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**Terms of Reference**

**Consultancy to run an inventory, review, and synthesize the available knowledge and innovation around the different approaches and matrices for the integration of the sustainable farming systems**

**Procurement Ref:** FARA/AGRA/CS/IC/2022/02

## BACKGROUND

Various stakeholders play different roles in supporting the development of the agricultural sector in Africa. Africa agriculture is predominantly indigenous and lies in the hands of smallholder farmers who cultivate on small pieces of land. Nonetheless, several efforts are ongoing to improve the smallholder farming system in Africa; however, key challenges faced by the smallholder farmers are yet to be resolved. The solutions to the various constraints will require the collaboration of all stakeholders in African agriculture viz., researchers, academics, development partners, government, farmers, and other private sector actors.

With recent global challenges confronting the agriculture sector viz., climate change, soil degradation issues, the incidence of pests and diseases, and other human factors. The constraints are not solely technological but also institutional embracing economic, social, and cultural issues, and their interactions. The system configuration of the agricultural sector suggests that the various constituent of the system will be affected by any interventions in the system. As such the right approach must be holistic in nature; to ensure that the emerging solution options are sustainable.

The African agricultural landscape is dotted with various farming systems that emerged over decades based on the natural resource domains, climate, adapted crop and livestock commodities, social and cultural behaviors as well as economic opportunities. The key farming systems have also evolved following an increase in knowledge, technologies, and other behavioral changes in society. Key mega-trends in Africa, such as a bulging youth population, an increase in technologies [chemical. Mechanical and Biological]; the emergence of ICT, social movements such as gender equality campaigns, awareness on nutrition, etc. are fast influencing changes in the farming systems. These changes necessitate the need for a coordinated approach to defining the admissible farming system in Africa.

A major intervention to develop the smallholder farming system will require the contribution of a broad array of stakeholders, such as smallholder farmers, researchers, academics, development partners, government, and investors to engage in a critical review, planning, and implementation of agricultural investment actions.

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), with the SROs and in partnership with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), has identified the need for systematic investment in the agricultural sector to influence the desired change in livelihood and quality of life of the smallholder farmers in Africa. In alignment with the neo-food system thinking emerging from the 2021 UN Food systems summit, it is expected that African countries will initiate the process to institutionalize the key principles of the food system into the smallholder’s system at the country level.

This study aims to assess the existing farming system detailing changes in modes, structure, resource use, and sustainability posture. It will define a sustainable food system and the cross alliance. It will analyze the core differences and identify innovation opportunities. It will run a stakeholder mapping and identify the trigger of change in the sector.

To achieve the foregoing; FARA proposes to engage a suitable consultant to carry out this assignment with the needed professionalism and ethics.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Run an inventory, review, and synthesize the available knowledge and innovation around the different approaches and matrices for the integration of sustainable farming systems.

1. **SCOPE and SCHEME OF WORK**

Specifically, the consultant will provide support to the FARA Senior technical Cluster leader to undertake the following tasks:

1. Develop framework/ typology of different approaches for Regenerative agriculture; Agroecology, Sustainable intensification etc.
2. Run a SWOT (Qualitative & Qualitative) analysis for Sustainable farming and all its intricate components.
3. Quantify the business case including resource flow and income potential of the different approaches from the perspective of small-scale farmers.
4. Analyse if sustainable farming improves smallholder farmer income or not.
5. Determine if there are available data to leverage to demonstrate if sustainable farming improves smallholder farmer income or not

1. **OUTPUTS OR DELIVERABLES**

The following outputs are expected:

* 1. Develop technical reports on similarities and differences, complementarities, profitability and scalability, and impact.
  2. Support in the identification of key stakeholders for consultative meetings.
  3. Report of facilitated virtual consultation at the country, subregional and continental levels.

1. **DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment will be 18 consultancy days spread over two months. The work shall be carried out from the 12th of September to the 14th of November 2022 or once the contract is signed*.*

1. **LOCATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The consultant will work virtually from their place of domicile to coordinate and facilitate the different actions. Travel will be organized when necessary.

1. **PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

The Consultant is expected to undertake the services with the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, competence, and integrity. It 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.

1. **REPORTING**

The consultant shall report through the FARA Senior technical Cluster leader / Innovation systems specialist to the Director of Research and Innovation on all other logistics until the deliverables are submitted as required.

1. **FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY FARA**

FARA will provide the following materials to facilitate the assignment of the consultant:

* Guidance and available document(s).
* Travel ticket and modest per-diem to the consultant in the event of travel.
* Funds for data collection and entry.
* Concept note and other supporting documents

1. **QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

The following qualifications are required.

* A minimum of an advanced degree in Agriculture or related fields such as; agronomy, agroecology, farming systems, rural sociology etc. With at least 10 years post qualification experience working on agricultural research and development issues in a research institution, university, government system, or NGO.
* A good understanding of African agricultural structures and systems.
* Participation in major agricultural activities within the African continent.
* A track record of writing reports evidenced by publication records as books and chapters in books, conference papers, and journal articles.
* Ability *to* provide accurate, high-quality documents under pressure.

**Applications**

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, 5th September 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:

Dr. Fatunbi Oluwoleat: ***ofatunbi@faraafrica.org***

Mr. Callistus Achaab at: [***cachaab@faraafrica.org***](mailto:cachaab@faraafrica.org)

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