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FOOD SECURITY STORAGE SUPPORT PROJECT IN WEST AFRICA

Terms of Reference

Recruitment of a Consultant for the Production and Editing of the Report of the International Conference on the Regional Storage System and the Building of a Multilateral Partnership.

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I. GENERAL

I.1 Context and justification of the need

1. The West African region, despite encouraging economic results and a significant increase in crop, livestock and fisheries production¹, and the reduction of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition and poverty, is plagued by many vulnerability factors. This vulnerability regularly leads to widespread or localised acute food crises that affect several million people each year². These crises constitute major constraints to the achievement of certain sustainable development and ECOWAP goals: notably poverty reduction, elimination of hunger, and food and nutrition security by 2030.
2. As a result of this situation, in 2012 the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States adopted the regional food security storage strategy, which has two major dimensions: (i) food security storage to cope with shocks, and (ii) commercial storage to structure agricultural value chains and regulate food markets.
3. To strengthen the region's leadership in resolving food insecurity and achieving food sovereignty, the Conference of Heads of State and Government, at its 42nd Ordinary Session, held on 27 and 28 February 2013 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, adopted an Additional Act (AS/2/02/13) establishing the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR). This Reserve is composed of a physical stock (1/3) and a financial reserve (2/3). It supports the efforts of the States by articulating and strengthening the functionality of the three lines of defence (i) the proximity stocks held by the OP and the Territorial Communities (ii) the national security stocks managed by the States and (iii) the RFSR.
4. In 2014, the ECOWAS Commission mobilised internal and external resources through its international partners to operationalise this integrated storage strategy through the implementation of the Regional Food Security Storage Support Project (Stock Project) financed to the tune of 56 million euros by the European Union.
5. After 5 years of implementation of the Stock project, a first capitalization has allowed to systematize important achievements, challenges and lessons for scaling up results in order to make the RFSR an instrument for the elimination of hunger in the region in 2030 and a contribution to the construction of a more secure and resilient global food system.
6. Thus, Producer Organisations in surplus, deficit and agro-pastoral areas, ECOWAS States and the regional network of national storage institutions (RESOGEST) have benefited from technical and financial support that has enabled them to define national policies and strategies aligned with those of the region and allowing them to strengthen stocks at local and national level, managed on the basis of best practices (governance, transparency, fairness, procedures for acquiring products and controlling their quality, etc.).
7. The RFSR, which has governance bodies (Steering, Management Committee), a technical management unit (UTGR) and intervention and control instruments, has been able to build up a stock of 32,178.5

¹ Report of the Experts' Meeting on the Review of ECOWAP 2025, Conakry, Guinea 2-4 December 2019

² According to the 36th meeting of the RPCA, the food and nutrition situation in the region, which is strongly exacerbated by the cross-effects of health, security and market inflation crises, currently affects 16.9 million people and this figure could rise to 24 million by July-September 2021 if nothing is done.

tonnes of cereals managed by public storage structures in five countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Ghana) on the basis of agreements. It intervened in four countries (Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso) for a total volume of 19,817 tonnes, reaching 440,370 people and 104,680 children in the framework of the technical rotation of stocks in Ghana for school canteens. These interventions were carried out efficiently with an average of 45 days between the receipt of the complete request from the country, the decision of the Management Committee and the procedure for handing over the food to the beneficiary country.

8. In view of the important achievements, lessons learned, the consensus of international partners and regional institutions on the relevance of consolidating the regional storage strategy in general and supporting ECOWAS in the perpetuation of the Regional Food Security Reserve in particular, a second phase of the Stock Project is necessary. This will allow the scaling up of results, the taking into account of new factors and risks of vulnerability linked to insecurity in the Sahel and the COVID-19 pandemic on the one hand, and the articulation with social protection and resilience building policies in the region on the other.
9. This is why the Ministerial Technical Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, meeting in Conakry in December 2019, asked the ECOWAS Commission to organise an in-depth capitalisation of this unique regional system and to prepare an international conference. These initiatives should make it possible to (i) publicise and share the results obtained; (ii) map out the prospects for the next 10 years in a context of major and rapid change; (iii) lay the foundations for an enlarged partnership around the regional food reserve system, capable of dealing with the structural risks and new forms of vulnerability facing West African populations; and (iv) accelerate the achievement of collective food security.

II. Presentation of the Conference

II.1 Objectives, expected results and themes

10. The conference is conceived as a space for sharing and reflecting on the experiences of the West African Food Reserves, other regions of Africa and the world, and for policy dialogue between the region and its partners on the modalities of sustaining the regional storage system.
11. This high-level technical and political conference is being prepared under the leadership of ECOWAS in consultation with the stakeholders of the regional storage system, notably the European Commission, AECID as delegated operator, heavily involved in institutional support to the RAAF and the deployment of social food security nets, and AFD as lead partner of ECOWAP and delegate in the management of components 1, 2 and 3 of the Stock project. In addition, it will see the participation of national (Member States), regional (CILSS, UEMOA...) and international (WFP, FAO, IFPRI, OECD, IFAD...) stakeholders, humanitarian NGOs (OXFAM), FO networks (ROPPA, ROAC, RBM, APESS...).

II.1.1 Objectives

12. The overall objective of the conference is to build the basis for a renewed multilateral partnership to strengthen the resilience of the regional storage system in a sustainable manner and its capacity to respond effectively to the amplification and complexity of nutritional and pastoral food crises.
13. Specifically, it aims to:
 - a. Conduct a retrospective and prospective analysis (horizon 2030) of the region's vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity and its implications for storage systems in a context of increasing and multiplying risks;

- b. To share the West African experience of food reserves at the three scales (achievements, lessons, challenges) and those of other regions of Africa and the world and to discuss the place of storage systems in the response to cyclical crises, the strengthening of the region's resilience and the social protection of households by 2030;

Build the basis for a multi-stakeholder partnership around the regional reserve system, enabling the technical, organisational and financial challenges to be addressed, and identify areas for enhanced coordination of food and nutrition assistance with the international humanitarian community

II.1.2 Expected results

14. The expected outcomes of the conference are:

- Risk factors for vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity are analysed and recommendations for improving the region's response strategies to the diversity and scale of the crises are formulated;
- The achievements, shortcomings, lessons learned and challenges of the implementation of the regional storage strategy and those of other regions of Africa and the world are analysed and the conditions for taking them into account with a view to sustaining the regional storage system in conjunction with the structuring of value chains, social protection and strengthening the region's resilience to crises are identified.
- A declaration or partnership agreement (i) technical on the principles of reserve management, (ii) political, including coordination issues under ECOWAS leadership with the international humanitarian community, and (iii) financial with a view to the sustainability of the regional strategy for the management of food and nutritional crises is signed between ECOWAS and its technical and financial partners

II.1.3 Themes of the conference

15. In addition to an introductory session on "**Food Reserves, Development and Peace**", reflections and sharing of experiences during the conference will be based on the following themes:

- **Theme 1:** Vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity and food crisis management strategies in West Africa;
- **Theme 2:** Food Storage and Food Sovereignty in West Africa;
- **Theme 3:** Articulations and synergies between food security stocks and market regulation stocks (experiences from countries in the region or other regions), social protection and resilience;
- **Theme 4:** Partnership, funding mechanism and coordination for the sustainability of the region's storage strategy and strengthening its participation in the global dialogue on storage and sustainable food systems

III. Conference format

16. Given the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic with the generalisation of the second wave, the increase in cases of infection in all countries of the world and the region, all technical and political sessions of the conference will be virtual. It will therefore be a videoconference.

Indicatively, the conference will be organised as follows:

- A series of 5 thematic seminars of 4 hours including 30 minutes of breaks, which will take place from the **third week of April to the first week of May 2021**, depending on the sessions
- Introductory plenary presentations by a researcher/practitioner-decision-maker followed by discussion and synthesis;
- Experience sharing panels followed by summaries;
- Thematic group work (Theme 4) followed by a plenary session and a synthesis;
- A thematic synthesis prior to the high-level meetings, which takes up the themes in a more cross-cutting way, brings out the consensus and the points of debate;
- A meeting co-organised with the lead partner of the ECOWAP Donors Group: presentation of the main orientations of the second phase of the project to support food security storage in West Africa;
- A ministerial meeting.

IV. Purpose and details of the tasks of the service

IV.1 Purpose of the service

17. Under the supervision of the Executive Director of the RAAF and in close collaboration with the Technical Assistant to the Director in charge of the conference steering and the UTGR team, the Consultant will be responsible for supporting the Conference Organising Committee on:
 - The preparation of the synthesis of the discussions and recommendations of all thematic sessions;
 - The preparation of the synthesis of the results and the recommendations of the technical experts to be presented to the decision makers at the two high level meetings;
 - The production of the general report of the conference **in three languages** (French, English and Portuguese) for publication.

IV.2 Task details

1. Elaboration of the synthesis of the results of the technical sessions

- Conduct a literature review on the topics that will feed the reflections, exchanges and sharing of experiences during the conference in order to have a good understanding of the issues, the state of knowledge and the questions to be discussed including their implications in the improvement of the regional storage strategy;
- Participate in all conference sessions;
- On the basis of the outlines proposed by the RAAF team, prepare the general summaries of the technical sessions;
- At the end of each session, present a summary of the discussions and collect amendments from the moderator and the participants;
- Participate in the synthesis session of the technical conference on building consensus on the technical, financial and partnership issues, challenges and prospects for increasing the region's coordinated response capacity to food, nutrition and pastoral crises (2021 - 2030);
- To ensure the production of the report of the synthesis session of the technical conference. This 15-page summary report will highlight: the consensus on the technical, financial and partnership issues, challenges and prospects for increasing the region's coordinated response capacity to nutritional and pastoral food crises (2021-2030) and its contribution to the global debate on assistance stocks, food security and the promotion of sustainable food systems;
- To contribute to the elaboration of a summary statement of the results and recommendations of the panel of experts to the participants in the political sequence of the Conference.

2. The production of the general conference report

- Produce a general report of the conference of no more than 50 pages (without annexes), **edited in French, English and Portuguese**. This report should include, but not be limited to, the following parts
 - The place of food reserves in the Humanitarian Nexus, Development and World Peace;
 - Analysis of the problem of food security storage in the world and the West African region;
 - The institutional, regulatory and operational context of the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Reserve;
 - The conduct and content of the sessions,
 - The results of the reflections, exchanges and sharing of experiences of all the sessions: the consensus at the political and strategic level, the outstanding issues and their implications for increasing the capacity to respond to food crises in the region and;
 - Recommendations to technical and financial partners, policy makers in the region (IGOs, States) and other stakeholders with a view to increasing the region's capacity to cope with nutritional and pastoral food crises on the one hand and its contribution to the global debate on relief stocks, food security and the promotion of sustainable food systems on the other.
- **Edit the general report in French and translate it into English and Portuguese**. This report of (50 pages maximum) will be completed by annexes (Agenda, texts of the communications, list of participants...).

V. Deliverables

- Summary notes of the results of the reflections and sharing of experience on the themes;
- The report of the summary session of the technical conference
- **The general report edited in the three languages (French, English and Portuguese) for publication.**

VI. Period and duration of the service

The duration of the service is 40 days spread over 3 months: April - May - June 2021.

VII. Profile of the Consultant

The Consultant must demonstrate:

- A doctorate Degree in the fields of Rural Development (Agronomy, Agro-economics, Sociology, etc.)
- At least 15 years experience working with Regional Development Institutions in the West African region (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS);
- A very good understanding of ECOWAP and the agricultural and rural development policies of UEMOA and CILSS;
- Very good experience in the analysis of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity and of food storage and crisis management policies.

He/she must demonstrate excellent synthesis, written and oral communication skills and the ability to prepare reports for publication targeting Technical and Financial Partners, Policy Makers, Researchers and development practitioners.

VIII Selection method

The consultant will be selected according to the qualification-based selection method as defined in the ECOWAS Public Procurement Code. The RAAF will draw up a list of a maximum of 6 candidates, shortlisted on the basis of the applications received, for further processing.

Experts will be shortlisted on the basis of the following criteria:

- Expertise and general-----30 points

- Specific experience: similar relevant-----40 points
- Methodology and work plan -----25points
- Knowledge of the institutional environment of ECOWAS or a regional integration institution)----05 points

APPENDIX: Provisional Conference Plan

In relation to the objectives and expected results, themes are identified and each one includes sub-themes or sessions (see following table). It will consist of a series of 4 thematic seminars of 4 hours with 30 minutes of breaks depending on the sessions:

- Introductory plenary or researcher/practitioner-policymaker papers followed by discussion and synthesis
- Experience sharing panels followed by synthesis
- Thematic group work followed by a plenary session
- A thematic synthesis prior to the high-level meetings, which takes up the themes in a more transversal way, bringing out the consensus and the points of debate
- A meeting co-organised with the ECOWAP Donors Group leader: presentation of the main orientations of the second phase
- A ministerial meeting

Period and distribution of seminars: 19 April to 4 May 2021

Themes	Date	Sessions	Modalities of animation
Introductory Seminar of the Conference: Food Reserves, Development and Peace	19 April	Opening Ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome address by the President of the ECOWAS Commission; ▪ Speech by the ECOWAP Donor Group's Chief Executive Officer; ▪ Opening speech by the President of Ghana Duration: 30 min
		General presentation of the objectives and organisation of the conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECOWAS
		<p>Framing the moderator's introduction around the theme: the importance of food reserves in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus</p> <p>Food reserves in the recent history of world food policies: from the regulation of world markets by major exporters to the management of crises and Asian domestic markets:</p> <p>Food reserves in the recent history of food policy in the world: from the banning of stocks to the construction of the regional storage system in West Africa:</p>	<p>Moderator: Koen Doens Director General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission (DG DEVCO) (or to be identified with P. Thomas/ Claudia ANTONELLI)</p> <p>Introductory speeches: Franck Galtier - CIRAD</p> <p>Introductory intervention 2: Alain Sy Traoré, DADR/ ECOWAS</p>

<p>Thematic seminar 1. Theme 1: Vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity: towards a prospective risk analysis for 2050 and policy and strategy for managing food crises in West Africa</p>	<p>21 April</p>	<p>Framing of the moderator's introduction around the theme: a region beset by historical and structural risks and faced with the multiplication and increasing complexity of risk factors</p> <p>Session 1: Retrospective of the evolution of food and nutrition crises over the last 15 years (factors, magnitude, characteristics) and prospective for 2030</p> <p>Session 2: What are the implications for storage policies and their integration into multi-hazard humanitarian response policies?</p>	<p>Moderator: Mohamed Ibn Chambas</p> <p>Communication: by CILSS (20 min)</p> <p>Discussion: 30 min Synthesis: 15 min</p> <p>Panel: OCHA, WFP, CILSS, OXFAM, DEVCO, IASC, OPR (60 min)</p> <p>Summary (15 min)</p>
	<p>21 April</p>	<p>Moderator's framing of the theme...</p>	<p>Moderator: Ibrahim Mayaki, Director General of the New Partnership</p>

<p>Theme 2: Storage policies and the construction of food sovereignty in West Africa</p>		<p>Session 3: Regional storage system in response to food, nutrition and pastoral crises: What are the achievements, lessons learned and challenges for national policies, stockpile governance and operational efficiency (Experience from the West African region and other parts of Africa and the world)</p>	<p>for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency; SWAC Chair or David Nabarro</p> <p>Introductory video clip (6 min) by ARAA/UTGR The achievements and lessons of the regional storage strategy: Malick Lompo The storage system in China: xx (to be found with CERFAM)</p> <p>Experience sharing panel between the region and other regions (45 min): FANPRAN (South Africa); RESOGEST; ASEAN, Latin America Synthesis (10 min)</p>
<p>Theme 3: The role of food security stocks in improving the functioning of markets and combating volatility, what links between public and private storage? What contributions to food sovereignty and the construction of sustainable food systems?</p>	<p>26 April</p>	<p>Session 4: Food security storage, combating price volatility and securing food supply systems: Towards the construction of a new paradigm on the management of food price instability? What implications for food sovereignty in the region and its contribution to the WTO debate?</p> <p>Session 5: <u>Food security storage, value chains, social protection and resilience</u>: What strategic and operational linkages; what functional links? What implications for strengthening the region's capacity to cope with the diversity and amplification of health, food and nutrition insecurity crises? Country experiences in the region (Sahel and coastal countries and outside the West African region);</p>	<p>Moderation: Olivier De Schutter: former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food/ Ms. Hilal Elver: current UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food</p> <p>Introductory presentation (15 min) by FAO or IFPRI Questions/answers (10 min)</p> <p>Country experience panel (45 min): West Africa (2 countries) and other countries/regions in Africa (Ethiopia) and the World (India, Brazil,); Synthesis (10 min)</p> <p>Moderation: WTO representative/ Olivier de Schutter, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food</p> <p>Introductory presentation (15 min): IFPRI Questions and answers (10 min) Synthesis (10 min) Country experience panel (45 min): Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Mozambique Synthesis (10 min)</p>

<p>Theme 4: Partnership, funding mechanisms and coordination to sustainably increase the region's capacity to respond to food, nutrition and pastoral crises, including building the resilience of affected households.</p>	<p>28 April</p>	<p>Session 6: The Regional Agriculture and Food Fund (RAFF): Mechanism for financing and coordinating financial support for the implementation of ECOWAP regional initiatives</p> <p>Session 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financing of storage policies; ▪ Operational coordination of food assistance interventions in response to crises and ▪ Building a consensus/partnership on the main orientations for phase II of the operationalisation of the regional storage strategy (deployment - adjustment of the existing, addressing new strategic issues raised in the thematic cycle). 	<p>Moderator: ECOWAP Donor's Group Leader)</p> <p>Presentation by Dr Mabouba Diagne, Vice President of EBID</p> <p>Discussion: 30 min Synthesis: 10 min</p> <p>Moderation: UEMOA</p> <p>Presentation of the terms of reference for the group work (10 min)</p> <p>3 Group work (45 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What mechanisms for sustainable financing of storage policies; ▪ How can the operational coordination of humanitarian assistance at national and regional level be improved? ▪ What directions for the second phase of the West Africa Food Security Storage Support Project <p>Plenary to share and discuss the results of the group work (60min) Summary (15 min)</p>
<p>Thematic synthesis seminar</p>	<p>29 April</p>	<p>Consensus on the technical, financial and partnership issues, challenges and prospects for increasing the region's coordinated response capacity to food, nutrition and pastoral crises (2021 - 2050)</p>	<p>Working Group (General Rapporteur, TA/ED, Backstopping Expert, UTGR, Delegates, Moderators, CILSS, UEMOA...)</p>
<p>High-level meetings</p>	<p>3 May</p>	<p>Meeting 1: ECOWAS-ECOWAP Donor's Group and other partners Meeting 2: Ministerial Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the summary of the experts' work ▪ Technical and Financial Partnership Statement/Pact
<p>Finalisation of the conference products (General Report, Final Communiqué...)</p>	<p>5-25 May</p>		<p>General Rapporteur, TA/ED, Backstopping Expert, UTGR, Delegates</p>