

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANCY ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AND RESILIENT TECHNOLOGIES

PROJECT TITLE:

IMPROVED DELIVERY OF SEED AND SOIL TECHNOLOGIES IN ETHIOPIA

I. BACKGROUND

Established in 2006, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is an African-led and Africa-based institution that puts smallholder farmers at the center of the continent's growing economy by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive into farming as a business that thrives.

Working in collaboration with our partners—including African governments, researchers, development partners, the private sector and civil society— AGRA's work primarily focuses on smallholder farmers - men and women who typically cultivate staple crops on two hectares or less.

Through our new 5-year strategy for 2017-2021, we aim to catalyze and sustain an inclusive agricultural transformation through integrated, country-based investment plans in 11 countries with high potential for success. This transformation will be achieved through innovation-driven and sustainable productivity increases and access to innovative finance and markets to achieve agriculture's potential as the reliable path to the continent's prosperity and the best option for youth employment creation.

AGRA has partnered with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to address the challenge of linking new crop varieties and improved soil fertility management research outputs to smallholder beneficiaries of the IFAD-supported loan program - Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Program (PASIDP II) in Ethiopia. To achieve the above objective, AGRA will work closely with IFAD Country Teams and Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to strengthen capacities in: (i) promotion and dissemination of improved seed and soil fertility management technologies and (ii) generation, documentation and sharing of knowledge. PASIDP II supports improved and sustainable watershed management in rain fed areas adjacent to irrigation schemes. This is done through the rehabilitation of degraded lands, promotion of climate resilient technologies and linking farmers to financing and agri-business services.

Pursuant to the highlighted brief above, AGRA seeks to engage a qualified consultant(s)/consulting firm to strengthen the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), through the introduction of Conservation Agriculture (CA) techniques for rainfed farmers targeted under PASDP II. The consultant shall deliver the interventions that are detailed in section III.

II. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the assignment is to strengthen the capacity of Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) staff involved in the implementation of PASIDP II project who

include Farmer Training Centers staff on Conservation Agriculture (CA) and resilient agricultural technologies.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

Using suitable methodologies, the consultant/consultancy firm will be required to strengthen the capacity of MoANR staff involved in the implementation of PASIDP II Project on CA and climate resilient technologies. Specifically, the consultant will undertake the following tasks:

1. In collaboration with MoANR and Farmer Research Groups, characterize the biophysical and socioeconomic factors that could enhance the uptake CA and soil fertility management in the Ethiopian context.
2. Identify, characterize and select specific practical solutions of conservation agriculture and resilient technologies/practices that can be promoted, adopted and have high potential to increase farmers' yield in the context of Ethiopia.
3. Based on selected scalable technologies, select a few sites in PASIDP target districts to test a set of technologies and practices that can later be scaled-up in similar sites, based on the typology.
4. Conduct a detailed Capacity Needs Assessment for Farmer Research Groups and MoANR staff implementing PASIDP II Project including Farmer Training Centers and Development Agents (DAs) with regard to selected technologies and practices.
5. Based on the capacity needs assessment, develop capacity training modules and manuals focusing on participatory approaches and practical solutions of conservation agriculture and resilient agriculture practices
6. Engage Farmer Research Groups and MoANR staff implementing PASIDP II Project including Farmer Training Centers and Development Agents (DAs) in implementing a training and capacity building program.
7. Recommend practical scale-up approaches of conservation agriculture and resilient technologies including use of Village Based Agents model and linkages with enablers such as financial and market service providers in the target geographies.
8. Develop a monitoring and evaluation system for the capacity building intervention.
9. Document the Knowledge Management process/approach including best practices and success/impact stories as a result of the consultancy work.

The assignment will be undertaken in Ethiopia's regions of Oromia, Tigray, Amhara and SNNP.

IV. ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

	Activities	Schedule
Preparation	Induction session with AGRA, MoANR and IFAD Country Team on the assignment and its main objectives	March 2019
	Completion of the work plan for this assignment in close coordination with AGRA	March 2019
Developing the Training Manuals	Developing all the training manuals	March to April 2019
	Present the initial draft of the Manuals to AGRA and IFAD country Project Coordination Unit staff for any feedback and approval	April 2019
	Working on the feedback from AGRA and IFAD and submit final versions of the Manuals for printing	May 2019
Conducting training	Conducting capacity development/training	May 2019 to August 2019
Reporting	Submitting detailed report on each training provided	May 2019 to December 2019
	Submitting final report on the assignment process and results of the consultancy	January 2020

V. DELIVERABLES

The Consultant/Consultancy firm will be required to deliver the following:

1. Site/typology specific CA/Soil fertility technologies tested, assessed in participatory manner (FRGs)
2. Detailed Capacity Development and Training Needs Assessment Report.
3. Manual for extension staff with training modules and relevant content for implementing CA adaptive training.
4. Capacity development and training plan.
5. Delivery reports for the capacity development and training plan. This includes a detailed report on each training provided and a final report on the assignment process and results of the consultancy.
6. Knowledge Management documents on the process/approach, best practices, and success/impact stories. Also, include photographs where possible.
7. Follow up Extension Services Plan.

VI. REPORTING

The consultant will report directly to the Head of Soil and Fertilizer Systems in AGRA.

VII. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Interested consultants/consultancy firms are invited to submit their bids in the following format:

- Background and capability statement of the firm
- An understanding of the consultancy requirements
- A detailed full-fledged proposal detailing how the candidate proposes to undertake the whole exercise
- Methodology
- Work-plan for performing the assignment
- All-inclusive budget in (USD)
- Detailed reference list indicating the scope and magnitude of similar assignments
- Time Commitment/Availability
- The CVs of the team that will work on this assignment specifying their respective roles.
- Registration and other relevant statutory documents

VIII. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

AGRA is looking for a reputable consultant or consultancy firm with:

- A pool of innovative postgraduate hands-on experts (MSc and PhD) with minimum of 10 years' experience in a relevant field including (Soil science, Agricultural crop science, etc.)
- The Lead Investigator must have significant experience in disseminating climate smart agriculture in Africa through adaptive training
- Experience undertaking similar assignments in Ethiopia will be an added advantage.

Interested and qualifying consultants or consultancy firm are invited to submit an expression of interest highlighting a broad methodology to be adopted. Applicants are advised that any funds made available are subject to AGRA's strict accountability and audit test.

No promise explicit or implicit is made to any institutions/organizations/firms submitting a concept note to AGRA on making any funds available (including reimbursement of document preparation costs).

IX. SUBMISSION PROCESS

All applications should be sent to procurement@agra.org by close of business on **March 13, 2019 at 1700 Hours** East Africa Time (GMT +3) and clearly marked "**Conservation**

Agriculture Capacity Development under IDSST in Ethiopia”. All applicants must meet the minimum requirements described above, and those unable to meet these requirements will not be considered.

X. DISCLAIMER

AGRA reserves the right to determine the structure of the process, number of short-listed participants, the right to withdraw from the proposal process, the right to change this timetable at any time without notice and reserves the right to withdraw this tender at any time, without prior notice and without liability to compensate and/or reimburse any party.