

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Recruitment of consultants to compile improved seed and fertilizer recommendations data to update the Fertilizer and Seed Recommendation Map for West Africa

Opening Date: April 2, 2019 Closing Date: April 19, 2019 -----

CEI No. 05-2019

West Africa (WA) and the Sahel region are home to about 387 million inhabitants, which represents over 5% of the world's population. The average annual growth rate of the population in WA stands at 2.7% against an annual agricultural productivity growth of less than 2% (CORAF, 2017). Much of the concern over feeding Africa by 2050 relates to the relative slowing down of food production in the face of rapidly growing populations. Food demand is projected to increase, especially in the growing urban centres of West Africa to about 60% to 80%, but agricultural yields are not keeping pace, with gaps estimated to be 75%. As the population grows and fields shrink from generation to generation, farmers must produce more food on less land. As a result, African farmers have faced an inexorable pressure to intensify their production (Jayne et al., 2016).

Intensification of production requires increased use of agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) etc. A multitude of constraints are the cause of the high yield gaps at farm level including increasing land degradation, pests and diseases, climate change, etc. Against this background, poor access and availability of farmer preferred and market-oriented agri-inputs continue to undermine farmers' efforts towards increased and sustainable agricultural productivity and production. Despite the efforts of stakeholders, the use of agri-inputs remains low with negative consequences on agricultural productivity in West Africa. The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF) and the International Fertilizers Development Centre (IFDC) through their respective five-year, regional USAID-funded projects, PAIRED and EnGRAIS, will develop and disseminate agro-input packages, including improved seed, appropriate fertilizer recommendations suitable for the main crops and the different agro-ecological zones of West Africa to contribute to sustainably increasing agricultural productivity. The input packages are being developed together with the private sector, who will following their development promote, market and disseminate them to end users, including producers and agro-business actors (men and women). The specifications for the agro-input packages will also be disseminated through an on-line map. CORAF and IFDC now invite individual consultants from ECOWAS countries for the mission mentioned above. The two institutions will co-finance related costs through their respective projects. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the respective websites: www.coraf.org and www.ifdc.org. Individual consultants will be recruited on a competitive basis according to the rules contained in the Manual of Administrative, Financial and Accounting Procedures of CORAF.

Required expertise and duration of the consultancy

The study will be conducted by a team of two national experts (a seed expert and a soil scientist/fertility expert). The more experienced consultant will lead the team. The time allocated to the study is 5 to 10 days per consultant. The study will be undertaken from April to May 2019.

General Selection Criteria

Criteria
Qualifications
At least 10 years of professional experience in one of the required fields and appreciable knowledge in one of the other fields and good knowledge of ground and stakeholders will be an advantage
Proven knowledge of target country agriculture and agro-ecological zones
Proven record in preparing technical agricultural research and development documents
Good understanding of seed/improved seeds and/or soil fertility/fertilizer sectors in target country
Good understanding of seed and/or fertilizer industry in target country
Excellent spoken and written French and/or English

1. Applications of the individual consultants will be evaluated based on the criteria mentioned above and the preferred consultant for each expert area will be invited for negotiation.
2. Consultants interested in this call must submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) highlighting the execution and experience of similar contracts and a detailed CV.
3. EoI's must be submitted by e-mail to the following addresses: procurement@coraf.org and https://ifdc.silkroad.com/ifdc/Employment_Listings.html not later than the **19th of April 2019 at 17:00 GMT**.
4. CORAF Executive Secretariat and IFDC reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of the EoI's or to cancel the EoI process at any stage without explanation and without incurring any liability. For more information, see the attached terms of reference of the mission.

Dr Abdou TENKOUANO Executive Director of CORAF

Terms of reference

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Context

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF) and the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) through their respective five-year, regional USAID-funded projects, PAIRED and EnGRAIS, will develop and disseminate agro-input packages, including improved seed, appropriate fertilizer recommendations suitable for the main crops and the different agro-ecological zones of West Africa to contribute to sustainably increasing agricultural productivity. The input packages are being developed together with various stakeholders including the private sector who will following their development promote, market and disseminate them to end users, including producers and agro-business actors (men and women). The specifications for the agro-input packages will also be disseminated through an on-line map.

This regional mapping database will be a source for generating interactive thematic regional maps of agricultural input recommendations for stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, extension workers, government input subsidy program decision makers, manufacturers and fertilizer blenders (for the selection of appropriate fertilizer formulae), the private sector of crop seeds suppliers, seeds service providers, the public as well as private producers and producer organizations and all other actors in the various agricultural inputs value chain.

It is for that purpose, that the two projects are compiling and updating data which will lead to the creation of the Fertilizer and Seeds Recommendation Map for West Africa (FeSeRWAM). The FeSeRWAM will be built on the current Fertilizer Recommendations for West Africa Map (FeRWAM) that was initially developed under West Africa Fertilizer Program (WAFP), the USAIDfunded predecessor to EnGRAIS. The FeSeRWAM, as indicated by the name, will be a regional map of improved seeds and appropriate fertilizer recommendations for the main crops grown in different agro-ecological zones of West Africa. This regional mapping exercise includes various actors and their organizations (producers, traders in agricultural inputs, fertilizer manufacturers/blenders, public and private extension and research services, NGO's and others) that will use the map for decision making in agricultural services and production.

For this compilation of data, in-country collected data will be validated through a national workshop and sharing with other country teams during a sub-regional workshop. For these sub-regional

workshops, two groups of countries¹ have been decided upon, which include the 15 ECOWAS countries plus Chad. Subsequently, a regional workshop will be organized for validation and harmonization of all the data collected. The two sub-regional workshops will contain the following participants: Group 1/Anglophone countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia) and Group 2/Francophone and Lusophone countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Mali, Niger, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cape Verde, and Senegal). The present terms of reference (ToR) has been developed to guide the in-country data collection and compilation as well as national validation. PAIRED and EnGRAIS are jointly launching this exercise in the target countries.

The main objective is to map the most current improved seed and fertilizer recommendations, good agricultural practices and in the different agro-ecological zones in West Africa.

Global Objective

The main purpose is to compile data on existing improved seed varieties, fertilizer recommendations and to update fertilizer recommendations and identify seed varieties with high scalability and adoption potential of major crops in the same and single database for different agro-ecological zones in West Africa and Chad.

Specific objectives

In each target country and by agro-ecological zone (AEZ), the specific tasks are as follows:

- Inventory and compile data on the different AEZs of the country;
- Inventory and compile key information on different varieties of main crops grown in target countries, including rice, maize, cassava, sorghum, millet, coffee, cotton, cocoa, cowpea and peanut;
- Prioritize seed varieties of maize, rice, millet and sorghum according to their scalability potential and by agro-ecological zones;
- Inventory and compile different validated fertilizer recommendations;
- Compile Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), including for Urea Deep Placement (UDP) and Micro-dosing (MD);
- Update the existing FeRWAM and seeds catalog databases (FeSeRWAM) with new data; • Inventory new ongoing promising fertilizer recommendations initiatives; and • Report on and make a presentation of findings at the validation workshop.

Deliverables

- Map of the different AEZs in the country;

¹ Anglophone countries are grouped as Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. The Francophone countries are grouped into 2: Group 1 includes Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Mali, Niger, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cabo Verde, Senegal

- Inventory of major crop varieties of rice, maize, cassava, sorghum, millet, coffee, cotton, cocoa, cowpea and peanut and those and particularly maize, rice, millet and sorghum with high scalability potential by AEZ currently used;
- Inventory of validated fertilizer recommendations currently used and the crops and varieties for which they are used by AEZ;
- Inventory of updated recommendations for improved seed varieties for the main crops and AEZ;
- Inventory of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), including Urea Deep Placement (UDP) and Micro-dosing (MD) for each main crop;
- Any cartographic databases on recommendations for improved seeds varieties and fertilizer formulas for main crops in the different AEZs in West Africa and Chad; and
- The study report is validated.

Methodology

The two team will provide a tool for data collection. A team of two national consultants will benefit from the administrative assistant for its introduction to the countries and will also benefit from the documentations of the current database of FeRWAM to complete the development of the methodology.

Target countries for the current call

Countries targeted by the data collection exercise include Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Niger, Benin, Togo, Burkina-Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

Qualifications of the consultants

The study will be conducted by a team of two consultants: a seed expert (or scaling specialist or agronomist) and soil scientist-fertility expert (with expertise on fertilizers). In each target country, priority will be given to national consultants.

a) The seed expert

Education

- Master's Degree, Agronomist, or Breeder and related field;

Experience

- At least 10 years' experience in seed development and seed technology upscaling and adoption
- Knowledge of GIS mapping ;
- Experience working in West Africa with research and development organization;
- Possess knowledge of target country agriculture/agro-ecological zones/seed crop varieties;
- Relevant experience in agro-input sectors in target country;
- Good understanding of seed industry in target country and/or West Africa;
- Proven record in preparing technical documents; and
- Previous experience at country or international level in seed varieties mapping (appreciated).

Tasks

The consultant shall consult agriculture references and agriculture actors (breeders, agronomists, seed specialists, seed companies, farmers organizations, food processors and food industry and any other relevant actors) in target countries to:

- Hand draw the different agro-ecological zones in the country;
- Make an inventory of crop varieties (maize, millet, sorghum and rice) currently existing and/or used with their characteristics in target country by agroecological zone;
- Based on information collected from agriculture actors, assess the scalability potential of the different crop varieties by agroecological zone and rank them according to their scalability potential; The consultant should focus on recently released varieties (≤ 10 years past), that are being used by farmers; and also consider isolated cases of old varieties still in use for preferential reasons when in the field.
- Compile and analyze the collected data and develop a database allowing to have information on five best crop varieties (maize, millet, sorghum and rice) by agroecological zones;
- Write the report and present the main result during the sub-regional validation workshop.

b) The soil fertility and plant nutrition expert

Education

- Master's Degree or PhD in soil science-fertility and plant nutrition

Experience

- At least 10 years' experience on soil fertility management
- Knowledge of GIS mapping ;
- Knowledge of target country agriculture/agro-ecological zones/soils
- Experience in soil research and soil data analysis;
- Relevant experiences on agro-input sectors in target country;
- Good understanding of fertilizer industry in target countries;
- Experience working in West Africa with research and development organization;
- Proven record in preparing technical documents;
- Previous experience at country or international level in fertilizer recommendation mapping (appreciated).

Tasks

The consultant shall consult agriculture references and agriculture actors (soil scientist, plant nutrition specialist, agronomists, fertilizer blenders, agro-dealers farmer association and any other relevant actors) in target countries to:

- Map the different agro-ecological zone in the country;
- Make an inventory of fertilizer recommendations by crop variety currently existing and/or used in target country by agroecological zone;

- collect fertilizer recommendations data for the main crops (rice, maize, cassava, sorghum, millet, coffee, cotton, cocoa, cowpea and peanut) in different agro-ecological zones in target country;
- Produce the database for the mapping of fertilizer recommendations for main crops (rice, maize, cassava, sorghum, millet, coffee, cotton, cocoa, cowpea and peanut) in the different agro-ecological zones in target country;
- Update Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) including Urea Deep Placement (UDP) and Micro-dosing (MD)
- Write the report and present the main result during the sub-regional validation workshop.

Period of completion of the study

The consultants will present the results of the study and have them validated at a sub-regional workshop which will bring together all the stakeholders at one point. The study will take place from April to May and results present according to groups. The national collected data will be presented during sub-regional workshops organized as follows:

- Group 1: Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Gambia the 13th and 14th of May 2019 in Abuja;
- Group 2: Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cape Verde, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Mali, Niger and Chad the 22th 23th and 24 of May 2019 in Abidjan or Lomé