

**Africa Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD)**

Request for Expressions of Interest [REOI]

(Consulting Services – Individual Consultants)

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy to Provide Policy Assessment and Mapping of Regional Value-Chains for Agro-processing and Agrobusinesses in Selected RECs for Integrated Market Systems.

**Procurement Number:** 96/AUDA/PIPD/TCAS/ICS/2021

**Date:** September 13th, 2021.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The COVID-19 crisis, and the political, economic, and social disruption it has caused, is fundamentally changing the traditional context for decision-making on socioeconomic development, particularly for countries in Africa. Already not a major player in global industrialization and trade, African economies are in further marginalization because of the economic damage and decline being experienced in both developed and other developing economies. Although as the continent, our efforts to counter the global forces inclining towards deglobalization may not adequate, it can itself embrace a self-supportive regionalism through enhanced intra-African economic activities and trade. One of the challenges facing African countries in realizing the self-supportive regionalism is triggering structural transformation in the economies of the region, and in the process, creating more value addition in its exports among itself and generating positive economic outcomes. Regional integration and the pooling of resources and capabilities by forming regional value chains (of goods and services) can be an important step in this direction. This can lead to a shift towards more productive economic activities in many countries and can subsequently boost domestic value addition in exports within the region. AUDA-NEPAD’s Data-Cipation programme, which seek to deepen citizen engagement and the role of data, digital and non-digital approaches in continental programmes and initiatives in line with priorities of Agenda 2063, also aims use same citizen engagement platforms and spaces to strengthen regional innovation ecosystems through the facilitation stakeholders dialogue and exchange platforms for harnessing regional value-chains of goods and services. The two socioeconomic themes for this component of the Data-Cipation programmes are (1) Digital Innovations for Agro-processing and Agrobusinesses and (2) Digital Innovations for Service Delivery.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Developing small business enterprises to produce products does not necessarily translate into sustainable incomes or food and nutrition security; to establish resilient solutions that address income and food security, the integration of such business enterprises into more competitive value-chains is required. The goal of this work is to provide comprehensive policy assessment and mapping of the agro regional value-chains to strengthen direct linkages between small scale agro-business development and commercial agro-food supply chains through technology-enabled integrated market systems. The assessment is meant to address the fundamental problem of Information Asymmetry where most small-scale producers do not have enough information (i.e., market information) on which to make business decisions.

As a step to address the information asymmetry problem in agricultural markets and associated value-chains, the assessment and mapping will provide policy makers the insights for transforming markets in selected regional clusters (i.e., regional clusters identified in the Data-Cipation programme) and provide recommendations for the provision of real-time data insights and technology-enabled integration of actors in the value-chains, focusing specifically on the needs of small scale agro-producers. The central focus will be on developing and utilizing frameworks and tools to encourage increased small scale agro-producer participation in competitive markets (critical for AfCFTA) to meet the broader poverty reduction and wealth creation objectives.

**2.1 Objectives of the Assignment.**

The objective of this consultancy is to conduct policy assessment of agro regional value-chains in 4 RECs (namely EAC, ECCAS, SADC and UMA) with the focus of strengthening direct linkages between small scale agro-business development and regional commercial agro-food supply chains through technology-enabled integrated market systems.

1. **MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

The consultant will be expected to carry out and deliver on the following tasks:

1. Assess the agro value-chains in 2 selected countries of the 4 RECs (i.e., EAC, ECCAS, SADC and UMA) and the linkage and access of the small scale agro-business to the value-chains.
2. Provide high-level policy insights on regional flow of information, goods and services for the assessment in (i).
3. Provide policy recommendations for the use digital technologies to encourage increased small scale agro-producer participation in regional competitive markets.
4. Provide recommendations on how national and regional public policy instruments on agro-business can be used to stimulate increased growth in regional flows of agro product and services
5. **DELIVERABLES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**
6. Inception report on work, precise methodologies to be applied in carrying out the assignment;
7. Submission of draft report with assessment of Agro Value-Chain in 4 RECs (i.e., EAC, ECCAS, SADC and UMA;
8. Submission of revised assessment report with key stakeholder input; and
9. Submission of final closing report of assessment report and supporting tools and frameworks.

The level of effort is estimated at fifty (50) person days to be implemented in three (3) months period tentatively from October to December 2021.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: (<https://www.nepad.org/corporate-procurement#tenders>).

The Africa Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

1. **QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES**

* Minimum of Master’s Degree in Agricultural Studies, Development Studies and Economics, Social Sciences, Trade and Innovation or related fields – PhD will be added advantage;
* At least 10 years of professional experience in of relevant work experience in the field of agro-businesses, innovation ecosystems and trade in Africa;
* Demonstrated experience in policy assessment, analysis and communication;
* In-depth knowledge of Agenda 2063 and of African institutions working in the development field and well as knowledge of the African Region is highly desirable
* At least 10 years of progressive relevant and practical experience in multi-stakeholder consultations for policy research;
* Demonstrable experience of the consultant similar and/or relevant to the assignment;
* Demonstrable experience in the provision of training sessions for technical and high-level political audience.

**Other relevant skills and competencies**

* Leadership, organisational, programme management, high-level liaison, and group dynamics skills;
* Policy analysis of agro-businesses, innovation ecosystems and trade
* Outstanding communication and writing skills.

1. **THE SHORTLISTING CRITERIA ARE:**

For evaluation of the expressions of interest, the following criteria will be applied with a pass mark of 70 points:

1. Qualifications - education and relevant training (30 points)
2. Experience related to the assignment (60 points).
3. Knowledge of the region & local conditions (10 points)

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant’s selection method set out in the African Union Procurement Manual Version 2.0 of 2016.

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AUDA-NEPAD consideration:

1. Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV), fully indicating nationality;
2. Proof of stated qualifications in the form of the copies of the degrees obtained;
3. Cover letter; and
4. Signed declaration of undertaking (downloadable from AUDA-NEPAD website) – and/or attached as to Annex 1 of this REOI.
5. **ONLY INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT IF THEY FULFIL THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**
6. Have no conflict of interest in relationship to performance of this assignment.
7. Are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to, a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by the World Bank or any other multilateral development bank and being listed on the website http://www.worldbank.org/debarr or respectively on the relevant list of any other multilateral development bank. Further, are not ineligible pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council;
8. Have not been convicted by a final judgement or a final administrative decision or subject to financial sanctions by the United Nations or Country for involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorist-related offences, child labour or trafficking in human beings; this criterion of exclusion is also applicable to legal Persons, whose majority of shares are held or factually controlled by natural or legal Persons which themselves are subject to such convictions or sanctions;
9. Are not being bankrupt, wound up or ceasing our activities, having our activities administered by courts, having entered receivership, reorganization or being in any analogous situation;
10. they have not been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the AUDA-NEPAD financial interests; and
11. they have not been declared guilty of gross professional misconduct proven by any means which AUDA-NEPAD can justify.

Interested Consultants may seek clarifications and obtain further information from/at the addresses below during office hours 08:00hrs - 16:00hrs latest by September 24th, 2021 SA Time.

Expressions of interest with supporting documents must be delivered in a written form to the address below or by email on or before/by 14:00hrs September 28th, 2021 SA Time.

All EOIs must be marked **“Consultancy to Provide Policy Assessment and Mapping of Regional Value-Chains for Agro-processing and Agrobusinesses in Selected RECs for Integrated Market Systems - Procurement Number: 96/AUDA/PIPD/TCAS/ICS/2021”** in the subject line of the email.

**The Chairperson Internal Procurement Committee (IPC)**

Africa Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD)

230, 15th Road, P. O. Box 218 Midrand,

1685 Johannesburg, South Africa

Email: [**procurement@nepad.org**](mailto:procurement@nepad.org) and copy [**nhamos@nepad.org**](mailto:nhamos@nepad.org)

In Attention of: Procurement Division.

***Annex 1***

**DECLARATION OF UNDERTAKING**

{*Location, Date*}

To: **The Chairperson Internal Procurement Committee (IPC)**

AUDA-NEPAD

230, 15th Road, P. O. Box 218 Midrand,

1685 Johannesburg, South Africa

Attention of: Head of Procurement Division

1. I, the undersigned, offer to provide the services for {insert *Title and Procurement Number*} in accordance with your Request for Expression of interest dated {insert *Date*}
2. I declare that we:
3. Have no conflict of interest in relationship to performance of this assignment;
4. Are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to, a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by the World Bank or any other multilateral development bank and being listed on the website http://www.worldbank.org/debarr or respectively on the relevant list of any other multilateral development bank. Further, are not ineligible pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council;
5. Have not been convicted by a final judgement or a final administrative decision or subject to financial sanctions by the United Nations or Country for involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorist-related offences, child labour or trafficking in human beings; this criterion of exclusion is also applicable to legal Persons, whose majority of shares are held or factually controlled by natural or legal Persons which themselves are subject to such convictions or sanctions;
6. Are not being bankrupt, wound up or ceasing our activities, having our activities administered by courts, having entered receivership, reorganisation or being in any analogous situation;
7. they have not been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the AUDA-NEPAD financial interests;
8. they have not been declared guilty of gross professional misconduct proven by any means which AUDA-NEPAD can justify.
9. I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, that my CV correctly describes myself, my qualifications, and my experience. I understand that any willful misstatement described herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal, if engaged;
10. I hereby declare that at any point in time, at AUDA-NEPAD’s request, I will provide certified copies of all documents to prove that I have the qualifications and the professional experience which are attached to this CV as photocopies; and
11. By signing this statement, I also authorize the AUDA-NEPAD’s to contact my previous or current employers indicated in my CV, to obtain directly reference about my professional conduct and achievements.

We remain,

Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Name of Consultant:

Address: