

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS COMMISSION

Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

ARAA



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RAAF

FOOD SECURITY STORAGE SUPPORT PROJECT IN WEST AFRICA

Terms of Reference

Recruitment of a firm in charge of the online animation of the thematic seminars of the International Conference of the Regional Storage System and the Construction of a Multilateral Partnership.

1. Context and justification of the need

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.

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 POs and the Territorial Communities; (ii) the national security stocks managed by the States and (iii) the RFSR.

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.

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.

In view of the important achievements, lessons learned, and the consensus of international partners and regional institutions on the relevance of consolidating the ECOWAS regional storage strategy, 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 regional system, which is unique in the world, and to prepare an international conference.

2. The Conference

The conference is conceived as a space for sharing and reflecting on the experiences of food reserves in West Africa and other regions of Africa and the world on the one hand, and for policy dialogue between the region and its partners on the modalities of sustaining the regional storage system on the other.

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, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). 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, APSS...).

In addition to these institutions based in or working in West Africa, the conference will see the participation of researchers, policy makers and experts in the fields of Food and Nutrition Security, trade and food economics from all regions of the world: East and Southern Africa; Europe; South East Asia; North America; Latin America.

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.

The overall objective of the conference is to share, analyse and discuss the achievements and lessons of the ECOWAS regional storage strategy, to exchange on storage policies and practices, and to lay the foundations for a renewed multilateral partnership to strengthen West Africa's response capacity and resilience to food and nutrition crises.

Specifically, it aims to:

- a. Carry out a prospective analysis (by 2030) of the region's vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity 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 food reserves in the response to cyclical crises, the strengthening of the region's resilience and the social protection of households by 2030;
- c. Build the basis for a multi-stakeholder partnership around the regional reserve system to address technical, organisational and financial challenges, and identify areas for enhanced coordination of food and nutrition assistance with the international humanitarian community.

Due to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, all technical and political sessions of the conference will be online.

Tentatively, the conference will be organised as follows:

- A series of 4 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 with, according to the sessions
- Introductory plenary presentations by either a regional, international or researcher/practitioner-decision maker followed by discussion and synthesis
- Experience sharing panels followed by synthesis
- Thematic group work (Theme 4) followed by a plenary 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

3. Purpose and details of the tasks of the service

3.1 The purpose of the service

Under the supervision of the Executive Director of the RAAF and in close collaboration with the Assistant Conference Manager and the RAAF IT expert, the Consultant will be responsible for supporting the Conference Organising Committee in:

- Getting to grips with and managing the Zoom videoconferencing platform;
- The script of the thematic seminars of the Conference (in annexes);
- Technical and logistical management of the various technical (experts' meeting/workshop) and political (meeting between the ECOWAS Commission and the group of technical and financial partners and the Ministers' meeting) sequences of the Conference;
- The production of the digital archive of the conference.

3.2 Task details

3.2.1. Getting started and managing the Zoom videoconferencing platform

The Agency will provide the service provider with its Zoom platform (<https://araa-org.zoom.us/>) with the following functionalities:

- Five (5) host accounts to hold five (5) parallel online sessions;
- A session hosts one (1) meeting of up to 300 participants;
- A meeting can be divided into n simultaneous working groups and a plenary session;
- Simultaneous interpretation in French, English and Portuguese;
- A webinar module for up to 500 participants.

The service provider will have to ensure the appropriation of the platform and its branding (visuals of the conference, mascot, logos, pre-registration forms for the different sessions, etc.) and to elaborate specific technical notes for the speakers, participants and interpreters.

3.2.2. The scripting of the Conference's thematic seminars

The international conference on storage will be organised in the form of a series of thematic seminars according to the annexed table.

The service provider will have to be able to make proposals for the online scripting of the seminars, indicating in a specific and non-limitative manner for each seminar:

- Name
- The short url of type bit.ly
- The date
- Duration
- The start and end time with the integration of time zone management
- The announcement panel (visual and background sound of waiting)
- The speakers
- Available interpretations

3.2.3. Technical and logistical management of the different sessions

The service provider is expected to provide end-to-end technical management of the sessions with a high degree of professionalism, including

- Management of the interpretation module including the assignment of interpreters and on-going liaison with them
- Waiting room management
- Microphone and camera management
- Cat management
- Management of authorisations (co-hosts, speaking, etc.)

3.2.4. The production of the digital conference archive

The conference sessions will be systematically recorded and a digital archive of the video streams with all relevant metadata will be offered for post-processing for distribution on the RAAF YouTube channel.

Lists of registrations and participants will be generated and made available to the conference reporting team.

4. Period and duration of the service

The duration of the service is 20 days spread over 3 months: March, April and May 2021.

5. Profile of the Consultant

The team of Consultants shall consist of a Lead Consultant and two Associate Consultants.

5.1 The Lead Consultant

He must justify:

- A 5-year degree in the fields of communication for development (Information Sciences, Communication, Digital Marketing, Sociology...) or in relevant fields related to new information technologies and the promotion of digital platforms;
- Very good experience in promoting high-level videoconference meetings at international level.

5.2. Associated Consultants

They must:

- Have a higher degree (Bac+ 3) in Computer Science, Information Technology, Information Science, Communication, Digital Marketing, Sociology...) or in relevant fields related to new information technologies and the promotion of digital platforms;
- At least 3 years experience working in the region on emerging digital technologies, digital transformation of organisations, e-learning or social media communication;
- Demonstrate good diction and/or technical documentation skills

6. 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 qualification -----	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

III. Plan for the Conference

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 minutes
		General presentation of the objectives and organisation of the conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECOWAS
		Framing the moderator's introduction around the theme: the importance of food reserves in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus 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: 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:	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) Introductory speeches: Franck Galtier - CIRAD Introductory intervention 2: Alain Sy Traoré , DADR/ ECOWAS

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<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) 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: <i>What are the achievements, lessons learned and challenges for national policies, stockpile governance and operational efficiency</i> (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: <i>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?</i></p> <p>Session 5: <u>Food security storage, value chains, social protection and resilience</u>: <i>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?</i> 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) 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 Apr.</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>