



TERMS OF REFERENCE

DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING CROSS BORDER TRADE IN AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES AND INPUTS

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) institutions comprising African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) are currently implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) Programme. This Agricultural Research and Innovation Programme falls under the European Union's (EU) Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) initiative. The CAADP-XP4 Programme is financially supported by the EU and managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for a period of 4 years. The CAADP-XP4 Programme supports a science-led and climate-relevant agricultural transformation in Africa. It aims at strengthening the capacities of the above-mentioned organizations to deliver on their AR4D mandate, and to collectively support their respective member states and country fora to implement relevant programme. CCARDESA is currently implementing the CAADP-XP4 Programme in 7 countries in the SADC region (Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The five sub-regional and supra-national agricultural research and development institutions anticipate delivering specific objectives through five (5) outputs areas, namely: (i) Strengthened capacities of African institutions for successful implementation of the Programme. Targeted competencies include technical, organizational, infrastructure, coordination, multi-stakeholder management, resource mobilization, fiduciary processes, monitoring, evaluation, and learning; (ii) multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation established and in operation; (iii) strengthened policies in support of climate-relevant agriculture and food systems transformation formulated, investments increased, advocacy and market linkages; (iii) established knowledge management (KM) and communication systems for decision-making and sharing of innovation and for advocacy related to climate-relevant agriculture transformation; and (iv) enhanced planning, coordination, monitoring,

evaluation and learning (MEL) and reporting within CCARDESA, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES), and other multi-stakeholder partners, thus minimizing existent weaknesses and ensuring successful Programme implementation.

2. JUSTIFICATION

A number of policy instruments exists in the SADC region to promote regional integration and intra-regional trade such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) (2020–2030), SADC Trade Protocol in Services, the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy, the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) as well as the SADC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy. The RISDP is meant to allow free movement of capital, labour, goods and services in a SADC Common Market through removal of barriers on factors of production. Furthermore, most of countries in the region are signatories to the Common Market for East and Southern Africa as well the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement. These policies and agreements have a bearing for cross border trade in agricultural commodities and inputs. Therefore, offers opportunities for trade and enhanced cooperation and development for the region. However, there is still very limited trade taking place among African countries in the region compared to countries outside the African continent and the region.

The CAADP-XP4 programme intends to support undertaking evidence-supported advocacy to improve the implementation of existing policies to support cross border trade in agricultural inputs and commodities. This will be achieved by undertaking the following tasks: (i) assemble evidence to enhance advocacy on trade and regional harmonization; (ii) convene regional policy dialogues to share/discuss the consolidated report/findings; (iii) consolidate the national reports into regional status reports and share with FARA/AFAAS; and (iv) continuously communicate the outcomes of policy reforms to out-scale their impacts at national & sub-regional level.

In this regard, CCARDESA seeks to engage a Consultant to develop an evidence-supported regional advocacy strategy for engagement and policy reform to promote transborder trade in agricultural commodities and inputs as well as an implementation plan for its operationalization. The aim of undertaking this assignment is to enhance CCARDESA's engagement with the key stakeholders to influence policy reform and harmonization to facilitate cross border trade of agricultural commodities and inputs.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The overall objective of this consultancy is to develop a regional advocacy strategy to influence policy reform and harmonization to facilitate cross border trade of agricultural commodities and inputs. Such a Strategy will consider the diverse views and aspirations of all the relevant actors in the region. It will also explore best practice models for effective engagement of strategic partners to drive policy reform and implementation to promote cross

border trade of agricultural commodities.

4. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The specific objectives of this consultancy include to:

- i. Explore and propose a concrete advocacy strategy for long term engagement with key stakeholders including the private sector, women, youth and other non-state actors as well as mechanisms for implementing the identified strategies for promoting cross border trade in the CAADP-XP4 participating countries;
- ii. Carry out consultations with relevant stakeholders to collect their views and aspirations regarding effective partnerships for innovations on climate change;
- iii. Prepare a draft Advocacy and Engagement Strategy document and its Implementation Plan;
- iv. Organize/facilitate virtual workshop to validate the Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- v. Prepare the final Strategy document and its Implementation Plan.
- vi. Develop a report on advocacy development process in the region.

5. SCOPE OF WORK

To complete this task, the Consultant will undertake the following specific tasks:

- i. Develop an appropriate methodology for carrying out the assignment. The detailed methodology will be included in the technical proposal as well as the inception report;
- ii. Carry out in-depth desk review of similar strategies within the region, continent and globally to glean out best practice models of policy advocacy to promote cross border trade and harmonization of policies;
- iii. Conduct both virtual and face-to-face consultations with the relevant stakeholders to gather information that will inform the development of a strategy;
- iv. Benchmark on current engagement modalities among AR4D institutions and the private sector and non-state-actors;
- v. Design strategies taking into account the needs of private sector, women, youth and other non-state actors during implementation of the strategy as well as modalities on how to implement the identified interventions;
- vi. Develop a comprehensive Advocacy Strategy and the Implementation Plan for enhancing effective engagement of the key stakeholders to promote cross-border trade;
- vii. Hold a virtual stakeholder Validation Workshop;
- viii. Finalize and submit the Advocacy Strategy to the CCARDESA.

6. DELIVERABLES

The key deliverables are:

- i. An **Inception Report** that clearly spells out the proposed methodology and approach

with clear timelines, data collection tool with data sources, validation plan and other requirements necessary for the delivery of the assignment;

- ii. A **draft Advocacy Strategy document** and its related **Implementation Plan** for engagement of key stakeholders relevant for promoting cross border trade for agricultural commodities and inputs. These documents should articulate:
 - Key actionable recommendations on viable advocacy strategies for engagement of the key actors on cross border trade of agricultural commodities and inputs;
 - Modalities on how to implement the identified strategies;
 - An Implementation Plan that outlines clear timelines for the actions proposed as well as required budget;
- iii. **Validation workshop report**, detailing key recommendations;
- iv. **Final Strategy with an Implementation Plan** with incorporated suggestions;
- v. **Knowledge Product (policy brief)** based on the cross-border advocacy issues from the developed strategy for the region.

7. SUPPORT TO THE CONSULTANT

CCARDESA will support the Consultant in the following areas:

- i. Provide the contact details of the technical staff from the Secretariat and selected regional and country-level stakeholders to be interviewed during the assignment;
- ii. Provide relevant information/literature materials as might be required;
- iii. Provision of an introductory letter.

8. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

- i. At least MSc degree in Agricultural Economics; Economics; International Business; Media and Communication, Policy and Advocacy and any relevant field. Post-graduate training in the relevant area is required.
- ii. At least 10 years' experience in: (a) the development sector, preferably in working with the private sector; (b) cross border trade; and (c) developing strategies and implementation action plans.
- iii. Proven ability to write concise reports.
- iv. Experience in similar assignments (development of strategies and implementation action plans).
- v. Experience on sample design and data collection methodologies including online data collection techniques as well as development of survey tools.
- vi. Experience in working in Southern African countries.
- vii. Experience in gender and youth mainstreaming will be an added advantage.

9. DURATION

The assignment is expected to take a total of 15 working days spread across 40 calendar days.

10. REPORTING

The Consultant will report to the CAADP-XP4 Programme Coordinator of CCARDESA and will work closely with the Programme Officer and other technical staff at the Secretariat.

11. APPLICATION

Interested consultants are required to submit their expression of interest letter (via e-mail) and a comprehensive curriculum vitae, detailing proof of similar experience, together with the names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of three referees. The best ranked consultant shall be selected based on their submitted CV. A mutually agreed financial proposal shall be discussed after being selected for the assignment.

Applications should be submitted on or before **28th September, 2021** to:

The Executive Director

Attn: Procurement Officer

CCARDESA Secretariat

Private Bag 00357, Gaborone, Botswana

E-mail: procurement@ccardesa.org