



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO



LA BANQUE MONDIALE
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Terms of reference

Recruitment of an Expert in Fertiliser Sector Policy and Regulation

1. Context

African agriculture in general, and West African agriculture in particular, suffers from a low level of fertiliser use by farmers. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, local production of inputs is very limited, making the agricultural sector dependent on imports. Secondly, buyers - governments, private agribusiness players, cooperatives and small farmers - have limited budgets, and face logistical hurdles that complicate access to products.

These constraints have prevented Africa from exploiting the enormous potential of its agricultural sector and producing enough food to feed its population and meet the challenges of food security and nutrition. It was with a view to improving the situation that the African Fertilizer Summit was organised in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 2006. The Abuja Declaration recommended efforts to increase fertiliser use levels in Africa from 8 kg/ha to at least 50 kg/ha by 2015.

Following this summit, the Commissions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), together with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), signed a tripartite agreement for the implementation of harmonised regulations on agricultural inputs (seeds, pesticides and fertilisers). Thus, a harmonised regulation C/REG.13/12/12 on quality control of fertilisers was adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in December 2012. Subsequently, an implementing regulation ecw/pec/ir/05/12/16 on the remit, organisation and operation of the West African Fertiliser Control Committee (WAFCC) was signed by the President of the ECOWAS Commission in December 2016.

COACE's mission is to support countries (15 Member States, plus Chad and Mauritania) and regional players in implementing harmonised regulations on fertilisers. It is supported in this by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). Nine (9) countries have already set up their national fertilizer quality control committees.

However, despite all these initiatives and the progress made since the Abuja Summit, it has to be said that agricultural productivity and production are still insufficient in West Africa. Fertiliser use is still at low levels - an average of 20 kg per hectare per year - a long way from the adopted target of 50 kg of nutrients per hectare. The corollary is a heavy reliance on food imports, and a steady increase since 2010 in the number of people affected by food insecurity and hunger, all against a backdrop of growing insecurity, climate change and declining soil fertility.

The fragility of the West African fertiliser sector was exposed by the Russia-Ukraine war in early 2022. These two countries are major world suppliers of fertilisers and the raw materials used in their manufacture, and their conflict has put a strain on the market, causing prices to soar and shortages to appear in West Africa.

This context explained the general mobilisation at regional level, under the aegis of ECOWAS and the World Bank, which organised a high-level round table on fertilisers and soil health in West Africa and the Sahel on 30 and 31 May 2023 in Lomé. Two important outcomes emerged from this meeting: i) the Lomé Declaration, which highlights the key commitments made by Member States to improve soil health and fertility and strengthen the resilience of soils in West Africa and the Sahel.

farmers and production systems in the face of climate change and other exogenous shocks, and ii) a roadmap.

This declaration and the roadmap were adopted by the Ministers and Heads of State and endorsed by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers at its ninetieth ordinary session held on 6 and 7 July 2023 in Bissau, Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

The roadmap is part of the new Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan for Africa, and aims to provide an operational framework for the region, based on the identification of priority actions to enable the various partners to situate their next contributions within a well-articulated strategy.

The twelve (12) priority actions defined at the end of the consultation process are specific to the region and should provide practical guidance for the future commitments of the various partners within a coherent framework.

To operationalise the Lomé Declaration on Fertilisers and Soil Health and its roadmap, ECOWAS plans to recruit an Expert in Fertiliser Sector Policy and Regulation. This expert will contribute to the implementation of one of the four priority areas of the draft Action Plan for Africa, in particular the strengthening of sectoral policies and the policy and regulatory framework in order to promote investment. He will be funded by the World Bank's programme for the resilience of the food system in West Africa.

2. Justification of the need for a consultant

As indicated above, ECOWAS has put in place regulations aimed at i) creating a legal environment in which quality fertilisers can be produced or imported and marketed and ii) strengthening regional and national capacities to enforce the regulations.

Even if this regulation inspires West African countries, they still have weak institutional and regulatory frameworks, because they have not developed a legal framework to control and regulate the fertiliser market.

The recruitment of a qualified expert in policy and regulation in the fertiliser sector by ECOWAS is intended to provide technical support to the Permanent Secretariat of the West African Fertiliser Control Committee for the efficient implementation of regional regulations and to assist countries in the development and implementation of their institutional and regulatory frameworks.

These terms of reference have been drawn up to provide guidelines and specify the conditions for recruiting the expert.

3. The expert's tasks

Reporting to the ECOWAS Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, the expert will work in close collaboration with the IFDC, the COACE Permanent Secretariat and the PRSP Environmental Safeguard Expert. He/she will be responsible for :

- To support the Permanent Secretariat of the West African Fertilizer Control Committee in its mission to assist the Commission in the implementation of Harmonized Regulation C/REG.13/12/12;
- To support ECOWAS Member States in the implementation of harmonised regulations on the production, marketing and use of fertilisers, and in particular in the development and implementation of their institutional and regulatory frameworks;
- Support ECOWAS Member States in setting up National Fertiliser Control Committees (CNCE);
- Supporting Member States in defining a regulatory framework conducive to setting up public-private partnerships (PPPs) or encouraging greater involvement of the private sector;
- Supporting the upgrading of fertiliser analysis laboratories in CILSS-ECOWAS countries (carrying out a diagnostic and performance study, drawing up and implementing action plans, setting up a monitoring and evaluation system);
- Supporting the addition to existing regional regulations on mineral fertilisers of regulatory provisions relating to complementary sources of plant nutrition and soil health (organic and organo-mineral fertilisers, biofertilisers, biostimulants, soil conditioners, etc.);
- Help the Commission to acquire new political and regulatory resources to better share/coordinate knowledge and control tools at regional level;
- To support the organisation of training and capacity-building sessions for stakeholders in the fertiliser sector in ECOWAS Member States, in particular the National Fertiliser Control Committees (CNCE) and fertiliser quality analysis laboratories;
- Build the capacity of the various players in the private sector and civil society, including professional farming organisations, in terms of fertiliser quality and support the initiatives of fertiliser trade associations in terms of quality monitoring of their members.
- To support Member States in strengthening the financial, organisational, operational and technical capacities of the relevant services and bodies (national advisory control services and fertiliser analysis laboratories and the training of technical and administrative staff through endogenous financial mechanisms (national budgets, income generated by control systems, etc.) and exogenous mechanisms (projects, bilateral agreements, etc.).

4. Main deliverables expected from the expert

- The harmonised ECOWAS regulation is being revised to take account of complementary sources of plant nutrition and soil health (organic and organo-mineral fertilisers, biofertilisers, biostimulants, soil improvers, etc.);
- Seven (7) countries are setting up their national fertiliser control committees for a total coverage of the CILSS-ECOWAS area ;
- At least 8 countries have institutional and regulatory frameworks to control and regulate the fertilizer market;
- At least three (3) fertiliser analysis laboratories will be supported in order to bring their standards up to standard.
international standards.

5. Expert profile :

The expert we are looking for must have the following qualifications:

- a) Have at least a BAC+5 degree in one of the following fields: Agronomy, Agroeconomics, Rural Sociology, Rural Economics, Geography, Law, Management or other related fields,
- b) At least eight (8) years' relevant experience in policy and regulatory development in the fertiliser sector,
- c) Demonstrated in-depth knowledge of the regulatory frameworks in force in ECOWAS and CILSS Member States with regard to fertilisers.
- d) At least 3 years' experience in implementing agricultural policies, in particular in particularly in the fertiliser sector.
- e) Have collaborated with a regional institution such as ECOWAS, CILSS, UEMOA or the European Union. CORAF.
- f) Be fluent in one of the three ECOWAS languages, i.e. French, English or Portuguese, and have a good knowledge of one of the other two.

6. Place of employment and duration of assignment

The expert will be based at the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development in Abuja, Nigeria. The duration of the assignment is for the entire life of the Project after a probationary period of six months. However, the selected consultant will benefit from an annual renewable contract for the duration of the project. The position is full-time.

7. Selection process

The selection process will take place in two phases:

- **CV analysis phase:** at the end of this phase, candidates will be ranked in order of merit on the basis of the scores obtained in the CV evaluation. Only the first six (06) candidates who have been shortlisted after the CV evaluation and who have obtained the minimum qualification score of 75 out of 100 will be contacted for the interview phase;
- **Interview phase:** shortlisted candidates will be interviewed individually by a panel made up of members of an evaluation committee. The best candidate at the end of the interview will be selected for contract negotiations.

8. Application forms

The application file includes :

- a letter of expression of interest, addressed to the Executive Director of the RAAA, including the availability period.
- a recent curriculum vitae detailing professional experience and similar assignments.
- Three professional references (full name, current and previous positions, telephone number and e-mail address).
- Certified copy of highest diploma.
- Copies of certificates, work references or any other document that could justify the consultant's experience, as mentioned in the curriculum vitae.

9. Submitting applications

Expressions of interest must be submitted no later than **27 May 2024; - by 17:00 GMT only** by the via an download from [Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com/request/nXOCDt7eZjbVS6NG71va)
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/nXOCDt7eZjbVS6NG71va>

The application file must be in the form of a single PDF file.

The ARAA reserves the right not to consider applications that do not do not comply with the aforementioned submission conditions.

Interested consultants can obtain further information by writing to the following e-mail addresses: procurement@araa.org with the subject "**SCI 010-Expert PRSE**".

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file. The ARAA reserves the right not to consider applications that do not comply with the above conditions for submission.

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