

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

Terms of Reference

**For the selection of Consultant, expert in support of
national food security storage systems under the
WEST AFRICA FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE
PROGRAM (FSRP)**

I. Background and justification

West Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world due of its climate, demographic, institutional, economic, environmental context and means of subsistence. This region has more than 360 million inhabitants, of which 55% live in rural areas and rely on natural resources for their socio-economic development. Agriculture accounts for 29% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the region and constitutes the main source of subsistence for more than 60% of West Africans.

Climate, agricultural and market risks are causing performance of agriculture to be very volatile, triggering more frequent and severe food crises.

Aggravation of food insecurity is due to multiple factors, playing a major role, and involving a drop of per capita food production.

In 2020, approximately 16.7 million West African were in need of emergency food assistance because of a non-atypical combination of drought, poverty, high prices of cereals, degradation of environment, displacements, weak trade integration and conflicts.

Thus, the West African region is characterized by large scale vulnerability related to a very slow increase of food system productivity involving a reduction of per capita food availabilities.

Market imperfections (variation and volatility of basic commodities prices) constitute one of factors contributing to push households in food and nutritional insecurity. Indeed, the greatest part of intra-regional food products trading is informal and hampered by many obstacles to free movement. As a consequence, food markets are fragmented making it difficult for adaptation to great variations of local food production, which occur from one year to another. Effective distributing of food from surplus zones to deficit zones could be envisaged. Localized food shortages and prices volatility are frequent, while producers' prices remain low.

The COVID-19 pandemic is exerting an additional pressure on food system, threatening to increase malnutrition and food insecurity among vulnerable populations. The pandemic caused medical and economic crises which reduced access to food - for example, by increasing unemployment and by reducing purchasing power - in particular among urban poor people. Fragile countries will record a more drastic decline of their growth, because COVID-19 exacerbates fragility factors. The number of people living in poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa should considerably increase, up to 40 million additional people, which will have a negative impact on food security in short and long terms.

In addition to its quasi-permanent nature, vulnerability in West Africa stand out by an inequality among social groups. This demarcation is related to incapacity in acquisition of productive resources. Indeed, great inequalities persist between women and men in terms of access to resources to help improve living conditions through agriculture – including in particular access to land, equipment, credit, markets and provision of consulting and support services.

Faced with these observations, the region made strong commitments to transform agriculture and to build resilience of food system. Thus, three mutually-reinforced fields of intervention were proposed as priorities to reinforce resilience of the food system in West Africa:

- (1) supporting productive base of food system while investing in climate-smart agriculture, exploitations and landscapes;

- (II) promoting a conducive environment for development of value chains and intra-regional trade;
- (III) reinforcing regional capacity to manage agricultural risks.

To handle these priorities, the region received financing from the World Bank, to implement the West Africa Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP).

II. Brief overview of the Programme

Initiated within the framework of implementation of the region's commitments, development objectives of the West Africa Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP) seek to increase preparedness to food insecurity and to improve resilience of actors of food system, priority landscapes and value chains in the Programme intervention zones.

The first phase of the Programme covered four (4) countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo) and regional actions carried by ECOWAS, CILSS and CORAF. The Programme is financed by the World Bank at a cost of approximately 570 million dollars over a period of five (5) years. It is organized around the following five (5) components:

Component 1 (managed by CILSS): Provision of digital consulting services for prevention and management of agricultural and food crises, with the following main targets: (i) improving systems for assistance in decision-making with demand-based information services in order to improve effectiveness of prevention and management of agricultural and food crises, while integrating data and drawing from science, innovation and state-of-the-art technologies; and (ii) building regional capacity and institutional sustainability, as well as capacity of adaptation to climate change.

Component 2 (managed by CORAF): Sustainability and adaptation capacity of Food System productive base which main aims are: (i) building national and regional systems for agricultural research; (ii) strengthening political environment to achieve governance of landscapes (inclusive multisector policies and regulations to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation); and (iii) creating/reinforcing integrated landscapes management units to sustainably achieve multiple goals (food production, provision of eco-systemic services, protection of biodiversity and improvement of local means of subsistence).

Component 3 (managed by ECOWAS): Integration of regional food markets and trade with the following targets: (i) supporting drafting and implementation of sound regional policies and regulation in order to facilitate trading of goods and agricultural inputs within and beyond national borders in West Africa, through the main corridors, (ii) consolidating food reserve system; and (iii) supporting development of regional strategic value chains, with tangible positive potential impacts on regional food security and nutrition.

Specifically, activities to be undertaken by the ECOWAS Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources are the following:

1. Facilitate trade through the main corridors and consolidate food reserve system:
 - a. Supervise development and implementation of the evaluation scorecard on trade and agricultural market of ECOWAS (EATM-Scorecard);
 - b. Reinforce and operationalise the ECOWAS Observatory on rice for West Africa by improving its capacity for coordination, data acquisition and regular communication on development of rice value chain;
 - c. Stimulate harmonization of agricultural regional marketing policies on critical issues of food system resilience;
 - d. Support ECOWAS dialogue and multi-actors' political consultation. The FSRP will

- support the ECOWAS facilitation capacity to organize inclusive mechanisms of dialogue and multi-actors' consultation, negotiations related on the continental free trade zone and the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- e. Improve performance of the regional food security reserves on the three levels (local, national and regional food security Reserve - RFSR).
2. Support development of strategic and regional value chains:
- a. Improve organization and financing of strategic regional value chains;
 - b. Promote agricultural competitiveness and market infrastructures, through support for regional agricultural trade platforms;
 - c. Reinforce multi-actors' coordination and promote an environment favourable to private sector.

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) which is a finance mechanism for eligible expenditure in the event of urgency caused by a natural disaster. Activation of this component makes it possible to quickly release funds to reduce damage caused to infrastructures, to ensure continuity of activities and to recover more quickly from a disaster. Following a major disaster, the affected country may request the World Bank to channel resources of other components of the FSRP towards the CERC. As a condition for release of funds, an Emergency Response Manual (ERM) will be prepared for each country, stipulating fiduciary, safeguard, monitoring and reporting requirements on using the CERC, and any other key provision on coordination and implementation.

Component 5 (managed by ECOWAS): Programme management which will delegate technical work within the framework of components 1 and 2, to mandated organizations (notably CILSS for component 1 and CORAF for component 2). Component 5 seeks an effective management of the Programme and close monitoring of performance and impact.

III. Roles/Responsibilities

As part of the consolidation of the achievements of the implementation of the Regional Storage Strategy, and the continuation of the actions initiated within this framework, a Division of the RFSR has been created within the RAAF. The staffing of this Division with an expert in support of national food security storage systems will enable it to take charge of all activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of the second and third line of storage against food and nutrition insecurity and of the Network of Companies and Agencies in charge of the Management of National Food Security Stocks in Sahelian and West African countries, the RESOGEST

Reporting to the Head of the Regional Food Security Reserve Division, the expert in support of national food security storage systems will be responsible for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of activities in support of public policies and strategies of CILSS, ECOWAS and WAEMU member states in the area of food security storage as well as RESOGEST activities. He/she will also have to support the activities of acquisition, storage, quality monitoring and destocking of the products of the Regional Reserve which are in the warehouses of the national storage structures.

In this capacity, the expert in support of national food security storage systems will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Support for the preparation of annual work plans and budgets and annual technical and financial reports for the FSRP project and other projects supporting the regional storage strategy;
- Preparation, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of activities in support of national food security storage policies and strategies of ECOWAS states;
- Accompaniment of RESOGEST in the planning, implementation and monitoring of its activities;
- Technical support to the activities of purchase, storage, maintenance, destocking and technical rotation of the stocks of the Regional Reserve stored in the warehouses of the national storage structures;
- Design and regular updating of a database that will allow to have at any time the levels of the different food security stocks held by ECOWAS member states as well as the regional stock;
- Contribution to the monitoring of the stocks of the Regional Food Security Reserve in the warehouses of the national storage structures of ECOWAS member countries;
- Contribution to the monitoring and evaluation of food and nutritional assistance interventions carried out in the countries with the national stocks and the stocks of the Regional Food Security Reserve;
- Contribution to the monitoring of the replenishment of stocks made available to the beneficiary states by the Regional Reserve;
- Contribution to the production and dissemination of communication materials related to the activities of the national storage;
- Contribution to the elaboration of the various reports of the FSRP project and other projects supporting the regional storage strategy;
- Other related tasks

IV. Qualifications, experience, skills

Qualifications

Have a university degree (BAC+5 years at least) in the field of rural development (agriculture, livestock, forestry, ...), in agro-economics, management, logistics or any related field.

Proven participation in additional training in the area of food storage and maintenance.

Experiences

The applicant shall have :

- a proven experience of at least ten (10) years in the monitoring and management of agri-food stocks;
- a proven experience of at least five (5) years in monitoring and managing the quality of agri-food products in West Africa;
- experience in a regional project funded by the World Bank or other international partners is an asset;
- experience working in the West Africa region is desired;
- experience working with an ECOWAS Institution, Agency or technical arm is a major asset.

Skills

- knowledge of the agricultural sector and food and nutrition security in the West African region;
- a good understanding of the development, adoption and implementation of agricultural or food security storage policy documents at the national or regional level;
- a good knowledge of food crisis prevention and management mechanisms in West African countries;
- the capacity to implement the instruments/tools for governance of food security stocks and to strengthen stock managers on good practices in this area;
- the capacity to accompany national and regional actors and public structures in the functioning of a regional network;
- a strong familiarity with results-based management;
- prior knowledge of quantitative and qualitative data collection, processing and analysis;
- good organizational skills, synthesis and writing skills;
- excellent technical writing skills, particularly regular reporting in accordance with World Bank and other TFP requirements;
- a very good command of office automation tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) of the Internet;
- ability to communicate and work in French and English, knowledge of Portuguese is an asset;
- proficiency in English and French;
- be familiar with a multicultural work environment.

4.1 Location and duration of the mission

- The staff will be based in Lomé, Togo, at the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF);
- The duration of the mission is for the entire life of the Project after a probationary period of six months;
- The position is full time;
- The Consultant is expected to refrain from any situation that might place him/her in a conflict of interest in the context of the assignment.