



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

# Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Project

## ENGAGEMENT OF A PROJECT OFFICER

July, 2021

## **A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Climate change is a major concern to the agricultural sector because of its impacts on production of agricultural primary products, disturbance to livelihoods and the threat it poses to human and animal life. It threatens food security globally and puts huge pressure on the production resources, human capital planning and socio-economic development. CCARDESA has given priority in its Strategic Plan and the Operational Plan to addressing the impacts of climate change and improving the resilience of production systems in Southern Africa. Similarly, the CGIAR Research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/>) in Africa has marshalled the science and expertise of CGIAR and partners to catalyse positive change towards climate-smart agriculture (CSA), food systems and landscapes.

With this common target on climate change, a project called Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) was developed for implementation by CCAFS, CCARDESA, SADC, RUFORUM, ASARECA, ICPAC, and other collaborators. The overall strategic area of collaboration is on climate risks for agriculture, risk reduction and management of key regional agricultural value chains. The project is supported by the World Bank.

As a Sub-Regional Research Organisation (SRO) established in 2010 by Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), CCARDESA's work focuses on coordinating agricultural research and agricultural development in the SADC region. CCARDESA works closely with regional and international partners to facilitate implementation of regional projects that contribute to food security by directly stimulating production and productivity or reducing the impact of obstacles to agricultural production.

Working with other partners on the project, CCARDESA will lead the process of conducting studies to synthesise the available CSA technologies and disseminate the report to stakeholders. The outputs of the studies will be part of the inputs towards capacity development, learning and spill over to other countries. CCARDESA will also participate and contribute to other activities of the project, including training the partners and key stakeholders in the region on the use of CSA with a focus on knowledge products, approaches and the available tools. The training will target stakeholders such as extension staff, private sector, input traders and community based agricultural support organisations. There will be a strong orientation of training for purposes of enhancing adoption and use of CSA technologies.

The main components of the project are:

1. Build capacity in three focus countries of public and private sector next users to support implementation of CSA technology packages.
2. Identify and leverage continental and regional CIS and CSA scaling opportunities.
3. Strengthening digital climate advisory services in Eastern and Southern Africa. This sub-component will seek to identify tailored CIS and digital agro-advisory packages.

4. Development of ag-data hubs and decision support systems.
5. Develop existing or strengthen new National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS).
6. Enhance the capacity of public institutions and private firms to provide climate service delivery models.

CCARDESA will lead in the implementation of components 1 and 2, which will form the key activity basis in the next 3 years. In addition, CCARDESA will collaborate with other partners within the project to contribute significantly to components 3-6. CCARDESA will provide timely outputs from the activities it will implement to generate good outputs that will contribute to the attainment of the project outcomes.

## **B. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this assignment is to provide technical leadership to the implementation of the project on “Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA)” to achieve all the outputs.

## **C. SERVICE REQUIRED AND SCOPE OF WORK**

In order to meet the objective of this assignment, CCARDESA is seeking the services of a highly experience individual to lead the implementation of the activities of the AICCRA project and ensure that all the outputs are achieved within the contract timeframes. The individual will work closely with the Programmes and Grants Manager at CCARDESA Secretariat to carry out the following tasks:

1. Develop an appropriate work plan based on the project document and indicate the sequence of delivery of the outputs;
2. Implement the activities that are directly under CCARDESA’s mandate as well as related activities to which CCARDESA is expected to contribute;
3. Provide overall leadership in the implementation and coordination of the project activities;
4. Prepare periodic technical reports on the implementation of the project activities;
5. Prepare periodic progress reports of the project;
6. Prepare the final project implementation report leading to closure of the project;
7. Liaise with other AICCRA project implementing partners as well as projects of CCARDESA to achieve the objectives of the project through synergies; and
8. Perform any other duties assigned to you by the Programmes and Grants Manager.

These tasks will have to be accomplished in close consultation with the Programmes and Grants Manager, who will guide the successful individual through the CCARDESA process and also perform a technical backstopping role to the project.

## **D. Location of the Assignment**

The assignment will be based at CCARDESA Secretariat since it is a coordination task involving work that is done at CCARDESA as well as by partners located in different parts of the SADC region. Therefore, some tasks will be done virtually partly due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The successful individual will need to have very good internet connectivity and be always available during the course of the assignment.

## **E. DELIVERABLES**

The deliverables of this assignment are the outputs indicated in the project document. The successful individual will start by reviewing the project document and, in consultation with the Programmes and Grants Manager, develop a list of the outputs to be achieved. In addition to the outputs in the project document, the following will need to be submitted:

1. Monthly, quarterly and annual work plans;
2. Monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports;
3. Project final technical report; and
4. Backstopping missions reports.

## **F. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

The minimum academic qualifications and work experience are as follows:

- (a) Have at least a Masters degree in Agricultural Sciences, Agriculture Economics or a closely (relevant) related field;
- (b) At least ten years' experience in the agricultural development sector;
- (c) Proven experience in management of multi-country agricultural projects;
- (d) Demonstrable ability to write very clear technical reports;
- (e) Proven ability to work both independently and as part of a team;
- (f) Good interpersonal skills and experience in working with a diverse group of people;
- (g) Experience in working in Southern African countries, especially for international organizations in the agricultural sector; and
- (h) Knowledge of SADC languages would be an added advantage,

## **G. EVALUATION FACTORS**

Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of the extent to which they meet the specified qualifications and experience in section F.

## **H. DURATION**

This assignment will commence on the day on which the individual signs the agreement and will lapse on 31 December 2023, subject to satisfactory performance.

## **I. REPORTING**

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

## **J. REMUNERATION**

The successful candidate will be remunerated based on the budget available from the donor for this project.