Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Upgrade the IP Portal and Develop ICT Based Map of CSA Initiatives in Africa

Reference: CAADP-XP4 Output 2/ Activity 2.1.1 / 2020/ Output 4/ Activity 4.1.1 / 2020

A. Background

Climate change is a global phenomenon with associated implication on different components of human life. The agricultural sector is tagged as the source and sink of the greenhouse gasses and it is the sector that is most affected by the scourge of destabilization of the climate variables. Prior to the upsurge of the climate change constraints, Africa agriculture has its intrinsic challenges, ranging from low farm productivity because of poor use of external resources. It engages largest population of rural poor with low level literacy and lack of resources as such appreciation and acquisition of improved technologies is limiting. The agricultural sector in Africa also suffers a huge investment gap in infrastructure, supportive policies as well as unstructured planning for growth and quality delivery.

The climate change issues in Africa agriculture has attracted substantial attention from the policies and technical sides. Largely, the response of the agricultural practitioners to Climate change is under the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). The two broad categories of interventions are under CSA action are the Adaptation and Mitigation. A handful of initiatives has been launched and implemented at the different governance levels and has seems to move in various direction without sufficient coordination hence, stewardship and strategic planning is difficult at the continental level. The European Union under the DeSIRA initiative aims to strengthen the deployment of science and innovation to achieve inclusive, sustainable and climate relevant transformation. 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 convene a continental mapping of all climate change initiative past and present to characterize them., assess the contributions to change and map the way forward. This activity was designed to be conducted by all the organizations within the CAADP -XP4 framework viz., FARA, the SROs and AFAAS. The mapping exercise will involve data collection from countries in Africa, followed by reporting and development of multipurpose ICT platform. The ICT Platform will align with the existing Innovation Platform Agribusiness Portal (IPAbP) and FARADataInformS.

To achieve this objective, FARA will engage the service of a consultant on short term basis to develop the CSA interactive map, the portal and the mobile application form of the IPAbP. 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 upgrade the IPAbP and develop an ICT Based Map of CSA Initiatives in Africa

Specific objectives

- The development of the interactive ICT based map of climate smart initiatives in Africa.
- Support the collation of relevant data from the SROs on the state of climate change initiatives at the country level.
- Align the CSA map and other infometrics on CSA based technologies and information.

- Develop mobile Application (android, etc) of the IPAbP including key features of the CSA Map for broader use
- Develop APIs and facilitate the linkages of the map and tool into the FARADataInformS.

C.   SCOPE and SCHEME of WORK

The consultant will work with the FARA Lead Specialist for Innovation systems and partnerships and the Knowledge management officer to carry out the following functions.

1. Contribute to the design of the data collection tool and or instrument for use by the SROs to collect all needed information to make a comprehensive mapping of the climate change action in the countries and at sub-regional level.
2. Design and develop a suitable geo-referenced ICT based map for CSA and related actions in Africa.
3. Develop the Mobile Application variant of the IPAbP and upload for use.
4. Facilitate the interoperability of the developed applications and portal into the FARADataInformS.

D.   Outputs or Deliverables

The following outputs are expected from the consultant's activities:
i. Interactive and interoperable (Including APIs) ICT based map of CSA in Africa with required user guide/manual developed.
ii. Mobile Application of the IPAbP and map operationalized.
iii. The interactive map of climate change initiatives uploaded and made public for use.

E.   Duration of the Assignment
The duration of this assignment will be **20 Man Days** spread over five months. The work shall be carried out over the period of *August 2020 to 31st December2020.*

F.   Location of the Assignment
The consultant will work virtually from its place of domicile with virtual linkages to the FARA secretariat; and CSA 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
Working closely with the FARA Knowledge Management Office, the consultants shall report through the FARA Lead Specialist on Innovation Systems, 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 Climate change issues in Africa.
- Backend access to the IPAbP portal
- 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.

- A minimum of a BSC degree in IT, web development, Data Science, Geography 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 the existing applications of the IPAbP portal within the FARADataInformS will be an added advantage.
- Familiar with FARA's role in African agricultural research and development and should portray virtues of integrity and confidentiality.
- Ability to provide accurate, high quality analysis and documents under pressure.

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, 9th September, 2020**.

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For further clarification, you may contact:
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FARA Affirmative Action Statement on Employment: there is no discrimination based on gender race, religion, ethnic orientation, disability or health status.