Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department

Request for Expressions of Interest
Climate Smart Agriculture Specialist to Support the Climate Smart Agriculture Program on Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin (PIDACC/NB)

1. The African Development Bank (AfDB) seeks to recruit a highly motivated Climate Smart Agriculture Specialist to assist the Agricultural Research, Production and Sustainability Division (AHAI.2) by providing technical assistance related to the supervision and implementation of the PIDACC/NB work program, including portfolio management, and procurement related to the ‘Program for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin (PIDACC/NB)’. PIDACC/NB is one of the Programs under the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA, 2017-2025) portfolio of the Bank, which aims for a sustainable and resilient transformation of African agriculture for food security in the context of climate change. The main deliverables of the CSA program include: i) 10 million producers adopting CSA technologies and practices; ii) 20 million producers who have access to climate information; iii) 5 million ha of degraded land recovered and forests under sustainable management; iv) 500,000 ha of agricultural land with resilient irrigation infrastructures; v) 100 % of Feed Africa projects integrate climate change; vi) 500,000 green jobs created; and vii) USD 1 billion climate funds mobilized for CSA projects in Africa. PIDACC’s activities are implemented at country level and coordinated at regional level by the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), making use of existing institutional arrangements to ensure national government involvement, engagement with relevant line ministries, and technical oversight.

2. More specifically, the objective of PIDACC is to improve the resilience of populations and ecosystems in the nine (9) Niger Basin countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. This will be achieved through sustainable natural resources and ecosystem management. The Program aims to: (i) reduce the silting process of the Niger River, (ii) improve the adaptability of populations to climate change, (iii) protect biodiversity, and (iv) restore soil fertility. The program will contribute towards addressing the NDCs (INDCs) submitted by the Niger basin countries. The NDCs include adaptation in agriculture as a priority sector for action which creates a sectoral framework for climate action. Investing in the agricultural sector under the PIDACC will address not only hunger and malnutrition but also other challenges including: poverty; water and energy use; climate change; and unsustainable production and consumption. The PIDACC program is financed by a Consortium which includes the AfDB; the Climate Investment Fund, CIF, the Green Climate Fund (GCF); the European Union (EU); the Global Environment facility (GEF) and beneficiary countries.
3. The selected individual consultant is expected to provide the following services:

- Ensure the establishment of effective technical supervision mechanisms for the PIDACC program;
- Manage day-to-day project and program operations of the PIDACC program; this will include monitoring project implementation, and maintaining contact with the Niger Basin Authority, Governments and other project implementation agencies for all project-related issues;
- Support the PIDACC executing agency teams in the early preparation of bidding documents, technical specifications, designs, development of terms of references, encouragement of the initiation of bidding processes for procurement activities, such that project implementation starts soon and effectively;
- Supervise the procurement of goods and services during project implementation to ensure strict compliance with Bank Group rules and procedures; verify that tender documents and contracts conform with standard Bank formats, and participate with other staff in the bid review and evaluation committees for bids submitted by entrepreneurs, etc.;
- Provide oversight of loan/grant administration, contract management, supervision of the construction, monitoring and reporting, facilitation and training, institutional building, etc. related to project and program actors and interventions;
- Support supervision through desk review (progress reports prepared by the NBA and RMCs; supervise procurement and disbursement, maintenance of project records, actions to resolve problems); undertake field visits to resolve specific problems and obtain direct information;
- Support implementation supervision of individual regional and national projects complemented by regular country or sector portfolio reviews that summarize the difficulties encountered during implementation of projects in a country or a sector;
- Support the mobilization of resources for the implementation of CSA programs by developing partnerships with Climate Funds, international conventions, and donors;
- Identify potential projects that could benefit from Climate Finance and rank their readiness for Climate financing. Support AHAI-2 Task Managers in the development of Climate Financed projects in aspects of Concept Notes and Full Scale Project development;
- Carry out operational support missions in (regional member countries) RMCs to work with operation staff in gathering information needed for the development and refinement of project concepts/documents;
- Participate in the review of activities related to agriculture and climate change, policies and technical contributions;
- Perform other duties as assigned by AHAI.2 Division Manager and AHAI Department Director.

4. The key selection and eligibility criteria for this position include:

a) At least a Masters’ Degree or equivalent degree in Irrigation, Agricultural Engineering, Water Resources Management, Water and Rural Engineering or other related fields, with a sound knowledge of development issues;
b) At least five (6) years of relevant professional experience, including in designing rural development projects and preparing, evaluating and managing loans and grants;

c) Demonstrated ability to interact with public service and donor agency staff on aid coordination issues as well as with the private sector;

d) Specific experience in project design and implementation of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) programs in Africa;

e) Understanding of the principles of the Climate Finance Strategic Priorities and project design and implementation as applicable in the Bank’s Regional Member Countries;

f) Proven ability for team-working and multi-tasking; great facilitation, communication and computational skills; resourcefulness, attention to details and client orientation;

g) Strong computer skills (Climate Modelling Tools, green-house gases accounting) and ability to use standard software packages (word, excel, outlook, power-point);

h) Excellent written and oral communication skills in French and/or English, with a practical knowledge of the other language;

i) Proven ability to interact competently with technical and administrative staff;

5. In this regard, the Agriculture Research, Production and Sustainability (AHAI.2) Division invites Individual Consultants meeting the eligibility requirements to indicate their interest in providing the described services. Interested Consultants shall provide information on their qualifications and experience demonstrating their ability to undertake this Assignment (documents, reference to similar services, experience in similar assignments, etc.). The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a short list and the selection procedure shall be in conformity with the Bank’s Rules and Procedures for the Use of Consultants under projects financed by the Bank Group, available on the Bank Website at http://www.afdb.org. Please, note that interest expressed by a Consultant does not imply any obligation on the part of the African Development Bank to include him/her in the shortlist. The consultant must be free from any engagement during the entire duration of the mission.

6. Duration of the Assignment: The estimated-working period is for six (6) calendar months from 1st July 2019, renewable for another period of six months based on the performance and needs of the Bank. The consultant will provide a monthly report.

7. Expressions of interest, including: (i) a cover letter; (ii) a comprehensive CV must be submitted no later than Tuesday, 2 July 2019 at 5:00 PM Côte d'Ivoire Time. Submissions should quote “Individual Consultant – Climate Smart Agriculture Specialist” and should be submitted in English or French to: the address below.

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