

REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTES (RFCN)

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A. SYNOPSIS OF THE RFCN

RFCN No.	Autogenerated
Issue date	Autogenerated
Title	Building capacities of smallholders' farmer in climate-vulnerable communities of Northeastern Uganda
Issuing organization	AGRA Office: Plot 42 Princess Drive Bugoloobi, Kampala
Submission of questions & Concept Note application	We only accept online submission at AGRA's online portal AMIS https://agra.synisys.com/portfolio/requests
Deadline for Receipt of Questions	
Deadline for Responding to the questions (for AGRA)	
1st Deadline for Receipt of Concept note Applications	
2nd Deadline for Receipt of Concept note Applications	

B. SCOPE OF WORK

1.0 Background

1.1 AGRA

Founded in 2006, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), is an African-led African-based organization that seeks to catalyze Agriculture Transformation in Africa. In its current strategy (AGRA 3.0, 2023–2027), AGRA intends to influence and leverage its partners to build a robust enabling environment where private sector thrives, and all smallholder farmers are empowered to produce sufficient and healthy food. AGRA's vision is therefore "to contribute to an inclusive agricultural transformation across Africa, to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and adapt to climate change". Its Mission is "to catalyze the growth of sustainable food systems across Africa, by influencing and leveraging partners to build a robust enabling environment where private sector thrives, and all smallholder farmers are empowered to produce sufficient and healthy food". AGRA's Strategic Objectives, therefore, are to:

- i. Empower and build resilience of smallholder farmers
- ii. Support the development of inclusive markets to improve functional agricultural systems
- iii. Build state capability to sustain agricultural transformation.

1.2 AGRA's strategy for Uganda

Considering that Uganda is a perennial surplus food producer with potential to meet deficits of neighbouring countries and beyond, AGRA's entry point, therefore, is to build inclusive and competitive markets through value addition and trade. This is pretty much in line with Uganda's National Development Plan III (2020/21 – 2024/25) which focusses on Agro-industrialization and value addition for job creation while also emphasizing increased production and productivity through agro-input usage and mechanization.

Considering the increasing effects of climate change in Uganda, AGRA is cognizant of their potential negative impacts which can impede attainment of the desired transformation. As such, AGRA is hugely intentional in building the resilience of smallholder farmers to withstand such challenges. Some of the efforts being considered include introduction of mechanization and irrigation in production systems while also harnessing digital and financial services to enable farmers access such technologies. Other proposed interventions include promotion of drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties to minimize losses brought about by climate change.

1.3 Call for Grant Applications

Despite Uganda being a net surplus producer of food, some geographic locations (mostly Karamoja and some parts of Teso sub regions) in Northeastern Uganda perennially experience floods and prolonged severe droughts which render the population to become food insecure. This situation is exacerbated by the now more-frequent incidences of cattle rustling which not only worsens the food security status of households but also disrupts production activities.

However, scientists from the National Agricultural Research Organization together with civil society and Non-governmental organizations working in these geographies believe and have proved that crops can survive and thrive as long as the production cycles are well managed. This may entail timely planting, use of suitable varieties, application of irrigation as well as timely harvest. As such, over the past several months, AGRA has convened a number of stakeholders to brainstorm on how to transform these vulnerable geographies towards food security and economic prosperity. Among the stakeholders involved is Stanbic Bank with friendly credit targeting farmers and agri-SMEs under the Economic Enterprise Restart Fund (EERF)¹, New Holland – Cooper Motor Corporation (U) Ltd (CMC) willing to avail mechanization solutions as well as Operation Wealth Creation (OWC)² which is a government programme whose mandate is to distribute farm inputs to Farmers and coordinate Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies for improved service delivery aimed at transforming the 68% Ugandans outside the Money Economy.

In order to take this effort forward, AGRA is seeking for potential partners to embrace this effort in order to achieve the following objectives:

SO 1: Change the mindset of populations in Karamoja and parts of Teso subregions towards being less dependent on handouts but rather be more focused becoming food self-sufficient.

SO2: Exposing the population in Karamoja and parts of Teso subregions to the potential of food production using better means and methods of production

SO3: Exposing youth in the in Karamoja and parts of Teso subregions to the lucrative employment opportunities the agri-value chains can potentially create

The potential partners will include, but not limited to, the following:

- NGOs (preferable those which have operated in the said geographies)
- The private sector operators/consultancies

NB: Organizations with capability can submit individual grant application. In addition, organizations are allowed to jointly submit grant applications. Where applicable after receipt of grant applications, AGRA has a chance to ask the organizations to jointly implement at award stage.

AGRA, therefore, invites submission of Concept Notes from interested and qualified organizations operating in the agricultural value chain for projects that contribute to the achievement of AGRA's stated intended objectives and outcomes. Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate strategic collaboration.

2.0 Key Work Packages

Interested applicants are invited to submit their Concept Notes (use template attached). The successful applicant will then work with AGRA to develop the concept into a full proposal. The applicant should demonstrate in their concept note how they intend to accomplish the following work packages:

WP 1: Change of mindset from dependence to self-sufficiency in food production

WP 2: Building resilience and capacity of smallholder farmers regarding food production

WP 3: Getting youth involved in agri-value chains as gainful employment

3.0 Period of performance

The overall period of the project is estimated to be 3 years maximum, from the September 2023 to August 2026.

4.0 Period Grant Applications will be Accepted

This Request for grant applications will remain open for a period of 15 calendar days, from 30th July 2023 to 15th August 2023 at 11.59pm (EAT) which is the final deadline for receiving concept notes. Applications made after the final deadline will not be considered.

C. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria		Points
1.	Technical Approach: Description of the methodology and approach which meet or exceed the stated objectives and work packages described	50 Points
2.	Management approach: the grant application should describe how the proposed team members have the necessary experience and capabilities to carry out the scope of work (attach the team member's CVs).	30 Points
3.	Past Experience: in delivering assignments of this nature and demonstrated knowledge of and experience in the targeted geographies	20 points
Total		100 points

NB. Cost negotiations may be help with successful applicant later if applicable.

¹ <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/brand-book/stanbic-bank-looks-to-saccos-to-unlock-agricultural-financing-4178190>

² <https://owc.go.ug/>

D. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Organizations contemplating submission of applications in response to this request for concept note (RFCN) must determine whether they meet the following requirements to be eligible for AGRA's grant:

- a). Five (5) years of demonstrable organizations working experience in either one or a combination of the following; agricultural extension, agribusiness, socio-economics of Northeastern Uganda.
- b). Demonstrable grasp of the most common agri-value chain issues in Uganda
- c). Demonstrable working experience in programs supporting women and youth as stakeholders in implementation activities.
- d). The organization should hold a valid company registration in Uganda
- e). Provide evidence of existing relationships working with local government/leadership in Northeastern Uganda
- f). Provide CV's of key staff proposed for this assignment.
- g). If an institution/organization meets the above eligibility criteria, AGRA may request additional documentation to be submitted as part of the pre-award process.

E. HOW TO APPLY

If eligible and interested in this Request for concept note Application, please provide the following via AGRA's online portal AMIS by/before, **15th August 2023 before 11:59 pm Eastern Africa Time (EAT)**. Additionally, applicants at proposal-stage once AGRA has communicated to the applicant of the approved concept, are expected to make submission of following documents (at AGRA AMIS online system for which applicant will be informed by AGRA);

1. Request a new account from here: <https://agra.synisys.com/>
2. Create an account as an applicant
3. Log in to the system with your credentials: <https://agra.synisys.com/portfolio/requests>
4. Choose the request and submit your application via Create New Response section of the form.
5. Details to be submitted via the portal include;
 - a). A copy of your organization's registration certificate
 - b). Detailed organization profile
 - c). Concept note (AGRA template provided)
 - d). Two (2) years Audited financial statement (send a signed copy by the auditor).

