

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO

Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et
l'Alimentation

ARAA



ECOWAS COMMISSION

Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

RAAF

Call for Applications

Selection of an Individual Consultant, Senior Advisor Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards to Support the Implementation of ECOWAP-USAID's 2021-2023 Operational Plan.

Reference	ARAA/USAID/2021/SCI/13 <i>α</i>
Date of Publication	01 JUN 2021
Deadline for Submission	01 JUL 2021
Duration of the Mission	12 months
Number of Years of Experience	10 Years of Experience

I. Background and Rationale

The ECOWAP 2021-2023 support program defines the scope and priorities of the ECOWAS Commission for continued USAID institutional and operational support to the Directorate of Agriculture. The Directorate's mandate is to guide policy development and direct regional programming to better enable agricultural development. Operational support is directed primarily toward promoting priority policy measures on intra-regional trade. Institutional support initiatives more generally aim to accelerate the overall implementation of agreed regional and national investment plans for agriculture and food and nutrition security, with increased stakeholder commitment.

The scope and defined priorities of the 2021-2023 ECOWAP support program are consistent with what has been an ongoing and evolving relationship with USAID in West Africa. Efforts to reduce trade barriers and harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary standards remain key initiatives of the program. Building a knowledge management system and conducting effective joint sector reviews for informed national and regional decision-making are priorities for continued institutional support over the next three years. Similarly, the continued

establishment of the ECOWAS Agriculture and Food Development Fund is a priority in terms of broadening the financial base for the implementation of ECOWAP.

The program's stakeholders include the 15 member countries, producer organizations, private for-profit and non-profit entities, civil society interests, and technical and financial partners. The program's beneficiaries are West African agricultural producers and traders, food processors and distributors, and consumers. Hundreds of professional and technical staff from member governments will benefit from the proposed training activities to build organizational capacity and improve public sector service delivery. Dozens of non-government stakeholders will be invited to participate in training and information sharing activities to strengthen member organizations, improve coordination of private sector interests, and increase advocacy capacity for ECOWAP measures.

II. Roles/Responsibilities

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

Under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development (DADR) of the ECOWAS Commission, the incumbent will contribute to the capacity building program and ensure that Member States meet international standards. The incumbent will strengthen collaboration between the ECOWAS Commission's Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Trade and Industry on issues of cross-border trade facilitation, harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, and removal of technical barriers to trade (TBT), with USAID and USDA supporting ongoing collaboration.

ARAA/DADR/ECOWAS seeks to strengthen and support the internationalization and harmonization of SPS standards based on International Standards Organizations (ISSBs), access to markets through compliance with SPS standards, strengthening participation in ISSBs ("project"), and has determined that the expertise to provide the service below and has therefore requested the Consultant to provide the service and the Consultant is ready and willing to do so.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support the strengthening of monitoring and implementation of key ECOWAS harmonized SPS policies;
- Coordinate and facilitate regional harmonization meetings in the areas of plant and animal health and life, food safety, trade, and other SPS-related activities;
- Provide technical support and advice to member states on SPS measures, including trade in animal and plant products, trade compilation and analysis, marketing, and other relevant information to inform the development of evidence-based policies to promote the growth of the animal, plant, and food safety sectors and its contribution to economic growth in the ECOWAS sub-region ;
- Liaise with USAID, USDA and other key regional and international partners on SPS technical assistance in the sub-region, including development of terms of reference, identification of participants and liaise with other ongoing initiatives, project and program development/preparation and implementation, monitoring and evaluation ;
- Provide support in other areas of work and undertake other tasks as needed.

III. Qualifications/Experience

- **Education:** A PhD in food safety from a reputable university or an advanced degree in food science/technology, or other relevant discipline.

Technical and Functional Experience: A minimum of 10 years of practical experience in the SPS field, including plant health, animal health, food safety, and the WTO SPS Committee with a regional and international perspective. A work experience in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel region would be an asset; knowledge of ECOWAS institutions, sectors, programs and policies, particularly in the areas of agriculture and trade; Knowledge of regional institutions and key partners; ability to develop and implement an action plan to achieve specific work objectives; ability to contribute to and/or lead projects in accordance with recognized project management standards and techniques; ability to coordinate the contributions of others in order to set and meet deadlines; ability to organize work, set priorities, and work within deadlines, with attention to detail, stakeholders, indicators, and risks.

- **Communication:** Proven communication and writing skills, both written and oral. Knowledge of the broader international development agenda in SPS and strategic issues such as those related to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its Annex VII on SPS, nutrition, climate change, gender and sustainable livelihoods.

IV. Skills

1. Ability to write a concept note/proposal and develop a budget.
2. Ability to lead a team of interns/youth and instill a spirit of teamwork to engage employees and complete a well-defined set of activities ;
3. Ability to solve problems that arise with minimal direction and/or recommend and explain solutions or alternatives for approval ;
4. Contribute to the maintenance of the organizational unit's goals and performance standards ;
5. Interpersonal skills and ability to keep stakeholders informed of project progress or setbacks in terms of timeliness, quality and quantity;
6. Knowledge of ECOWAS internal operational requirements for programs, projects, services and systems needed to achieve missions and performance objectives;
7. Knowledge and ability to apply techniques to generate creative ideas and new approaches to achieve goals.

V. Working Conditions

- Ability to produce quality work in a fast-paced environment with high daily pressure to meet deadlines;
- Ability to work atypical hours as needed or required to meet set deadlines;

- Ability to work indoors in an office environment, whether cubicles, open offices or private offices;
- Familiar with normal office noise levels.

VI. Language Requirements

- Oral and written English.
- Knowledge of French is considered an important asset.

VII. Place, Duration and Start of the Contract

- The candidate will be based at the Agriculture and Rural Development Directorate of the ECOWAS Office in Abuja, Nigeria;
- The candidate will be under the direct supervision of the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- The term of the contract is twelve (12) months with the possibility of renewal depending on the availability of funds and the performance of the consultant;
- The mission will begin within two weeks of the signature of the contract for intellectual services.

VIII. 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.

NB: Any incomplete application will be rejected.

IX. Submission of Applications

Applications shall be received no later than 01 JUL 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 des Pâtures (Super Taco), 01 BP 4817 Lomé, Togo - Tel.+228 22 21 40 03 (in a sealed envelope marked "Selection of an individual consultant, senior advisor on sanitary and phytosanitary standards to support the implementation of the ECOWAP-USAID's 2021-2023 operational plan)."

Email: recrutements.usaid@araa.org In subject: **"Selection of an individual consultant, senior advisor on sanitary and phytosanitary standards to support the implementation of the ECOWAP-USAID's 2021-2023 operational plan"**.

NB: Applications that do not include the following in the subject line "Selection of an individual consultant, senior advisor on sanitary and phytosanitary standards to support the implementation of the ECOWAP-USAID 20212023 operational plan" will not be considered.

X. Age

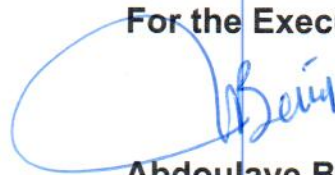
The candidate must not be older than 50 years old at the time of the application, must be in excellent physical condition for long meetings and extensive potential travel within ECOWAS Member States and outside the Community, as required.

XI. Selection Method

The consultant will be selected according to the qualification-based selection method as defined in the ECOWAS Public Procurement Code. An interview session will be held with a shortlist of candidates and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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

For the Executive Director



Abdoulaye BANE
Conseiller Juridique