



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Capacity Gaps Assessment in 6 Tertiary Education Trust Fund's (TETFund) Centers of Excellence in Nigeria to improve Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA) design

Reference No: FARA/DRI/ ICF03/2.3 TETFUND

A. Background

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) are implementing a Brazilian component of the Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA). Under this partnership, TETFUND is supporting the training of Nigerian scientists in a tailor-made MSc/Ph.D. program in various fields of sciences related to agriculture at Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV)-Federal University of Viçosa.

With the goal of training 5000 Ph.D. in the next 10 years, ARIFA had to contend with the challenges posed by the covid pandemic. To address this challenge, FARA set up Virtual Training and Innovation Hubs (VTrain Hubs) in 6 TETFund selected Centers of Excellence, in the University of Benin; University of Lagos; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture; Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University; the University of Jos and the University of Maiduguri in Nigeria where lectures are being delivered online. In the future, the VTRAIN hubs will host an Innovation Platform (IP) for generating technologies and solutions.

As online classes are going on in various courses, the implementation of ARIFA in the 6 VTrain Hubs will allow for gathering data on capacity needs within the ARIFA framework, which will help in documenting evidence on the impact of the program and inform future decisions on articulating and bridging capacity gaps in the context of Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D).

Consequently, FARA is seeking the service of a high-level consultant to facilitate the conduct of capacity gaps assessment as a basis for the development of a strategy for establishing IPs.

B. Objectives of assignment

The overall objective of the assignment is to support FARA's efforts of conducting capacity gaps assessment to develop a capacity action plan to improve the Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA) design.

C. Scope of Work

- i. Conduct capacity gap assessment for ARIFA beneficiary institutions
- ii. Develop capacity action plans for strengthening and scaling VTrain Hubs in Africa
- iii. Support the dissemination of capacity audit reports from ARIFA beneficiary institutions

D. Expected Output and Deliverables

The consultant is expected to submit an inception report (1 week after contract signing), a draft report and a final report on the assigned activities facilitated by FARA by 30th November 2021

E. Duration of the Assignment

The duration of the assignment will be for 30-man days spread over 2months.

F. Location of the Assignment

The assignment will be home-based, but the consultant will be required to visit all ARIFA beneficiary institutions to collect data and engage with stakeholders. He/she may also be required to participate in a FARA event.

G. Performance Criteria

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

H. Reporting

The consultant will report to the Executive Director of FARA through the Institutional Capacity and Future Scenarios (ICF) research cluster.

I. Facilities to be provided by FARA.

FARA will provide the consultants/ facilitators with all reports on ARIFA activities and any other logistical support, as may be agreed, to facilitate the execution of the assignment.

J. Competencies and Experience

The consultant(s) should possess:

- A minimum of a Master's degree in Agricultural economics, Bio-Sciences, Agricultural Extension, or Agronomy with at least 5 years post qualification experience working on food and nutrition insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa and development issues in a polytechnic, research institution, or a University.
- Experienced in industrial training at mainstream gender and youth
- Proven competence in the conduct of capacity assessments and the crafting of capacity action plans in the higher education domain
- Experience in stakeholder engagement and agricultural enterprises
- Familiar with the principles of community-based interventions
- Should be highly knowledgeable on issues affecting African agricultural development, agricultural research, education, science, and technology.

Procedures and deadline for submitting detailed EOIs.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours. Documents to be submitted include a *Full CV with a list of previous similar work; a List and contacts of previous or current clientele on similar work; a Proposed Methodology, a technical approach, and a Work Plan for the assignment.* Submission of these documents must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday, 4th October 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 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