



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

CONSULTANCY SERVICE: CONDUCT REGIONAL REVIEWS OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND COMMODITIES TO IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING TRADE POLICIES TO SUPPORT CROSS-BORDER TRADE IN AFRICA

Reference: CAADPXP4 3.5.2

A. BACKGROUND

Recent indication recommends that the export of agro-processed and other value-added goods made in Africa is greater in regional markets than in external markets, typically dominated by mostly low-value raw material exports. The 2013 World Bank estimates show that the value of Africa's agriculture and agribusiness market could expand to USD 1 trillion by 2030. However, this growth is likely to be adversely affected by the COVID-19 shock. The health crisis has already erased some of the gains achieved by African countries over the last two decades. Restrictive measures including lockdowns by countries on the continent have disrupted essential services such as food production and processing, imports of food and other essentials, transportation and other key functions of agricultural supply chains. Lessons learned from the pandemic crisis include maintaining open trade channels safely, policy coordination and transparency between member states and protecting essential workers to ensure that public health and food systems continue to operate.

Despite its vast agricultural potential, Africa remains a net importer of agricultural products with a food import bill of about USD 80 billion per year compared with exports of USD 61 billion. Africa is ranked among the lowest-performing regions, according to the World Bank Doing Business indicators and as measured by the share of intra-African agricultural trade as a percentage of total African agricultural trade, which has consistently remained below 20 percent in recent years. Overall progress on achieving the Malabo Declaration commitments by 2025 and on regional integration, in general, has been slow due to country disparities in the levels of development, inconsistent and conflicting regulations and standards, as well as infrastructure and connectivity problems at the border and behind the border that add to the cost of doing business in Africa (Benin, 2020). Several major challenges and constraints to food security arising from issues of limited productive capacity and intra-African trade have been identified. As documented in the

AU's 2019 Biennial Review and other sources, the poor state of infrastructure in Africa such as water, roads and telecommunications has reduced economic growth by 2 percent and lowered productivity by as much as 40 percent annually.

There is, therefore, the need to assess existing sub-regional trade mechanisms and develop a framework to support cross-border trade on the continent. To support Africa to better feed Africa, an enhanced framework on agricultural food and trade is needed. It seems that regional integration processes can be the key to this development, and this makes the role of continental organizations such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) important. Such organizations need to assess the trade in agricultural inputs and commodities to improve the implementation of existing trade policies to support cross-border trade among African countries.

B. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The central objective of this activity is to conduct regional reviews of trade in agricultural inputs and commodities to improve the implementation of existing trade policies to support cross-border trade in Africa. This is aimed at enhancing cross-border or intra-continental trade among African countries.

C. SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will perform the following tasks under this assignment:

- i. Conduct studies aimed at assessing existing sub-regional agricultural trade mechanisms that influence cross-border agricultural commodities and inputs.
- ii. Develop a framework that supports cross-border trade for agricultural inputs and commodities.

D. OUTPUT/DELIVERABLES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This activity is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- i. An inception report.
- ii. A synthesized continental report based on the sub-regional assessment reports.
- iii. A peer-reviewed publication from the studies.
- iv. A framework to support cross-border trade for agricultural inputs and commodities.
- v. Policy Brief based on the findings of the studies conducted.

E. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

Thirty-five (35) man-days are expected to be used for this assignment spread over 2 months.

F. LOCATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will work virtually from the 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 professional and ethical considerations, competence, and integrity. He/she is expected to deliver the outputs /Deliverables listed in Section D in a most effective and efficient manner within the assignment period.

H. REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the Executive Director of FARA through the Director of Research and Innovation and Policy Officer during the entire period of the assignment and on regular basis. The consultant will meet with the Director of Research and Innovation and the designated FARA staff at least one week before the start of the assignment to be briefed on FARA's expectations. The final report of the assignment is to be presented to FARA **14 Days after** the expiration of the date of the assignment.

I. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY FARA

FARA will provide the following information and facilities to the consultant:

- i. Logistics/travel information
- ii. The services of the Policy Officer at FARA
- iii. Any other relevant information required for the assignment
- iv. An introductory letter to agencies and organizations that need to be visited by the consultant.

J. FINANCING THE ASSIGNMENT

The Study would be financed as follows:

- 30% of the total study cost will be paid to the consultant upon receipt of an inception report
- 50% of the study cost will be paid to the consultant when the draft report is received and accepted
- 20% of the study cost will be paid to the consultant when the final report is submitted and accepted
- ***An inception meeting and a validation workshop*** to be funded and organized by FARA.

K. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The consultant must possess the following qualifications:

- a) An advanced university degree in agricultural economics, International Trade, Agricultural Policy, International Relations, or other relevant fields.
- b) At least five (5) years post-qualification experience.
- c) Proven experience in publishing research findings in recognized peer-reviewed journals.
- d) Have a fair knowledge of FARA activities and interventions
- e) Excellent oral and written communication and presentational skills. Spoken and written fluency required in English. Fluency in French will be a plus.
- f) Be available for carrying out the assignment.

L. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE

Consultants interested in this call must provide an Expression of Interest no longer than 10 pages, outlining proposed methodologies, references related to the execution of similar contracts, experience in similar areas, or evidence of knowledge and a proposed timeline. Brochures, CVs, and other supplementary materials submitted shall not be accounted for as part of the 10-page limit.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1500 hours. Submission of a proposal on the assignment must be delivered to the address below on or before 30th July 2021 to:

Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo,
Executive Director
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
PMB CT 173, Cantonment-Accra, Ghana
Email: recruitment@faraafrica.org

For further information and clarifications ONLY:

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