

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
“CONSULTANCY SERVICES”

SECTOR: Research

CONSULTANCY SERVICES: States Policy Analysis

FINANCING AGREEMENT REFERENCE: IFAD GRANT NUMBER – 2000002865

PROJECT ID No. PJ- 002860

This request for expression of interest follows the general procurement procedures for this project issued under the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as part of her contributions to Agricultural transformation in Nigerian federal states and Togolese regions towards achieving Zero Hunger.

Background

Achieving Zero Hunger is among the key aims of Agenda 2030 (SDG 2) and requires a holistic and consistent approach that encompasses productive support and social protection systems, as well as partnerships, multi-stakeholder participation, and inclusive governance. Nigeria and Togo are among the countries that have launched national initiatives to achieve Zero Hunger in the form of country-owned and -driven programmes.

The Nigeria Zero Hunger Forum (NZHF) was launched in February 2016 to encourage the implementation of government policies. NZHF has membership at the highest levels of government and agricultural policy-making authorities such as governors in the participating states, and executives from major private- and public sector organisations, international organizations, development partners and donors. Before this time, the forum operates through high-level consultations and conducts reviews of government and private sector programmes working towards Zero Hunger in member states. A similar Forum on Zero Hunger was developed in the neighbouring country of Togo. In August 2017, Togo launched a stakeholder consultation that led to the development of the Togo Zero Hunger Strategic Review. The process was multi-sectoral, involving the ministries responsible for Development Planning; Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; and Rural Development. The Report is aligned with the Togolese government's new agricultural policy (DPA 2016–2030).

Objective and Scope of Work

The broad objective of the study is to identify and analyze government goals and targets for agriculture, assess the target constraints and bottlenecks, that restrict the use of inputs, characterize and map the size of the production inputs such as seed, fertilizer, pesticides and other agro-chemicals, and also identify existing programs, and initiatives working towards the achievement of agricultural transformation in the selected states. This will involve identification, synthesis, and analysis of various sectoral and macroeconomic policies and regulations impacting the agricultural sector in a target country with a view of making implementable recommendations for Zero Hunger Project Alignment. The review will produce a comprehensive, harmonized, and coherent policy review document that can be used as a sourcebook to provide guidance on key government policies to grow the agricultural sector in the States. It will make recommendations on suitable mechanism to link the progress of the ZHI with government policy and SDG2, produce policy brief to influence policy decision. In addition, the study will also identify and assess programs and initiatives that are working towards the achievement of Zero Hunger in the states. The work will be done in Nigeria (Benue and Ogun State) and Togo (Plateaux and Kara).

The Consultancy Study will involve six principal activities:

- A. **Undertake an identification of country/states’ policy goals and targets for agricultural transformation, and government intervention plans for realizing the goals.** This is intended to address the issue of what state governments considers as a priority in relation to agriculture for agriculture development; what does

the Commissioner of Agriculture and other state government organs focus on in relation to agriculture for achieving Zero Hunger? It will involve:

- Analysis of various State strategic documents and instruments for identification of major government policy goals relating to agriculture, food systems and nutrition. This is not limited only to what is available through the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Analysis of the goals, targets, and programs in these strategy instruments, to identify and select components of great relevance for Zero Hunger engagement.

The outputs of the study would be the basis for alignment of the ZHI operations in response to state goals and priorities.

B. Undertake institutional and programs mapping to address the fundamental question of “What’s going on where, and by who” on cassava value chain within Benue and Ogun States. This component aims at:

- Identifying and mapping existing programs and initiatives making major contributions towards agricultural transformation for national development.
- These would include:
 - Government Agriculture Development Programs (ADPs);
 - Programs of Development Partners such as the World Bank, AfDB, IFAD, FAO, and AGRA.
 - Major Private Sector programs in Rice and Cassava value chains and agricultural development.
 - Agricultural extension and inter-mediation agencies.

The output of this activity would support the Identification of key collaboration areas for ZHI engagement to complement the capabilities at the state level.

The above objectives will enable the project respond to country/states’ demands for knowledge, evidence, and technologies, as well as ensuring strengthened capacities for coordination and alignment to the strategic goals of government.

C. Assess policy challenges to identify opportunities and recommend policy options to drive technology uptake in cassava value chain. This part of the assessment will target constraints and bottlenecks, such as price setting mechanisms that restrict the use of inputs. It will identify the factors that physically and financially limit farmers’ access to the technologies (good seeds, affordable mechanization tool, GAP, processing tools etc). Contextually, the policy analysts will identify the opportunities to strengthen agricultural transformation and improve food security and nutrition

D. Assess progress in achieving Zero Hunger goals through cassava in Benue and Ogun States. The preliminary analysis revealed that the policies were sound and suited to an economic agricultural transformation, but that their implementation was generally weak, fragmented and largely uncorrelated. There was also evidence of a weak alignment of agricultural research and delivery operations to country strategic goals and targets for agriculture. Under this, the progress of on-going Zero Hunger initiatives and programmes in the state will be assessed against set targets. recommend suitable data collection mechanism to link the technical progress of ZH initiatives with government policies using the main agricultural productivity indicators. This technical assessment will include field visits conducted jointly by state government officials, the consultant and staff of ZHI prepare assessment reports.

E. Characterise and map size of cassava production inputs: The characterise and size of the production inputs (seed, fertilizer, pesticides and other agro-chemicals) will be mapped through rigorous data analysis. Mapping represents the necessary precondition to formulate effective policy options based on wide and deep understating of the existing policy initiatives. Indeed, in most states in Nigeria numerous overlapping policy initiatives create a fragmented policy environment. This intends to provide an

updated and clear picture of the status quo on these inputs to inform policy engagement and policy formulation especially for seeds production.

- F. Develop a policy brief to influence the existing cassava seed, processing, market and, mechanization policies and finally enhance the participation of farmers in seeds production, processing, mechanization, and market linkages. Support the states in the development of agricultural policy or strategy where necessary.

The consultant will also conduct the following activities:

- A. Present the findings of analysis and knowledge materials in suitable formats to multiple stakeholders
- A. Interpret results of data analysis in the light of current knowledge
- B. Produce written documents for multiple audience and stakeholders, such as analytical papers, reports, reviews and policy briefs
- C. Support the disseminate of findings and new evidence to policy makers and programme planners at various levels especially sub-national level as per visibility and communication plan.
- D. Support Project implementation unit in preparing reader-friendly materials that could be disseminated using multiple channels. This could involve web and media communications; publications; policy briefs; organizing local events; and participation in conferences, meetings.

Proposed Approach and Methodology

The Study would be both desk and field study through literature review and analysis supplemented with conduct of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). It will involve visits to government offices and other programs, and series of both physical and virtual meetings and webinars relating to the six activities. This will include organizing virtual meeting of group of experts drawn from the state and IITA. The first webinar will seek inputs and comments on the implementation plan, methodology and expected contacts to be made as well as deliverables anticipated. The second webinar will be to share information on study outcomes and seek comments and inputs. The ZHI project and IITA policy team would provide needed facilitation and assistance in this regard.

Thematic areas to be explored will include:

- Increasing agricultural production and productivity
- Achieving zero hunger
- Promoting nutrition and addressing hidden hunger
- Value chain development and facilitation
- Promoting agriculture as business; entrepreneurship
- Mechanization
- Agriculture and job creation

Some examples of technical and policy documents that could contribute in the study are listed below:

- The principal agricultural policy instrument of the state/region and country (Min of Agriculture)
- Other policy instruments of relevant ministries and government programs
- Government documents relating to CAADP implementation (NAIPs, country CAADP Biennial Review reports, etc)
- Principal policy documents of major agricultural transformation and development organizations (AGRA, IFAD, WB, FAO, Private Sector, etc)

- Special government initiatives or programs on agriculture in the states/regions (e.g. Govt supported Out-grower scheme; Presidential Initiative on Cassava, etc)

Roles of Consultant

The study will be undertaken by a consultancy team of at least two persons with skills for the six components of the study. The consultants will carry out the following:

- a. Prepare and submit work plan to include tools and activity plan (3days)
- b. Collect documentation and conduct data analysis (14days)
- c. Submit initial draft report of analysis to the country team for review and Incorporate comments on draft analysis into the draft report (25 days after commencement)
- d. Present final draft report to project team for final review (30days after commencement)
- e. Finalize draft report and submit to Project leads. (50 Days after commencement).

The report must not exceed 15 pages, and must contain:

- Title page
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Findings and analysis
- Recommendations
- Conclusion and summary
- Annexes

II. Required Qualifications and Expertise

Education:

- At least PhD degree or equivalent in one or more of the following disciplines: agriculture science; development economics, strategic planning/management, social sciences, or other related fields with proven and demonstrated experience on similar consultancy.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Minimum 8 years of International development experience, including work in developing countries.
- Demonstrated experience in formulating social policies, designing and implementing analytical activities.
- Proven ability to write policy briefs, research papers, articles, technical reports and documents in English.
- Demonstrated professional and interpersonal communications skills suited for donor clients, government and other stakeholders (including data visualization, report writing and presentations).
- Track record of successful delivery of high-level expert advice to governments and international organizations;
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team and have the initiative to work independently to meet deadlines.
- Experience in using statistical software and relevant analytical tools for both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Competencies:

- Good communication skills
- Excellent Analytical skills
- Ability to work with a multi-cultural environment and team

Timing and duration of assignment

The Consultant is expected to undertake the assignment effective immediate and will work very closely with the Zero Hunger Project Implementation Team and IITA Social Science Team. The duration of the assignment will be 20 working days spread over a 40-day period.

III. Reporting

The Consultant will report to the Project Policy component lead. The Consultant will operate remotely throughout the consultancy period.

IV. Budget and Payment Schedule:

Kindly indicate your budget in the application.

V. APPLICATION CRITERIA

Interested consultants should submit detailed technical and financial proposals (not more than **5 pages**) covering:

1. Capacity statement
2. Demonstrated understanding of the terms of reference
3. Proposed methodology
4. A detailed work plan
5. A detailed financial proposal
6. Indicate the country (Nigeria or Togo) you are applying for

The proposal should be accompanied by the below as annexes:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Two reference letters from recent clients with contact details of the referees.

Applications should be submitted to the ZHI via email: [IITA-ZeroHunger@cgiar.org not later than July 8, 2021 with the subject head clearly specifying the subject matter you are bidding for i.e. *'Policy Assessment Consultancy Nigeria (Benue and Ogun States)'*. IITA is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce and empowers both males and females from all religious and ethnic backgrounds and any other diversity groups. Only selected candidate(s) will be contacted.