
 ECOWAS COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO	HARMONIZING AND IMPROVING STATISTICS IN WEST AFRICA PROJECT (HISWA)	 THE WORLD BANK <small>IBRD - IDA</small>
	PROJET D'HARMONISATION ET D'AMELIORATION DES STATISTIQUES EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (PHASAO) - (P169265)	

HARMONIZING AND IMPROVING STATISTICS IN WEST AFRICA PROJECT (HISWA) - (P169265)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE No. 03/ECOWAS/DRS/HISWA/2024

Start date: 05rd February, 2024

End date: 20th February, 2024

Title: Recruitment of an Individual Consultant for the reactivation of the ECOWAS Integrated Regional Agricultural Information System (ECOAGRIS)

I. BACKGROUND

As part of the harmonization and development of regional statistics, the ECOWAS Commission has received a grant from the World Bank for the “Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWA), which also provides support for the 2017-2026 Statistical Development Strategy. In implementing this Project, the ECOWAS Commission's Directorate of Research and Statistics provides support to some Technical Directorates of the ECOWAS Commission by funding their statistical activities.

Following the adoption of ECOWAP/CAADP in January 2005 and in view of weaknesses in existing information systems in countries, the ECOWAS Commission's Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development decided to set up an integrated information system for the agricultural sector, known as “ECOAGRIS”. The ECOAGRIS system is a component of the overall programme for establishing and making operational the regional food security reserve for West Africa. It covers the fifteen (15) ECOWAS countries plus Chad and Mauritania (17 countries in the Sahel and West Africa).

ECOAGRIS is based on twelve thematic information subsystems, such as (1) Early Warning System, (2) Agricultural and Livestock Production, (3) Fisheries and Aquaculture, (4) Agricultural Market, (5) Agricultural Inputs, (6) Research Results, (7) Agro-Hydro Meteorology, (8) Macroeconomics, (9) Nutrition, (10) Stocks, (11) Natural Resources and (12) Climate Change. It also takes into account the ECOWAP/CAADP indicators that measure agricultural growth and transformation for the biennial continental reports. The platform has remained inactive for several years, which has prevented efficient collection of data for analysis. It is important to reorganize it and make it operational.

Within the framework of the project for harmonizing statistics in West Africa, piloted by the Directorate of Research and Statistics, the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development wishes to revitalize the ECOAGRIS platform and support the objective of the harmonization of statistics in the region. Accordingly, the Directorate of Research and Statistics is recruiting a Consultant, on behalf of the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development, who will be responsible for reviewing the ECOAGRIS system and provide support for its revitalization in order to meet its initial desire to provide data in a streamlined way with a view to improving the quality of information on agricultural growth and transformation.

II. DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables must be prepared in one of ECOWAS' official languages (French, English or Portuguese).

- Inception report with a timeline;
- Analysis report on the current state of the ECOAGRIS platform for identifying gaps, performance issues and upgrade needs;
- Documentation on the design and update of technical and functional improvements to the platform to ensure its efficiency and user-friendliness;
- Integration of advanced functionalities such as data analysis tools;
- API/database production and documentation for interoperability with the ECOWAP M&E system;
- Report on the training of users in the efficient use of the updated platform;
- Documentation of changes in the platform;
- Platform user and maintenance guides;
- Report on the integration of the most recent data (from 2017 to 2023) on the platform, and;
- Overall assignment report.

III. PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

Due to the nature of the assignment, the consultant must:

Qualifications and skills

- Having an engineering degree (Master 2) in computer science or a relevant field is required;
- Master data management systems such as Oracle, MySQL, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, etc.

General professional experience

- Have experience in the development of data management systems, with at least 3 computerized systems developed;
- Have at least two experiences in implementing information systems related to agriculture;
- Have at least experience in developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems;
- Have at least one experience in database design;
- Have good computer skills (Microsoft Office: Word, PowerPoint, Excel), data analysis analytical tools/software, as well as experience in Internet research, use of online databases and data retrieval.

Specific professional experience (please indicate ranges in number of years)

- Have an in-depth knowledge of regional agri-food trade issues and their implications for economic development (at least 3 years in the sector);
- Have developed complex information systems in the region (at least 2 systems in the sector);
- Have designed online database architectures and associated applications, and;
- Have experience in a regional project related to agriculture and related business issues.

Applications will be assessed based on the following evaluation criteria and rating scales:

No.	Evaluation criteria	Rating scale
I	Qualification and skills (training)	15 points
I-1	Having an engineering degree (Master 2) in computer science or a relevant field is required	5
I-2	Master database management systems such as Oracle, MySQL, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, etc.	10
II	General professional experience	25 points
II-1	Experience in data management system development with at least 3 computerized systems developed.	10
II-2	At least experience in developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems.	05
II-3	Have at least one experience in database design.	10
III	Specific experience relevant to the assignment	60 points
II-1	Have in-depth knowledge of regional issues linked to the trade of agri-food products and their implications on economic development (at least 3 years in the sector).	10
II-2	Have developed information systems.	30
II-3	Have designed online database architectures and associated applications	15
II-4	Have experience in a regional project related to agriculture and related business issues	5
III	IT and language skills	20 points
III-1	Have proficiency in computer tools (Microsoft Office: Word, PowerPoint, Excel), analytical tools/software for data analysis, as well as experience in Internet research, use of online databases and data recovery is required (highlight this experience in the CV).	10
III-2	Be fluent in a second ECOWAS language	10
	TOTAL SCORES	100 Points

The minimum qualifying score is 70 points out of 100.

Remark: Compulsory prerequisites to be met include the presentation of attestations of service rendered as regards the execution of contracts for similar missions, studies and/or activities in connection with the assignment. Similar services that are not backed with legible cover sheet copies and signatures for contracts performed and certificates of successful completion will not be taken into consideration in the evaluation.

IV. DURATION

The total duration of the consultant's mission is approximately 120 working days from the date indicated in the notification of the service order for the start of the mission.

V. SELECTION METHOD

The Consultant will be recruited using the Individual Consultants' Selection method, and in accordance with the Procurement Regulations for Borrowers applying for Investment Project Financing (IPF), November 2023 revised version.

VI. COMPOSITION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates must submit a file comprising:

- A cover letter;
- An updated Curriculum Vitae;
- Copies of diplomas/degrees and certificates, and;
- Copies of contracts or certificates for previous services.

The ECOWAS Commission is, through the Directorate of Research and Statistics, inviting interested, eligible and qualified applicants (Individual Consultants) to express their interest in providing the Services. Interested consultants must provide information (*documentation in English, French or Portuguese in Word and PDF format*) demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to deliver the services (references relating to the execution of similar contracts, copies of diplomas/degrees, attestations, certifications, etc.).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below, during office opening hours, **Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

Applications can be submitted by e-mail at the following address: cedeo.phasao.ugp@gmail.com, with a copy to **Mahamadou YAHAYA**, Director, Research and Statistics (HISWA Project Coordinator): mnyahaya65@gmail.com; myahaya@ecowas.int; **Alain SY TRAORE**: Director, Agriculture and Rural Development: atraore@ecowas.int; no later than **20th February, 2024 at 4:00 pm GMT.**



Mahamadou YAHAYA