



Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food
Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation
Agência Regional da Agricultura e Alimentação



NOTICE OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Project :	West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) Africa (FSRP)
Source of funding :	International Development Association (World Bank)
Agreement no. :	IDA-D923
Selection method :	Least Cost Selection (LCS)
Selection reference :	ARAA/FRSP/2025/AMI/08
Subject:	Selection of an external auditor for the audit of the accounts of the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years, including the grace period ending April 30, 2027 of the ECOWAS PRSP
Publication date	June 27, 2025
Closing date :	July 13, 2025- at 23:59 GMT

1. MISSION BACKGROUND

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) benefits, alongside CILSS (Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), CORAF (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development) and four (4) of its member countries (Burkina, Mali, Niger and Togo) for the 1st phase, of technical and financial support from the World Bank Group to increase food insecurity preparedness and improve the resilience of food system stakeholders, priority landscapes and value chains through the West African Food System Resilience Program (PRSA). This program is part of initiatives to combat the risks of climate change and disasters in the short and long term. Consequently, it reflects the operationalization of the ECOWAS regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP), drawing on regional institutions, organizations and players with proven expertise, and supporting states in the development and implementation of national agricultural investment, food security and nutrition plan (NAFSIP) cycles resulting from the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process.

The Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) is a proposal for multi-sectoral initiatives led by regional organizations (ECOWAS, CILSS and CORAF) to advance regional integration in three mutually reinforcing priority areas for food system resilience in West Africa

(i) Component 1: Digital advisory services for the prevention and management of agricultural and food crises; (ii) Component 2: Sustainability and adaptability of the food system's productive base; and (iii) Component 3: Integration of regional food markets and trade. The three-pronged approach is based on the 2021 *Action Plan for building food system resilience in West Africa*.

2. PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The FSRP is organized around five components: **(i)** the strengthening of digital advisory services for the prevention and management of regional agricultural and food crises; **(ii)** the sustainability and adaptability of the food system's productive base; **(iii)** the integration of regional food markets and trade; **(iv)** an emergency response component (CERC); and **(v)** program management.

To achieve this, it is essential to carry out financial and accounting audits at the end of each of each fiscal year on the fiduciary and administrative management of the funds granted.

3. PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM AUDIT

The purpose of the financial and accounting audit is to express a professional opinion on the financial situation of the Program at the end of the period from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 and the period from January 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027, including the grace period, and to ensure that the resources made available to the Program are used for the purposes for which they were granted in order to achieve the Program's development objective.

The expression of this professional opinion will be based on documents prepared and supplied by the PMU and other relevant legal documents of the project. To this end, the PMU has put in place an adequate internal control system and acceptable documentation of transactions related to each project.

The financial statements, which are drawn up by ECOWAS, are designed to reflect the Program's financial transactions.

ECOWAS is responsible for maintaining an adequate internal control system and acceptable acceptable documentation of transactions.

4. AUDITOR'S QUALIFICATIONS

The Consultant must be an independent firm of auditors and chartered accountants, regularly enrolled on the Roll of an Order of Chartered Accountants recognized internationally by IFAC or FIDEF, with proven experience in financial auditing of development programs and acceptable to IDA.

The evaluation will focus on the following key criteria:

- ✓ Qualifications of the firm in the field of services;
- ✓ The firm's references concerning the execution of similar contracts;
- ✓ Firm's technical and managerial organization.

Candidates must provide documents (with proof) indicating the year they were founded and the assignments they have carried out in their field of activity.

5. DELIVERABLES

The final audit report must be received no later than six (6) months after the end of the financial year concerned. The financial statements, including the audit report, the internal control letter and the response from Program Coordination, must reach the Bank no later than six (6) months after the close of the fiscal year under review.

The independent auditor will submit the report to the ARAA Executive Director, who will forward 2 copies of the audit reports together with the financial statements to the Bank, including the internal control letter.

APPENDIX: PROGRAM COSTS

Table: Program costs and financing (Millions USD)

Regional Organisation	IDA	Netherland (Trust Fund)	GRIF (Trust Fund)	TOTAL
ECOWAS	10	5,74	23	38,74

- 1- Additional information on the following points is contained in the terms of reference accessible à at the link OneDrive: <https://araaceao.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/Procurement/EpJykle43gRAhAkBgu3FHacB-gcVGS8WKOL6u6SXZWmMDg?e=yr45dh>
- 2- or download it from [the ARAA www.araa.org](http://www.araa.org) website [in the Opportunities section](#). It are :
 - preparation of annual financial statements;
 - audit scope;
 - program financial statements;
 - certified expenditure statements (ECDS);
 - the designated account;
 - audit report ;
 - project closing provisions ;
 - internal control letter;
 - review of audit report; i
 - information available ;
 - general points.

6. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation (ARAA) hereby invites audit firms to express their interest by providing information demonstrating that they are legally constituted and possess the required qualifications and relevant experience to carry out the assignment.

Firms may join together to strengthen their respective skills in the form of a consortium. In the event of a consortium, all members will be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), which sets forth the World Bank's policy on conflicts of interest.

7. APPLICATION PACKAGE

Expression of interest files must contain the following:

- Letter of interest ;
- If the consultant is part of a consortium, a copy of the consortium agreement or letter of intent to form a consortium;
- A brochure presenting the firm or consortium (including administrative documents);
- Produce information demonstrating that they are qualified and experienced to carry out the present services. To this end, they must provide references for recent and similar services. In order to meet the qualification criteria listed in paragraph 3 above, these consultants must provide tangible evidence and detailed references for all statements made in terms of experience and capabilities, similar assignments, availability of appropriate skills within their staff, etc. Each reference provided must be summarized on a project sheet and will only be considered and accepted if the applicant attaches supporting documents indicating the contact details of the contracting authorities in order to facilitate verification of the information provided, the contracts quoted or copies of attestation(s) of satisfactory performance of each contract presented, as issued and signed by the Client.

8. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The expression of interest presented **in a single PDF format** must be submitted no later than **July 13, 2025 - at 23H 59 GMT via download** at <https://araacedeao.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/Procurement/Eh4K3CSxgs1Fue2DSwKLfnkBoYdjmR52yu0oDzWLk6x55w>.

ARAA reserves the right not to consider applications that do not comply with the above above conditions.

9. SELECTION PROCESS

The RAAA will draw up a shortlist of at least 6 qualified consultants, on the basis of the expressions of interest received, to whom it will address the Request for Proposals for the performance of the required Services. One firm will be selected according to the Lowest Cost Selection (LSC) method," as described in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers.

10. REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Interested consultants can obtain further information by writing to the following e-mail addresses: procurement@araa.org cc : ctienon@araa.org, Lbarnabo@araa.org , with "AM108-Audit externe-FSRP" in the subject line.

The Executive Director pi.