

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

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Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation

ARAA



ECOWAS COMMISSION

Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

RAAF

Call for candidatures

Selection of an individual consultant, for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Food Security Reserve's interventions in 2021

Reference	ARAA/BUDGET/2021/SCI/18 <i>α</i>
Date of Publication	3.0 AOÛT 2021
Deadline for Submission	2.0 SEPT 2021
Duration of the Mission	30 days
Number of Years of Experience	07 Years of Experience

I. Context

Since 2012, ECOWAS has had a regional food security strategy based on the complementarity of three lines of defence in the face of food and nutrition crises: local storage managed by local communities or producers' organisations, national security stocks managed by the States and, finally, the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR) created by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in 2013.

With the support of the European Union, this strategy has been deployed since 2016, at all three levels. The RFSR consists of a physical stock of cereals of nearly 40,000 tonnes and a financial reserve that is currently being built. It has governance bodies (management committee, detailed procedures) and its technical management is carried out by a dedicated division within the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food.

Since its creation, the RFSR has intervened on 10 occasions in response to requests from countries facing major food and nutrition crises and which met the Reserve's eligibility criteria.

In order to preserve its capital, the RFSR only intervenes subject to the full replenishment of the food mobilised, and this via three possible modalities: (i) reconstitution "grain for grain" by the beneficiary state; (ii) payment of the intervention by a third party; (iii) regional solidarity, via the ECOWAS Commission's budget (Humanitarian Emergency Fund in particular).

The principle of intervention of the RFSR is to support and contribute to the National Response Plan, and to rely on the national food and nutrition crisis management system, the targeting and distribution methods, and the monitoring and evaluation mechanism adopted by the country facing a crisis.

However, this principle and approach are insufficient to ensure detailed monitoring of the RFSR interventions and to measure their effects and impacts on the food and nutrition situation of vulnerable populations.

In 2020, a methodology for monitoring and evaluating the RFSR interventions was developed, but could not be tested, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic measures.

In 2021, the region is again facing a severe crisis due to a combination of factors: insecurity, health crisis, climatic shocks, weak and vulnerable livelihoods for a significant proportion of households, etc.

Several countries have requested the mobilisation of the RFSR to help manage the food and nutrition crisis during the lean season. The Executive Board of the Reserve Management Committee decided on 03 August 2021 to allocate 7,372 tonnes of cereals to Mali and 7,599 tonnes to Niger. These interventions will be deployed in August 2021.

II. Objective and expected results of the mission

The study has four objectives:

- Monitor and evaluate in real-time the implementation and effects of the intervention (in the form of cereals and nutritional products) of the Regional Food Security Reserve in Niger and Mali, based on the methodology and tools developed by ECOWAS for the 2021 interventions;
- Identify specific strengths and challenges related to the implementation of RFSR 's support to the National Response Plan in 2018, 2020 and 2021;
- Review the 10 interventions (2017-2021) with a focus on MoU implementation, challenges faced by countries, the importance of RFSR intervention in NRPs, targeting, funding for intervention implementation (transport, distribution, etc.), visibility/communication, monitoring and evaluation mechanism implemented by countries, etc.
- Formulate proposals for improving the methodology for monitoring and evaluating RFSR

III. Qualifications, skills and experience

The consultant should have a very good knowledge of (i) the ECOWAS regional storage strategy and more generally the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP); (ii) the Regional Food Security Reserve; (iii) national food and nutrition crisis prevention and management mechanisms.

He/she should have at least 7 years of experience in the field of food storage and crisis management.

He/she should have higher education (at least 5 years of higher education) in economics, rural economics, rural sociology, nutrition, or any other discipline related to the theme.

IV. Language Requirements

Fluency in one of the three working languages of ECOWAS (English, French, Portuguese) is required. Good linguistic knowledge (written and oral) of a second working language of the Commission would be an asset.

V. Candidate's Application Requirements

They will consist of:

- An expression of interest letter, including time availability;
- A recent résumé detailing work experience and similar missions;
- Three professional references (full names, positions, emails and phone contacts);
- Copy of higher degrees(s);
- Copies of work or service certificates listed on your résumé.
- A detailed methodology and work plan for the execution of the mission. (Applicants will be able to download the terms of reference of the mission for more details).

NB: Any incomplete application will be rejected.

VIII. Submission of Application

Applications shall be received no later than **20 SEPT 2021** at 5 pm GMT, by hand delivery or by email to the following addresses: Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation (ARAA), 83, rue de la Pâture (Super Taco), 01 BP 4817 Lomé, Togo - Tel.+228 22 21 40 03 (in a sealed envelope marked " Selection of an individual consultant, for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Food Security Reserve's interventions in 2021")." Email: procurement.consultants@araa.org In subject: " **Selection of an individual consultant, for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Food Security Reserve's interventions in 2021**".

NB: Applications that do not include the following in the subject line " Selection of an individual consultant, for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Regional Food Security Reserve's interventions in 2021" will not be considered.

IX. Selection Method

The consultant will be selected according to the qualification-based selection method as defined in the ECOWAS Public Procurement Code. ARAA will draw up a list of up to 6 candidates, pre-selected on the basis of the applications received, for the rest of the process, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The RAAF reserves the right not to respond to this call for applications.

For the Executive Director



BILGO Ablassé
Head of technical Operations Division