

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

INCREASING EGS ACCESS FOR FLAGSHIP COMMODITIES AND CLIMATE RESILIENT SEEDS AND ENHANCE NATIONAL SEED PLANNING, COORDINATION AND DIGITAL TOOL FOR SEED FORECASTING

Seed access to climate smart and flagship commodities

CONTENT

- 1. Synopsis of the RFP**
- 2. Scope of work**
 - 2.1 AGRA
 - 2.2 Country/Region or Unit Strategy of AGRA
- 3. The Grant Funding Opportunity**
 - 3.1 Grant Intervention Areas
 - 3.2 Special Conditions under the RFP
 - 3.3 Award Distribution
 - 3.4 Period of Grant performance
- 4. Eligibility Requirements**
 - 4.1 Type of Organization
 - 4.2 Partner capacity
- 5. Technical Evaluation Criteria**
- 6. How to Apply**

1. SYNOPSIS OF THE RFP

RFCN No.	PD/RFP 017/2023						
Issue date	28/Jul/2023						
Title	INCREASING EGS ACCESS FOR FLAGSHIP COMMODITIES AND CLIMATE RESILIENT SEEDS AND ENHANCE NATIONAL SEED PLANNING, COORDINATION AND DIGITAL TOOL FOR SEED FORECASTING						
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 th 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: SS: Seed Systems, Business Line: SF: Sustainable Farming, Business Line: PSC: Policy and State Capability, Business Line: Cross-Cutting Theme – YE: Youth Empowerment, Long-Term Outcome: NU: Nutrition

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 Sustainable farming, and distribution, Youth, Gender & Inclusivity, Nutrition, Climate, Adaptation, Sustainable agriculture & Resilience, Seed Systems.

Grant Funding Opportunity Description

Call 1. INCREASE EGS ACCESS FOR FLAGSHIP COMMODITIES AND CLIMATE SMART AND NUTRIENT DENSE VARIETIES

COMPONENT I. IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE TARGETED FLAGSHIP COMMODITIES AND CLIMATE RESILIENT AND NUTRIENT DENSE SEEDS

The proposed component calls for a detailed mapping and product profiling of flagship crops, sorghum/millet and other geographic specific climate smart and nutrient dense varieties. A combination of traditional, scientific knowledge and other social or ecological parameters will be deployed to identify the varieties. The crops prioritized should be culturally significant or have a potential to revive local food systems and traditions.

COMPONENT II. DEFINE SUSTAINABLE MODALITY FOR EGS BEYOND HYBRID MAIZE (BREEDER, PREBASIC AND BASIC SEED) PRODUCTION

EIAR, and Regional Research institutes jointly will define sustainable model for EGS (breeder, pre basic and basic seed production) production to ensure sustainable supply of these crop varieties. (Detailed should be fleshed out on the proposal)

COMPONENT III. DESIGN MODEL AND CAPACITATE FOR PRE-BASIC AND BASIC SEED PRODUCTION. (Detailed should be fleshed out on the proposal)

COMPONENT IV. STRENGTHEN MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Detailed should be fleshed out on the proposal on the marketing and promotion of climate resilient and nutrient dense seeds.

Call 2. STRENGTHENING THE SEED SYSTEM THROUGH ENHANCED NATIONAL SEED PLANNING AND COORDINATION, DIGITAL TOOL AND BUSINESS ORIENTED SEED MARKETING SYSTEMS COMPONENT I. SUPPORT NATIONAL SEED SECTOR COORDINATION PLATFORM

Although significant progress has been registered in the performance of the seed sector, weak coordination and collaboration among key players/actors remained as one of the critical challenges. The ministry leadership is very much aware of the need for establishing seed sector national coordination platform to coordinate different activities implemented by various institutions operating in seed sector namely with in the ministry, EIAR, Cooperative Promotion Commission, RARIs, ESA, federal and regional seed regulatory bodies, public and private seed enterprises and development partners and donors, etc. The national coordination platform is envisaged to serves as an advisory team to the ministry leadership and decisions made in matters to the seed sector. The intervention is to support the seed planning and coordination at national and regional level to ensure the functionality of National Seed Sector Steering Committee (NSS-SC) and National Seed Sector Technical Taskforce (NSS-TTF).

COMPONENT II. STRENGTHEN THE FUNCTIONING OF SEED PLANNING AND COORDINATION UNIT (CONVENING OR MEETING TO DESIGN, PLAN ON THE STRUCTURE, DESIGN WORKPLAN FOR THE UNIT...) COMPONENT III. SUPPORT SECTOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN SEED INDUSTRY PLAYERS

Seed sector actors' dialogue is to bring together key actors in the seed sector, such as seed producers, distributors, researchers, regulators, and farmers, to discuss the current challenges and opportunities in the seed industry and to identify priority areas for intervention and innovation. It is also to provide a deep dive and engage people in agronomy, plant breeding, seed planning, seed production, marketing, policy formulation, financial service providers, seed association to come together to discuss, create an enabling environment for seed business. The dialogue between seed players should ensure increased awareness and knowledge of the latest developments and best practices in the seed sector, enhance collaboration and coordination among different stakeholders, create enabling environment for seed business and Policy briefs to act as advice to Government, and Ministry of Agriculture

COMPONENT IV. DESIGN AND OPTIMIZE A DIGITAL TOOL FOR SEED PLANNING AND FORECASTING

This is to improve the processes, to modernize the system, and strengthen the methodology through digitized data collection, analysis and archive. The proposed intervention is a move from paper:

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:

NOTE 1: Call 1 is a single source call for a joint proposal from Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute (EIAR) and Regional Agricultural Research Institutes. EIAR is a government and an authorized institution to engage and coordinate Early Generation Seed (EGS) production in the country. We encourage EIAR to apply for call 1 to address Component I,II,III and IV. Applicants are free to choose implementing partners.

NOTE 2: Call 2 is a single source call for proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA). MoA is a mandated government institution to coordinate seed issues in the country while EAA is regulatory arm of the government. MoA is expected to submit proposal for call 2 components I,II,III and IV while EAA for call 2 components V and VI. Applicants are free to choose their implementing partners.

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:

- 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
- Demonstrable experience working with Regional Government engagement in Ethiopia.
- Demonstrable working experience in programs supporting women and youth as stakeholders in implementation activities.
- 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
- Article of legal establishment in Ethiopia
- Provide CVs of key staff proposed for this assignment

4.2 Partner capacity

Functional organizational structure, expertise, infrastructure and facilities, role and mandate

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:

- List of technical capacity is required
- 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	Proposed team members have the necessary experience and capabilities to carry out the scope of work	30.0
Past Experience	Evidence of working experience in delivering assignments in Ethiopia in the activities stated on the Scope of work ; in either one or a combination of the following given your application; (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:

- Request a new account from here: <https://agra.synisys.com/>
- Create an account as an applicant
- Log in to the system with your credentials: <https://agra.synisys.com/portfolio/requests>
- Choose the request and submit your application via Create New Response section of the form by 27/Sep/2023
- 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.

