



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANCY TO IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION

1) BACKGROUND

The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) is a SADC sub-regional organization created by Member States to coordinate regional cooperation in agricultural research and development. CCARDESA Secretariat is based in Gaborone and has a mandate that spans the whole SADC region. The organization was established through a Charter and operates under subsidiarity to the SADC Secretariat and relates to the SADC Secretariat through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two organisations. Under the MoU, the SADC Secretariat provides overall strategic policy guidance and leadership to CCARDESA to ensure that CCARDESA's regional Research and Development (R&D) agenda and priorities are consistent with the policies, aspirations and strategic orientation of SADC Member States.

This subregional organization executes its work through partnerships with strategic actors at regional and country level. Since its existence, CCARDESA has continued to establish partnerships with various actors to execute its mandate. Partnerships are therefore very critical towards the effective function of CCARDESA in its regional mandate. This is articulated in the CCARDESA long-term Strategy (2020-2029) and Medium-Term Operational Plan (2021-2025). There is a need to evaluate the existing partnerships to optimize their existence and streamline them for effectiveness as well take measures to address existing gaps.

CCARDESA is also implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme EX Pillar 4 (CAADP-XP4) Programme on Agricultural Research and Innovation under the support of the EU's "Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture" (DeSIRA) initiative. CCARDESA is implementing this programme in partnership with other Ex-CAADP Pillar 4 Africa institutions comprising; African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). The CAADP-XP4 Project is financed through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for a period of four (4) years 2019 - 2023. Its implementation focus is in 7 SADC target countries (i.e. Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The CAADP-XP4 project supports a science-led and climate-relevant agricultural transformation in Africa and aims at strengthening the capacities of CCARDESA and its partners to deliver on their Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) mandate. It intends to collectively support African countries to implement relevant programmes of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through: inclusive regional and international partnerships; production and exchange of climate relevant agricultural knowledge; effective communication, monitoring and evaluation; promotion of systemic and effective use of science, knowledge and

innovation; and representation of the Sub Regional and National Organizations at Continental level. Furthermore, the CAADP-XP4 project seeks to deliver key outputs that will contribute to an effective African agricultural research knowledge and innovation system, demand-driven public policies on agricultural research and extension services, and enhanced knowledge sharing and technology development for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture and food systems.

Under the CAADP-XP4 CCARDESA intends to establish and operationalise multi-stakeholder partnerships for innovation that focus on climate change in agriculture and food systems. Furthermore, to mobilise international expertise, facilitate exchange and collaboration with international organizations to strengthen capacities of the targeted organisations in the regional countries to realize the outputs of the CAADP-XP4 program. This will also entail supporting demand-driven innovation through South–South, North–South and North-South- cooperation.

CCARDESA is expected to bring together national, regional and European organisations to jointly plan, execute, evaluate and report the activities and outputs of the CAADP-XP4 Program. Some of the targeted stakeholders include farmers, farmer organisations, the private sector and other major actors who can provide critical input in the planning and implementation process, including coordinating equitable participation of youth and women at all levels.

2) PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

To improve its approach towards pursuing effective partnerships, CCARDESA wishes to engage the services of a competent and reputable regional consultant to carry out a study to review CCARDESA's operational space and identify the most effective partnerships that CCARDESA needs to pursue to attain the CAADP-XP4 project objectives and the organisation's broader role in driving agricultural innovation in the region.

3) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Specifically, the objectives of this assignment are to:

- i. Develop a suitable data collection tool/ approach for the assignment.
- ii. Generate comprehensive information on the state of CCARDESA partnerships and their relevance and effectiveness with respect to its regional mandate in the agricultural sector.
- iii. Synthesise information on the current state of CCARDESA partnerships and related initiatives in Southern Africa with both local regional and international partners.
- iv. Identify gaps/opportunities to foster effective partnerships to support climate-relevant innovation to facilitate transformation of the agricultural sector in the target countries and the region.

4) SCOPE OF WORK

The Consultant will work closely with 2 technical staff from CCARDESA to facilitate wider analysis at international, regional and selected partners at target countries' level. In executing this assignment, the Consultant will undertake the following specific tasks:

- i. Develop an appropriate methodology for carrying out the assessment of CCARDESA partnerships looking at the past 10 years and at any future advanced project pipelines at CCARDESA, regional level and within the SADC countries and beyond especially involving European partners. The detailed methodology will be included in the technical proposal;

- ii. Using the Assessment tool(s), to assess the existing partnership initiatives/ agreements, gaps and interventions needed to foster effectiveness to advance agricultural innovation.
- iii. This assignment will entail an evaluation of the current partnerships to inform the approach in future engagements.
- iv. Document case studies on effective partnerships for innovation that can be modelled in the SADC region.

5) METHODOLOGY

The Consultant is expected to propose and implement a practical methodology for undertaking the assignment. The assignment will explore partnerships within the SADC region and beyond. The proposed approach for carrying out the assessments should take into account issues unique to the SADC region and to include the minimum elements needed for the region to tap on the south-south and north-south partnerships including with relevant European organisations. Furthermore, the consultant shall assess CCARDESA-SADC MoU and other core MoUs & LoAs and other governance documents to suggest areas of improvement or refinement to improve effectiveness in the organisation in driving agricultural innovation in the region. The assignment will be homebased and is to be conducted virtually.

6) DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

The consultant is expected to conduct this work virtually for a period of 10 working days spread over a period of 2 months from July to August 2021.

7) DELIVERABLES

The key deliverables are:

- i) A brief **inception report** as part of the proposal spelling out the proposed technical approach, time scale, resources and validation plan for the delivery of the final partnership strategy.
- ii) A **draft partnership Report** (based on an agreed outline) 4 weeks after signing of the assignment contract. This shall also include:
 - a. Findings from the assessment; on the identified gaps/ opportunities based on the agreed tool(s);
 - b. Case studies for effective partnership for innovation worth modelling;
 - c. Recommendations for next steps, including recommendations on addressing gaps, improving partnership formulation, policy analysis and policy advocacy, and any necessary capacity strengthening;
- iii) A **final Partnership Strategy Report** 6 weeks after the signing of the assignment contract incorporating comments received from CCARDESA and its respective key stakeholders;
- iv) A **policy brief** or any **other knowledge** and **communication product** based on the partnership assessment Synthesis Report.

8) SUPPORT TO THE CONSULTANT

CCARDESA will support the Consultant by providing guidance on existing CCARDESA partnerships and contacts in the region and beyond during the implementation of the assignment. Therefore, the Consultant will work very closely with the key contact persons at CCARDESA Secretariat in the delivery of this assignment. The wide range of support will include the following:

- Introduce the consultant to the regional contact persons in partner organisations;
- Liaise with partner contact persons to ensure that response to the data collection tool is concluded in a timely manner;

- Provide relevant CCARDESA information/literature materials including strategic documents that may be required by the consultant.

9) QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE CONSULTANT

The Consultant shall be required to have the following qualifications and experience;

- (a) Have at least a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Economics, Development Studies or other agricultural related fields.
- (b) Experience on development of survey tools, data collection methodologies including online data collection techniques.
- (c) At least fifteen years' experience in the agricultural development sector; preferably familiar with partnerships and experience at regional and/ or at international level.
- (d) Familiarity with the global innovation systems, the SADC regional research and development landscape and experience with working European research institutions.
- (e) Good understanding of SADC regional research and development landscape and related policies and CAADP processes, continental and sub-regional agricultural research organisations.
- (f) Have demonstrable ability to write concise technical papers and synthesis reports.
- (g) Experience of EU agricultural research and development initiatives would be an added advantage.

10) REPORTING

The consultant will report to the CCARDESA Programmes and Grants Manager through the CAADP-XP4 Coordinator who will be responsible for daily technical and administrative issues for the assignment.

11) APPLICATION

Interested consultants are required to submit their expression of interest (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.

Applications should be submitted by **23rd July, 2021** to:

The Executive Director

Attn: Procurement Officer

CCARDESA Secretariat

Private Bag 00357, Gaborone, Botswana

E-ma:procurement@ccardesa.org