REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTES (RFCN)

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Enhancing Government Capacity to implement food systems priority flagships and priority value chains through an integrated youth-led initiative

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1. Synopsis of the RFCN

RF No.:   CTE/RFCN 035/2025

Issue date: 18/Jun/2025

Country/geographical location:

Region	Country
Continental	Continental

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	30/Jun/2025	10/Jul/2025	15/Jul/2025	10/Aug/2025	31/Aug/2025	10/Sep/2025

Title:

Enhancing Government Capacity to implement food systems priority flagships and priority value chains through an integrated youth-led initiative

Issue organization:

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Head office: West End Towers, 4th 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

Policy and State Capability is a unit within AGRA responsible for building state capabilities using the right policies, programs, and incentives critical for inclusive agricultural transformation. The goal of the PSC business line is to support governments to develop clear policies and strong capabilities that create the enabling environment for private sector investment and participation in Inclusive Agri-Food Systems Transformation through addressing systemic bottlenecks, bolster the capacities of states and mandated institutions to drive policy and strategy implementations, ensure effective design and implementation of flagship programs.

3. The Grant Funding Opportunity

3.1 Grant Intervention Areas

This is a call for concept notes for projects addressing

Business Line: PSC: Policy and State Capability, Business Line: Cross-Cutting Theme - YE: Youth Empowerment

The call is open to implementing organizations in

Region	Country
Continental	Continental

AGRA invites submission of grant 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 outcomes. Priority will be given to concept notes that demonstrateYouth, Gender & Inclusiveness, Policy & State capability, Program Delivery, Center of Technical Expertise

Grant Funding Opportunity Description

AGRA is seeking a firm or organization to support capacity strengthening of governments to design and implement flagships and policies to drive and expand key priority value chains and create jobs mainly for youth and women. This is a call for proposals from interested firms and organizations that could support 2-3 countries from the following list: Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Burkina Faso. The overall objective is to enhance the capacity of government implementing partners to design and implement youth focused flagships programs by systematically addressing the above critical gaps

The specific objectives are:

i.Establish/strengthen intra/inter institutional coordination and delivery frameworks of youth-focused flagship programs by designing management for results tools, digital M&E and data consolidation tools templates and operating models and mainstreaming them within flagship implementation offices.
ii.Establishing comprehensive resource mobilization plans for flagship programs. This includes the development of detailed plans on how to mobilize resources from private sector, development partners and the treasury. It also looks at ways of increasing the collaboration with investment promotion agencies to mainstream the agriculture sector in investment promotion strategies.
iii.Establish data management, utilization frameworks and capabilities as well as performance management and accountability mechanisms within implementing partners. This entails the development of tools and templates, integrating analytical capabilities and establishing data collection routines in collaboration with national statistical offices for design and implementation of youth-inclusive flagships.
iv.Develop inclusive methodologies, tools, and platforms for youth in flagship design and implementation. Support human-centered design techniques, create impact pathways for youth employment, and improve M&E frameworks with youth-sensitive data methods.

Note: Organizations can submit individual concept notes. In addition, organizations are allowed to jointly submit grant proposals. Where applicable after receipt of concept notes, AGRA has a chance to ask the organizations to jointly implement at award stage.
Grant applications made after the final deadline of30/Jun/2025 will not be considered.

3.2 Special Conditions under the RFCN

Applications should be in line with the following:

No Data

3.3 Award Distribution

Award Distribution is not applicable

3.4 Period of Grant performance

The maximum Grant period of performance is 15 months from 10/Sep/2025 to 30/Nov/2026. 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:

Eligible applicants must be Africa-based organizations with a strong track record in supporting public sector institutions, policy implementation, and institutional capacity strengthening in the agriculture or development sector.

4.2. Partner capacity

Applicants who meet the above eligibility criteria must demonstrate experience in one or more of the following areas:

Institutional Capacity Strengthening in Government
•Proven experience working with government ministries, departments, or agencies to improve their implementation capacity, organizational performance,
        and delivery of flagship programs.
•Demonstrated ability to embed technical advisors within government institutions to support delivery, coordination, and results management.
Design and Operationalization of Results-Based Frameworks
•Expertise in designing and institutionalizing tailored management-for-results tools, frameworks, and templates that support flagship program delivery.
•Familiarity with adaptive and context-sensitive approaches to coordination, performance tracking, M&E, and data collection in the African public sector context.
Experience in designing & supporting youth inclusive programs/projects
•A demonstrated understanding of the key binding constraints that youth in Africa face
•Expertise in designing and implementing youth focused programs, platforms, design methodologies and tools
Organizational Diagnostics and Readiness Assessments
•Experience conducting organizational or institutional readiness assessments, including analysis of structures, processes, systems, and change readiness.
•Capacity to provide actionable recommendations to strengthen delivery capabilities.
Development and Deployment of Digital or Performance Management Tools
•Capability to design and deploy practical digital or non-digital tools that strengthen government performance management, data systems, and youth employment tracking within flagship programs.
Training and Capacity Building
•Experience delivering short-term, customized training and coaching for government staff on institutional reform, policy delivery, and results frameworks.
•Ability to facilitate peer-learning platforms or communities of practice that promote knowledge exchange and experience sharing among implementing institutions.
Africa Presence and Local Understanding
•Applicants must have a primary base of operations in Africa and demonstrate a deep understanding of public sector dynamics and institutional ecosystems in AGRA's focus countries.
•Preference will be given to organizations with demonstrated success working in AGRA-partner countries and in agriculture-related flagships

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 Concept Note (RFC) must determine whether they meet the following requirements to be eligible for AGRA grant award:

1) List of technical capacities required

2) Provide CVs of key staff proposed for this assignment.

If an institution/organization meets the above eligibility criteria AGRA may request additional documentation to be submitted as part of the 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	Description	Percentage
Management approach	Strength of Management and technical teams; strength of internal systems	30.0

Past Experience	Alignment of past experiences to the scope and requirements of the work; particularly looking at experience in working with government institutions in high priority programs	30.0	
Technical Approach	Understanding of the assignment and feasibility of the proposed methodolgy	40.0	

6. **Environmental and Social (E&S) Management**

Institutions/organizations considered/shortlisted for funding under this Call must provide an Environmental and Social (E&S) Action Plan. The purpose of the ESAP is to identify E&S impacts and associated mitigation measures of the project to minimize negative effects and enhance positive effects, as identified during the internal AGRA E&S Screening and as listed below:

1) Provide list of Main E&S risks as identified during the E&S Pre-Screening and description of how these will be addressed

2) Provide any climate related risks as identified during the Climate Adaptation Pre-Screening

3) Provide a description of the project Area of Influence, based on the risks identified

7. How to Apply

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

1) *Request a new account* from here: https://amisprod.agra.org/

2) Create an account as an applicant

3) Log in to the system with your credentials: https://amisprod.agra.org/portfolio/requests

4) Choose the request and submit your application via *Create New Response* section of the form by30/Jun/2025

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.