



Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Support Inclusive Capacity Development, Business Incubation along Country Priority Value Chains for Smallholders & Other stakeholders

Activity Ref: AIRTEA Project/ Activity 3.1 / 2021

Procurement Ref: FARA/OACP/CS/IC/2021/01

A. Background

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) together with the Sub-regional agricultural Research Organizations (SROs) offer a strategic platform that fosters continental and global networking to strengthen the innovation capacities of Africa's agricultural research system. With its mandate from the AUC to serve as its technical arm on agricultural research and development (AR&D), FARA in collaboration with ASARECA and EAFV have secured resources from the European Union (EU) under the Organization for Africa Caribbean and Pacific (OACP) to **Strengthen Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa.**

This project therefore seeks to contribute to achieving sustainable agrarian livelihoods and rural transformation by fostering inclusive innovation environment.

Specific objectives include,

- i) To strengthen the capacities of youth and women in East Africa's multi-stakeholder innovation platforms and link to solutions within national, regional, and global food systems.
- ii) To facilitate technology transfer and uptake through learning routes and multi-stakeholder engagement.
- iii) To improve profitability and employment opportunities along agricultural commodity value chains by establishing national and regional Agricultural Business Learning Alliance (ABLA) platforms, business development services, and mentorship.

These objectives are implemented through activities that are looked at as work packages. Work package three focuses on supporting inclusive capacity development business incubation, along country priority value chains for smallholders & other stakeholders. Which includes carrying out a capacity gap assessment for women and youth, providing support on incubation systems and establishing agribusiness alliances in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.

To achieve this, FARA will engage the service of a consultant on a short-term basis to help identify priority value chains, key stakeholders, and conduct capacity gaps assessment, in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. This ToR illustrates the process for this engagement, the desired qualification, experience, and the desired deliverables.

B. Objectives of the Assignment

The central objective of this assignment is to carry out a capacity needs assessment for women and youth in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, as well as identifying major axes for investment.

Specific objectives

- To identify and analyze priority value chains in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda
- To select and validate key stakeholders within the identified value chains.
- To conduct a capacity gap assessment and provide an overview and analysis of the capacity strengths and weaknesses (individual, organization and systemic).

C. SCOPE of WORK

The consultant will work with the FARA Agribusiness Expert, in collaboration with ASARECA and EAFF to carry out the following functions.

1. Contribute to the development of an instrument for the identification and validation of stakeholders and priority value chains within the scope of the project.
2. Undertake a scoping exercise in Eastern Africa sub region, to
 - a. Identify priority value chains and key stakeholders (guided by the national agricultural plan)
 - b. Identify capacity gaps for women and youth in agribusiness.
 - c. Harmonize and recommend available materials for addressing the capacity gaps.
3. Review and analyze country agribusiness frameworks and action plans.
4. Develop a framework for establishing linkages and agribusiness alliances for increasing profitability and employment opportunities for women and youth in Eastern Africa.
5. Facilitate a virtual workshop with key partners on reviewing the framework and development of a guideline to establish an agribusiness learning alliance, with its supporting documents.

D. Outputs or Deliverables

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

1. An inception report highlighting the methodology to be adopted in carrying out the value chain and stakeholder mapping as well as the capacity gap assessment.
2. Value chains identified with report on justification of the selection.
3. Stakeholders identified with a report on justification of the selection.
4. A capacity gap assessment report developed for use by partners and stakeholders.
5. A framework for establishing linkages and agribusiness alliances in the project countries developed and validated by stakeholders.

E. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of this assignment will be **16 Man Days** spread over four months. The work shall be carried out from June 21, 2021 to October 15, 2021.

F. Location of the Assignment

The consultant will work virtually from its place of domicile with virtual linkages to the FARA secretariat.

G. Performance Criteria

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

H. Reporting

The consultants shall report through the FARA Agribusiness Expert, 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 consultants/ facilitators with all relevant documents, to support the activity and any other logistical support, as may be agreed, to ensure execution of the assignment.

J. Qualification and Experience

The following qualifications are required:

- The candidate to the assignment should possess an advanced university degree in agriculture, business, and administration, economics, development studies, or in any other domains related to agriculture or related disciplines.
- Should be highly knowledgeable on the issues affecting women and youth in agribusiness development.
- Should be familiar with ongoing projects in East Africa, funded by the European Union Commission
- Should have experience in conducting capacity assessments.
- Should have adequate knowledge and skills to undertake assignments remotely such as conducting research virtually.
- Should have demonstrated capacity to facilitate international workshops on agricultural development issues in Africa.
- Familiar with FARA's role in African agricultural research and development and should portray virtues of integrity and confidentiality.
- This position is open for private sector practitioners as well as seasoned researchers in AR4D.

K. Application Process

Interested candidates should send their expression of interest demonstrating how they will deliver of the tasks and a comprehensive curriculum vitae via email to the address below by close of business on **Thursday, 10th June 2021**.

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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.