related fields, holding an advanced degree (MSc or PhD)	Strong communication and facilitation skills, with experience working in West Africa or similar contexts, and a good understanding of innovative approaches in agriculture	Support the team in synthesizing complex information into clear and concise guides, facilitate communication and knowledge sharing among diverse stakeholders, assist in the development of dissemination materials such as promotional materials and video scripts, and collaborate closely with the team leader and other associates throughout the consultancy
	Experience in capitalizing on good agricultural practices (5 years 'experience)		

6. Period of work

The consultancy will be carried out during 90 days over a period of 5 months.

The service will mainly take place in the intervention sites of the three CORAF projects.

However, few activities such as the document review or the writing of guides, reports and other products can be carried out the consultant's home base.

A detailed timetable should be proposed in the firm/team of consultant's offer after the stage of qualification CV selection.

7. Consultant management

The firm / team of consultant will have to work in close collaboration with the knowledge management officer of CORAF.

Furthermore, CORAF teams and local partners will be involve in the process of validating the guides and facilitate the dissemination of knowledge to key stakeholders.

8. Conditions for applications

Firms / teams of consultants interested in this call must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform such services (CV, references regarding the execution of similar contracts, experience in a similar field, experience under similar conditions, etc.).

The submission file should be addressed to the Executive Director of CORAF, Executive Secretariat, 7, Avenue Bourguiba, BP 48 Dakar RP, Senegal, Senegal. Interested firms / teams should send their expression of interest to procurement@coraf.org and demonstrate their ability to meet the criteria mentioned in the attached terms of reference, no later than **May 10, 2024 at 5:00 PM GMT**.

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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