

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

## STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE POLICY ENABLING, FLAGSHIP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION AND EXECUTION CAPACITY OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS AFFILIATE INSTITUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Support policy reform and flagship implementation

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### 1. SYNOPSIS OF THE RFP

RFCN No.	<b>PD/RFP 015/2023</b>						
Issue date	<b>28/Jul/2023</b>						
Title	STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE POLICY ENABLING, FLAGSHIP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION AND EXECUTION CAPACITY OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS AFFILIATE INSTITUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA						
Region	Eastern Africa						
Country	Ethiopia						
Timeline of Proposal Development:	Lot No:	Deadline	Concepts Review	Notification of successful Grant concepts	Development of Proposals	Review, Internal/ External approval of Proposals	Fund Approval, Award and Inception meetings
	1	27/Sep/2023	21/Oct/2023	23/Oct/2023	25/Oct/2023	27/Oct/2023	01/Nov/2023
Issuing organization	AGRA – Sustainably growing Africa's Food Systems Head office: West End Towers, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Kanjata Road, off Muthangari Drive, Off Waiyaki Way P.O. Box 66773 Westlands, 00800 Nairobi, Kenya						

### 2. BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 AGRA

Established in 2006, 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. Together with our partners, we are working to sustainably grow Africa's food systems.

AGRA strengthens seed systems, develops and promotes sustainable farming practices, helps unlock trade and markets, and supports governments who lead their countries' development. We work with farmers to adapt to climate change, increase soil health, and protect the environment. AGRA believes deeply in the urgency of reducing the inequality that women face in agriculture, and to unlocking the power and innovation of youth. More information: <https://agra.org/>

#### 2.2 Country/Region or Unit Strategy of AGRA

AGRA Ethiopia Strategy (2023–2027) will be implemented using a mix of delivery approaches partnering with in-country technical partners, national government institutions, the private sector as well as a consortium of service providers with experience of effectively supporting agriculture and food system transformation in Ethiopia. AGRA aims to reach 2.2 million smallholder farmers in Ethiopia under its 2023–2027 strategy period of which at least 30% are women.

Interventions will be implemented through the following four complementary and integrated business lines: Seed Systems, Sustainable Farming, Inclusive Markets and Trade, and Policy and State Capability.

### 3. THE GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

#### 3.1 Grant Intervention Areas

This is a call for proposals for projects addressing:

Business Line: PSC: Policy and State Capability

The call is open to implementing organizations in:

Region	Country
Eastern Africa	Ethiopia

AGRA invites submission of grant proposals from interested and qualified organizations operating in the agricultural value chain for projects that contribute to the achievement of AGRA's stated intended outcomes. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate Trade & Inclusive markets, Digital, Policy & State capability, Program Delivery, Center of Technical Expertise.

#### Grant Funding Opportunity Description

##### 1. ENHANCE THE VISIBILITY OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORMULATION, APPROVAL AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION ON FOOD SYSTEMS

Key objective of this call is to develop, pilot and institutionalize agricultural sector policy and regulatory reform tracking system. The with specific objectives are:

- Generate real time information for the agricultural leadership team.
- Enable easy access to policy document information.
- Create central storage for management of agricultural policy documents. The proposal should address the following components but not limited.

##### COMPONENT I. HOSTING ARRANGEMENT

**COMPONENT II. DOMESTICATE THE TRACKING SYSTEM:** This includes System installation, testing, piloting/testing and operationalization of the system.

**COMPONENT III. TRAINING (KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER):** This is a knowledge transfer on the enhanced system for effective management and administration of the system.

**COMPONENT IV. SOCIALIZE THE SYSTEM AND FULL TRANSITION TO THE MOA**

##### 2. STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE POLICY ENABLING FOR FLAGSHIP AND FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

The goal of this component is to enhance enabling environment for agriculture and food system transformation in Ethiopia while specific objective is to in place enabling Policy and regulatory reforms for flagship commodities (Rice, Wheat and Soya bean) and unlock barriers to Ethiopia food system transformation. The proposal should identify the 3 micro policy /regulatory reform agendas, develop policy instruments, validated and approved by the appropriate government agency.

##### 3. SUPPORT THE COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THREE FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

AGRA had supported the MoA in developing three Flagship Programs: i) National Wheat Flagship Program (NWFP); ii) National Rice Flagship Program (NRFP) and Oil Seed and Animal Feed Program for Ethiopia. During 2023-27 strategy period, AGRA will capitalize on its earlier investment in flagship programs. One of the potential problems hindering effective implementation of the flagship programs is identified as lack of effective coordination and capacity limitation. Intervention under this component will be establishing and capacitating flagship ship coordination office at the MoA to ensure effective planning and delivery of the flagship program programs results. Approval of flagship program implementation governance, in placing coordination body, secondment of key staff for technical backstopping and performance tracking and reporting are major areas for the support. The proposal should address the following components.

**COMPONENT I: REVIEW AND APPROVAL FLAGSHIP GOVERNANCE COMPONENT II: IN PLACE COORDINATION OFFICE**

**COMPONENT III: SECONDMENT OF KEY STAFF**

**COMPONENT IV: FLAGSHIP PROGRAM PERFORMANCE TRACKING AND REPORTING**

##### 4. STRENGTHENING POLICY PLANNING, FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF FEDERAL MINISTRIES AND REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICES.

It is become evident that approval of agricultural policies is not enough to drive agricultural transformation. Some of the barriers to policy implementation are resource, technical capacity, planning and coordination, tools and methodologies for tracking progress/ impact measurement, etc. The component is to provide policy implementation support/enhance capacity of the MoA to speed up inclusive agricultural transformations and contribute to development goals of the country.

The proposal should address the following components but not limited.

**COMPONENT I: TRAINING TO AGRICULTURAL STAFF**

**COMPONENT II: MAP POLICY IMPLEMENTATION GAP**

**COMPONENT III: POLICY IMPLMENTION SUPPORT COMPONENT III: EXPERIENCE SHARING AND LEARNING VISIT**

**COMPONENT V: IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON POLICY TRAINING AND IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT**

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

Grant applications made after the final deadline of 27/Sep/2023 will not be considered.

### 3.2 Special Conditions under the RFP

Applications should be in line with the following:

The call is in-kind grant and is non-competitive as the MoA is mandated government institution for agriculture sector policy formulation/design, coordination and implementation

### 3.3 Award Distribution

Award Distribution is not applicable

### 3.4 Period of Grant performance

The maximum Grant period of performance is 48 months from 01/Nov/2023 to 31/Oct/2027. Each grant concept application should be contextualized given the solution(s) being proposed.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Type of Organization

The potential project partners are:

- a). Five (5) years of demonstrable organizations working experience in either one or a combination of the following; (a) Market Systems interventions in wheat, teff, maize, soyabean and rice value chains
- b). Demonstrable experience working with Regional Government engagement in Ethiopia.
- c). Demonstrable working experience in programs supporting women and youth as stakeholders in implementation activities.
- d). Demonstrated working experience, staffing and logistics in priority regions. A team with experience in integrated value chain development in any of the following value chains of crops; maize, beans, soybean, rice
- e). Article of legal establishment in Ethiopia
- f). Provide CVs of key staff proposed for this assignment

### 4.2 Partner capacity

Organizational structure, infrastructure and office facilities, expertise and mandate to implement the call

AGRA therefore invites submission of grant applications from interested and qualified organizations operating in agriculture and or related sectors. Organizations contemplating submission of applications in response to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must determine whether they meet the following requirements to be eligible for AGRA grant award:

1. List of technical capacity is required
2. Provide CVs of key staff proposed for this assignment.

If an institution or organization meets the above eligibility criteria, AGRA may request additional documentation to be submitted as part of pre-award process. Organizations are advised that any funds made available are subject to AGRA's and donors' accountability and audit requirements.

## 5. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criteria	Value Chains	
Technical Approach	(a) Innovative last mile delivery systems (b) innovative lead firm engagement (c) Advocacy and policy engagement	50.0
Management approach	Evaluate the proposed team members have the necessary experience and capabilities to carry out the scope of work	30.0
Past Experience	(a) supporting farmers increase productivity and incomes (b) Engaging lead firms by showcasing opportunities for backward integrations of supply chains (c) Engagement of government to develop and enabling environment for sustainable food production and private sector investment (d) Industry member engagement to develop self-regulation and innovations to support and engage smallholder farmers	20.0

## 6. HOW TO APPLY

If eligible and interested in this Request for Proposal, please submit your application by following the steps:

- 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 by 27/Sep/2023
- 5) Ensure you submit your CN /Proposal by using the submit prompt in the Action button

The following must be presented with your submission:

- 1) A copy of your organization's registration certificate
- 2) Detailed organization profile
- 3) Most recent Audited Financial statement

**Past performance:** Demonstrated evidence of undertaking at least three similar assignments done. The information shall include the legal name and address of the organization for which services were provided, a description of services provided and a current contact phone number and email address of a responsible and knowledgeable representative of the organization.

Demonstrate availability of appropriate skills among staff and adequacy of staff and experience in the specific region and technical area and attach their CVs.