

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Develop a Framework for Establishing Agribusiness Learning Alliances

Activity Ref: TetfundARIFA Project/Activity 1.2.10

Procurement Ref: FARA/TETFUND/ARIFA/CS/IC/2022/01

A. Background

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) is implementing the Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA). Under this partnership, TETFund supports Nigerian scientists' training in a tailor-made postgraduate (MSc/Ph.D.) degree program in various fields of sciences related to agriculture at Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV)-Federal University of Viçosa, Viçosa, Brazil. With the expansion of the program to broader areas of learning and the development of a model for its scaling in other countries, the science-business nexus of the program shall depend on a robust strategy that feeds into its Innovation Platform component. FARA and its partners, recognize that: (a) strong engagement of agribusinesses in agriculture research and innovation is a condition for improved performance of the agriculture research system; (b) the linkages between agricultural research and agribusiness in Africa are weak; and (c) strengthening these linkages is an important pathway for enhancing the development outcomes of research. Therefore, the establishment of alliances for strengthening innovation platforms by increasing research on business linkages is essential.

As such, FARA draws from the lessons learned through the implementation of University Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN), Programme for Accompanying Research and Agricultural Innovation (PARI), and Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) to establish Agri-Business Learning Alliances (ABLA). These alliances will help facilitate the linkage of ARIFA fellows with the Brazil-Africa Agribusiness & Innovation Network (BRAIN) through establishing a national and a regional Agribusiness Learning Alliance. An Agribusiness Learning Alliance seeks to facilitate the process of establishing and strengthening strategic linkages among the private sector, researchers, civil society and extensionists. This sets an environment to identify and define market issues around the innovation, link innovation to specific developmental pathways and create profitable businesses for improved farmer livelihoods. The ARIFA ABLA will be mirrored based on the Viçosa model of Junior Business Group (JBUG).

The specific objective of establishing an ABLA includes;

- Enhancement of knowledge generation and management, information, best practices, and lessons learnt in supporting agribusiness development.
- Promotion of access to markets for the alliance members (especially for women and youth).
- Increasing entrepreneurship acumen and enterprise development for the alliance members.

Ultimately, an ABLA should serve as a platform to collate and integrate learning on business development leading to the generation of solutions and capacity development to address business constraints and bringing business ideas to scale.

To achieve this, FARA will engage the service of a consultant on a short-term basis to help develop a framework for establishing an Agribusiness Learning Alliance and its accompanying slide decks for capacity building.

B. Objectives of the Assignment

The central objective of this assignment is to develop a framework for establishing Agribusiness Learning Alliances and package training materials while considering the inclusion of women and youth entrepreneurs. The concept will use the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) approach to connect, build capacity, and co-create with partners and stakeholders.

The **specific objectives** are,

- i. To review capacity gap assessment reports, the framework for establishing ARIFA IPs, and FARA documents on Agribusiness Learning Alliances.
- ii. To develop a framework for establishing Agribusiness Learning Alliances leveraging on Junior Business Group (JBUG).
- iii. To package accompanying slide decks for developing capacities, create awareness and sensitization of key stakeholders

C. SCOPE of WORK

The consultant will work with the FARA Agribusiness and Gender Expert, to carry out the following functions.

- i. Collect and review the capacity gap assessment report and ARIFA documents for establishing Agribusiness Learning Alliances.
- ii. Contribute to conceptualization/design of a framework for establishing Agribusiness Learning Alliances.
- iii. Develop a framework for establishing Agribusiness Learning Alliances.
- iv. Develop slide decks alongside the ABLA framework for capacity-building of key stakeholders.
- v. Facilitate a forum with key stakeholders for awareness creation and sensitization.

D. Outputs or Deliverables

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

1. An inception report highlighting:
 - a. An analysis of the review of FARA-ARIFA documentation
 - b. Key elements to be considered in developing an ABLA framework.
 - c. The layout of the capacity-building slide deck
2. An ABLA framework developed for publication.
3. A set of power point slides accompanying the ABLA framework.
4. An ABLA information forum convened to develop capacities, create awareness, and sensitization of key stakeholders.
5. A final report with feedback and recommendation from key stakeholders.

E. Duration of the Assignment

The anticipated period of performance for this consultancy is **20 man-days** spread over two months. The work is expected to be carried out from 1st August 2022 to 30th September 2022.

F. Location of the Assignment

The consultant will work virtually from his/her 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 the execution of the assignment.

J. Qualification and Experience

The following qualifications are required:

- The candidate for the assignment should possess an advanced university degree in agriculture, business, and administration, social sciences, development studies, or any other domains related to agriculture or related disciplines.
- Should be highly knowledgeable on the issues affecting women and youth in agribusiness development.
- Familiar with stakeholder engagement, agricultural revenue, and enterprise development
- Should be familiar with operations within the innovation platforms and incubators in Africa's agricultural sectors.
- Should have experience in the development of AR4D programs and strategies.
- Should have adequate knowledge and skills to undertake assignments remotely such as conducting high-level forums 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 opened for private sector practitioners as well as seasoned researchers in AR4D.

K. Application Process

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 technical approach (Methodology), and a Work Plan for the assignment.* Submission of these documents must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday, 18th July 2022** at **14h00 GMT** to:

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:

Ms. Karen Munoko at: kmunoko@@faraafrica.org

Mr. Callistus Achaab at: cachaab@faraafrica.org

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