

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Develop the eCapacities Implementation Framework with an ICT Based E-Market Place for Business, Research and Extension in Africa

Reference: CAADP-XP4 Output 2/ Activity 2.1.5 / 2020 & Output 4/ Activity 4.1.1 / 2020

A. Background

FARA acknowledges the need for strengthen collaboration in addressing climate change issues in Africa's agricultural research for development. The engagement of private sector, researcher and extensionists is critical in developing market-led strategies for commercialization of climate smart related technologies. FARA as the continental body that coordinates agricultural research for development in Africa, is a one stop-shop for technology, knowledge generation, networking and information. In recent years, FARA has received several requests to mobilize, and strengthen collaboration of international and regional partners to enhance the science agenda by linking science to business. To fast track this, FARA is establishing an e-market Place for businesses, researchers and extension to interact within the context of the existing eCapacities architecture. We consider this an opportunity to effectively engage with the private sector, enhance technology adoption through commercialization of climate relevant research products.

The eCapacities™ Portal

The eCapacities™ facility is a Web-based platform developed by FARA in the year 2015, primarily to aid strategic human capital formation in agricultural research organizations, tertiary agricultural education institutes, government ministries, farmer-support entities and agro-based private sector organizations. As part of FARA's integrated capacity development program, the eCapacities™ facility provides a customized web-based solution to record and report on:

- Existent and projected future capacity (in its key dimensions) of national agricultural research, extension and tertiary education institutions (supply side)
- Skill sets required by specific demand groups or consumers of products from research and educational institutions (demand side)

This information is interactively consolidated and overlaid to identify the gaps between supply and demand and hence areas for targeted investments in capacity development. Participating countries will be able to populate primary capacity information remotely and the resulting gap synthesis will be instantly availed to potential investors in capacity development. Thus, the eCapacities™ facility serves a major observatory function of FARADatInforms by providing an online marketplace for matching supply and demand in agricultural science competencies. This creates an opportunity and learning scenario for effective linkage with the private sector by establishing the e-Market Place within the eCapacities framework.

By linking research and innovation with development initiatives through more effective mechanisms, DeSIRA which is also called CAADP Ex-Pillar 4 aims at contributing to Agenda 2063 of the African Union and to the climate-relevant CAADP goals as set in the 2014 African

Union's Malabo Declaration in advancing Accelerated African Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. This is an initiative by the European Union (EU), steered by the European Commission that aims to enable agricultural research and innovation, including extension services, to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate mitigation in Africa. Specific actions under DeSIRA, are supported by the African continental and sub-regional organizations for agricultural research and innovation: FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, and CORAF.

The pillar two of this support aims to strengthen the institutional architecture to achieve the DeSIRA objectives. A key activity under this initiative is to develop the eCapacities framework and upgrade the existing portal to include an E-Market space for businesses, researchers and extension to interact. This activity was designed to be conducted by all the organizations within the CAADP -XP4 framework viz., FARA, the SROs and AFAAS. FARA will be engaging the service of a suitable consultant or institution, to help achieve the objective of this activity.

This ToR explicates the process for this engagement, the desired qualification, experience and the desired deliverables.

B. Objectives of the Assignment

The central objective of this engagement is to develop the eCapacities Implementation Framework with an ICT Based E-Market Place for Business, Research and Extension in Africa to help drive Africa's Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) agenda.

Specific objectives

- The development of an interactive mobile compatible ICT based E-market space for businesses, researchers, academia and extensionists in Africa within the context of the existing eCapacities Portal.
- Develop a framework for the eCapacities
- Support the collation of a compendium of agri-businesses from the SROs distinguished by the different sectors, gender disaggregation and value chains
- Support the collation of a compendium of Agri-business, with competencies and capacities needs to help provide information for training institutions.
- Align the compendium of agribusiness with an up to date (real time data collection) on produce information based on the crop, country, price and approximate quantity available at a specific time
- Develop mobile Application version of the portal as well as APIs to facilitate the integration with the FARADDataInformS.

C. SCOPE and SCHEME of WORK

The consultant will work with the FARA Agribusiness Expert and the Knowledge Management Officer to carry out the following functions.

1. Develop the eCapacities implementation framework and manual to guide content development and the use of the framework by actors



2. Develop the e-Market Place portal within the context of eCapacities and Contribute to the design of a real time data collection tool and or instrument for use by the SROs to collect all needed information to make a comprehensive e-market space action in the countries and at sub-regional level.
3. Develop the Mobile Application variant of the e-markets space and upload in android, etc. for use.
4. Facilitate the interoperability of the developed applications and portal into the FARADDataInformS

D. Outputs or Deliverables

The following outputs are expected from the consultant's activities:

- i. eCapacities framework and manual developed to guide implementation
- ii. Interactive and interoperable ICT based marketplace in Africa developed within the context of eCapacities in FARADDataInformS.
- iii. Mobile Application of the e-Market Place and eCapacities operationalized.
- iv. The interactive business, research and extension marketplace uploaded and made public for use.

E. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of this assignment will be **30 Man Days** (10 days for the framework and 20 for the portal development) spread over five months. The work shall be carried out over the period of *August 2020 to 31st December 2020*.

F. Location of the Assignment

The consultant will work virtually from its place of domicile with virtual linkages to the FARA secretariat, and the lead consultant for development of data collection tools and collation of data.

G. Performance Criteria

The Consultant is expected to undertake the services with the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, competence and integrity. He should be able to deliver the listed assignments in Section C in a most effective and efficient manner, within the period of assignment stated in Section E.

H. Reporting

The consultants shall report through the FARA Agribusiness Expert and Knowledge Management Officer, to the Director of Research and Innovation on the assignment and on all other logistics until the deliverables are submitted as required.

I. Facilities to be Provided By FARA

FARA will provide the following materials to facilitate the assignment of the consultant:

- Access to FARA documents on Agribusiness and gender issues in Africa.
- Linkage with the contact person in the SROs on the assignment
- Logistics arrangements to support the needed liaison with lead organization.
- Travel ticket and modest per-diem based on FARA revised system for all missions to carry out the assignment.



- FARA will arrange linkages with the SROs and other institution to provide site specific logistic support, for specific assignment

J. Qualification and Experience

The following qualifications are required of the consultant.

- A minimum of a BSC degree in IT, web development (especially Microsoft Certified), Data Science or related, with at least 5 years post qualification experience developing ICT tools. An MSC degree in these areas may be an advantage.
- Knowledge of Microsoft web applications and the development of real time data collection for agribusiness platforms
- Should be familiar with gender dynamics and have a good understanding of youth involvement in Africa's AR4D landscape
- Ability to provide accurate, high quality analysis and documents under pressure.
- Familiar with FARA's role in African agricultural research and development and should portray virtues of integrity and confidentiality. Knowledge of the existing applications of the eCapacities portal within the FARADatInformS may be an added advantage.

K. Application Process

Interested candidates should send their expression of interest and comprehensive curriculum vitae via email to the address below by close of business on **Wednesday, September 09, 2020.**

Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo (Executive Director)

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) PMB CT 173, Cantonments, Accra, Ghana

Telephone: +233 302 772823/744888

Email: recruitment@faraafrica.org

For further clarification, you may contact:

Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong at: ifrempong@faraafrica.org, Benjamin Abugri

babugri@faraafrica.org and Karen Munoko kmunoko@faraafrica.org

FARA Affirmative Action Statement on Employment: there is no discrimination based on gender race, religion, ethnic orientation, disability or health status.

