



FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy Services: Commission Regional Case Studies on Effective Partnerships for Innovation

Activity Reference: CAADP-XP4 Activity: 2.3.5

Procurement Reference: FARA/CAADP-XP4/CS/IC/2024/01

A. INTRODUCTION

The CAADP-XP4 program brings together major continental and sub-regional organizations viz., AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF, and FARA; to contribute to a climate-relevant development of African Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The CAADP-XP4 program in FARA is to strengthen its capacity to implement its mandate and collaborate with its stakeholders to collectively support African countries in delivering CAADP and SDGs results, through effective partnerships for innovation. The program is uniquely designed to promote food and nutritional security, economic development, climate change mitigation, and adaptation in Africa by improving the capacity and effectiveness of the FARA, AFAAS, and the SROs to deliver high-quality scientific outputs through partnership.

Innovation plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, societal development, and sustainable progress. In the last two decades, FARA has worked with the broad stakeholder group in African agriculture to develop the Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) approach for the development of the sector. It enacted the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) concept and the Innovation Platforms (IP) for its implementation. The proof of the IAR4D concept using rigorous research methodologies came up with empirical evidence that the IP delivers quick impact from investment in agricultural research, improves livelihood, provides the needed space for research demand by the end users, and meets the demand. FARA and its partners have embarked on a series of activities and projects to bring the IAR4D/IP knowledge to scale with significant success. The IP has become a household name in major agricultural research projects and has stood strong, yielding measurable successes in terms of livelihood change for key stakeholders. The year 2023 signifies a decade after the proof of concept, the last ten years have also brought a lot of changes to the outlook of the agricultural sector.

The CAADP-XP4 program has created an activity tagged “Commission regional case studies on effective partnerships for innovation” In implementing this activity, FARA is expected to, (i) Collate, synthesize, and disseminate knowledge on AIS; (ii) Conduct continental synthesis studies to update knowledge on AIS/ Share the new knowledge with the AIS Community of practice in a workshop; (iii). Backstop SROs

to advance the institutionalization of the IAR4D / IP to facilitate national research agenda-setting processes; and (iv) collate stakeholder experiences on Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships (MSPs).

Running this activity, it is imperative to consider changes in the sector and the relevance of the IAR4D / IP model as an implementation instrument to leverage science for technology generation, dissemination, and use. It will be important to consider, the increasing interest in food and nutrition security, climate change, soil management, soil health, fertilizer manufacture, supply, and use efficiency, social movement for agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and other megatrends that tend to drive the agricultural transition. The UN-led food systems transition drive among others is also indicative of the new outlook.

Considering these changes, the continuous relevance of the IAR4D-IP approach requires smart assessment to ensure its continuous relevance. While the multistakeholder approach keeps appealing to intelligence, the defining elements of the IAR4D-IP approach may require a revision or update. This concept note proposes to run a desk study that will document the status of the IAR4D-IP framework and conduct an analysis to update the knowledge and make recommendations.

The study will run the following.

- i. Collate, synthesize, and review the existing knowledge on Agricultural Innovation Systems.
- ii. Work with the FARA experts and others on the continent to review the building blocks of the IAR4D-IP model for relevance to emerging issues in African agriculture.
- iii. Collate stakeholders' experience on AIS and share the knowledge with broad stakeholders or selected partners in a webinar.
- iv. Produce the third white paper on the IAR4D/IP model

B. OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT

The central objective of the activity is to assess and document the effectiveness of the IAR4D/IP partnerships model for innovation to generate insights on the best model to ensure a collaborative effort for innovation in Africa.

Specific objectives

A. Approach and Activities

The assignment will be conducted in English and will generate updated knowledge on the agricultural innovation systems approach. The activities will include.

- i. Engagement of a suitable consultant with the needed experience.
- ii. Study methodology may include.
 - a. Desk study: a comprehensive desk review of existing literature, reports, studies, and documents on partnerships, innovation, multistakeholder arrangements for R&D, and other issues on agricultural innovation systems.
 - b. Surveys, Interviews, Key informant interviews, case studies, etc.

- c. Online questionnaire to purposively sampled stakeholders.
- d. Run a webinar with front-line experts, stakeholders and partners for validation exercise.
- iii. Documentation processes: (1) Development of the white paper including peer review, (2) Production of one Policy brief on the new concept.
- iv. Printing, layout, and dissemination exercises.

C. SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will support the FARA Ag Director of Research and Innovation to carry out the activities listed below:

- a. Desk study: a comprehensive desk review of existing literature, reports, studies, and documents on partnerships, innovation, multistakeholder arrangements for R&D, and other issues on agricultural innovation systems.
- b. Surveys, Interviews, Key informant interviews, case studies, etc.
- c. Online questionnaire to purposively sampled stakeholders
- d. Run a webinar with front-line experts, stakeholders and partners for validation exercise.

D. OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The following outputs are expected:

- a. The report of the different studies harmonized and presented in a book format laid out as the third White paper on IAR4D/ IP.
- b. A policy brief on the required partnership model to deliver agricultural innovation in Africa.

E. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The duration of this assignment will be 30 consultant days spread over three months. The work shall be carried out over the period of March to May 2024.

F. LOCATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant will carry out the assignment from his domicile virtually with a few travels where necessary and will consult with the FARA officer in charge of the study from time to time.

G. PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION 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 listed in Section C and D in a most effective and efficient manner within the assignment period stated in Section E of this document.

H. REPORTING

The consultants shall report directly to FARA Ag. DRI / Snr technical Cluster Leader on the assignment and all other logistics until the deliverables are submitted as required.

I. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY FARA

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

- Access to the electronic version of reports on IAR4D and the IP in its repository.
- Available link to existing and functional IPs in Africa.
- List of partners and front-line experts on IAR4D / IP models in Africa.

J. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The following qualifications are required.

- i. A minimum of M.Sc. degree in Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Administration, Agricultural Extension, Social Sciences, or Agronomy with at least 15 years of post-qualification experience working on agricultural research and development issues in a research institution or university. A Ph.D. degree will be an advantage.
- ii. A good understanding of the IAR4D concept, evidenced by previous assignments, studies, or training on the subject matter.
- iii. Good knowledge of research methodologies (Quantitative and Qualitative) evidenced by multidisciplinary studies.
- iv. Knowledge of contemporary issues in African agriculture and multistakeholder engagement and innovation.
- v. A track record of writing reports evidenced by publication records as books and chapters in books, conference papers, and journal articles.

K. CONFIDENTIALITY

The consultant is required to treat all information obtained during the assignment as confidential and should not disclose it to any third party without prior written consent.

L. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE

Kindly send via e-mail, your expression of interest detailing your methodology and a comprehensive curriculum vitae to the address below, no later than **February 15, 2024**:

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For further information and clarifications contact 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.*