



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

Regional Resilient Rice Value Chains Development Project in West Africa (REWARD) – ECOWAS regional operation

Sub-component 3.2 of the REWARD multinational program “Support to regional policy and regulatory reforms, and harmonization at ECOWAS level, for rice value chains competitive to imports”.

SAP Code: P-Z1-AA0-163

Grant No.: 2100155043842

Name of Project: REWARD – ECOWAS Regional Project

Terms of Reference (TORS) for Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist – Individual Consultant

1. Background

About the ECOWAS Rice Agenda

In West Africa, the consumption of high-quality rice outstrips local supply resulting in continued importation of milled rice from Asia to meet demands. Increasing population growth, urbanization and changing consumer preferences have further widened the gap in supply, and no country in West Africa has been able to achieve rice self-sufficiency despite having the right agro-climatic conditions and water availability to meet regional demand. The region is one of the vulnerable regions globally, grappling with significant challenges stemming from its climate, demographic trends, institutional frameworks, economic conditions, environmental issues, and subsistence methods. With a population exceeding 360 million, over 55% of West Africans reside in rural areas, relying heavily on natural resources for their socio-economic development. In response to this, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has made strong commitments to transforming agriculture and enhancing food security and resilience.

In 2014, the authorities of the ECOWAS Commission adopted the ‘Rice Offensive’, a strategic framework to engender a sustainable and sustained revival of rice cultivation in West Africa and to provide support for the National Rice Development Strategies of Member States towards achieving rice self-sufficiency by 2025. To accelerate the implementation of the Rice Offensive, a Regional Rice Action Plan was developed in 2020 to ensure that the region meets the goal. To achieve this, ECOWAS has aligned with several development partners including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GIZ, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, FCDO, AGRA,



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

JICA/CARD, World Bank, and others. Together, a regional “ECOWAS Rice Observatory” (ERO) was jointly established as multi-stakeholder platform. ERO, housed at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Nigeria, coordinates rice sector-related programs, public/private investments, and policy recommendations for key decision-makers. At the same time, national rice platforms are being established, comprised primarily of private sector stakeholders across the value chain, in addition to representation from research, government, and civil society to coordinate country-specific investments and policies.

More recently, with the Rice Offensive and Regional Action Plan (2020 - 2025) nearing its terms, the ECOWAS Commission has developed a Regional Rice Roadmap (2025 - 2035) with the support of its partners. It is an extension of the Rice Offensive and a unified framework to guide investments and targeted interventions in the development of the rice sector in West Africa for the next ten (10) years to achieve rice self-sufficiency.

In response to these challenges, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has made strong commitments to transforming agriculture and enhancing food security resilience. To address these priorities, ECOWAS has secured funding from the African Development Bank to implement the Rice Resilient Value Chains Development Project (REWARD) in West Africa.

Brief overview of the REWARD Programme

REWARD, a multinational investment initiative totaling approximately UA 500 million, stands as a regional rice development program to be financed by the AfDB over the 15 West African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. This includes (i) 14 National Projects (no in-country investment in Cape Verde since there is no rice production but it is impacted by regional policies and regulations for rice sub-sector) focused on rice production, productivity, transformation, and marketing; and (ii) two (2) regional operations to be executed by specific institutions and agencies: one led by ECOWAS, which will support policy and regulatory reforms and harmonization at both regional and national levels, and one led by AfricaRice for regional technical support to foster innovation in rice value chains.

Alignment of REWARD with Dakar 2. In January 2023, Heads of State from 34 African countries gathered in Dakar for the Summit jointly organized by the African Union (AU) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) on the theme "Feeding Africa: Food



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

Sovereignty and Resilience". The Dakar Declaration resulting from the Summit was endorsed by a resolution of the 36th AU Summit in February 2023 by which the Heads of State committed to (i) sustainably increase the production and productivity of agricultural value chains primarily oriented towards the achievement of food sovereignty as defined in the Food and Nutrition Compacts, (ii) strengthen access to public finance and development partners, carry out reforms favourable to private sector investment and (iii) ensure the implementation of the Compacts under the aegis of National Presidential Councils according to a set schedule. The review of the Compacts revealed that rice has been praised by Heads of State as a major strategic commodity for their food sovereignty. In this respect, REWARD is one of the ECOWAS and AfDB's flagship operational responses to the financing of the Compacts of the 15 ECOWAS countries.

REWARD is designed in a group-based approach considering Grantees' / Borrowers' readiness. The first group includes 2 countries and the 2 regional organizations, namely: Bissau-Guinea, the Gambia, AfricaRice and ECOWAS (REWARD-G1). It has been approved by the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank on 20 November 2024. Each national and regional investment operation is implemented by its own Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under its own Executing Agency and is independent on a fiduciary standpoint. As a multinational programme, an overall activity framework is overarching the REWARD, structured around 4 components, namely:

Component 1 (country level): Develop sustainable and climate-resilient rice production systems to ensure adequate quantity and quality for millers, with 3 sub-components: Sub-component 1.1 - Develop sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure and management services in rice production systems; Sub-component 1.2 - Improve availability and access to quality inputs, mechanization services, and knowledge for climate-resilient agriculture; and Sub-component 1.3 - Regional technical support to foster innovation in rice value chains (implemented by AfricaRice as country support).

Component 2 (country level): Promotion of rice processing and marketing of competitive locally produced rice, with 4 sub-components: Sub-component 2.1 - Develop/modernize processing infrastructure and enhance capacities of small farmers and commercial actors throughout the value chain; Sub-component 2.2 - Develop information systems, innovative technologies (including digital), and consumer-oriented labels to improve market access; Sub-component 2.3: Promote private sector investment by supporting businesses and improving funding availability throughout the



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

value chain; and Sub-component 2.4: Regional technical support to foster innovation in rice value chains (implemented by AfricaRice as country support).

Component 3 (Country + Regional level: ECOWAS regional policy support) -

Support policy and regulatory reforms, regional harmonization, for a competitive rice value chain against imports, with 2 sub-components: Sub-component 3.1 - Support to national policy and regulatory reforms for rice value chains competitive to imports; and Sub-component 3.2 -Support to regional policy and regulatory reforms, and harmonization at ECOWAS level, for rice value chains competitive to imports (sub-component 3.2 of the REWARD multinational program being the actual REWARD-ECOWAS regional project).

Component 4 (countries, AfricaRice and ECOWAS): Program coordination and management, as discussed and agreed with ECOWAS.

To implement the ECOWAS-led regional component of the REWARD, the ECOWAS Commission is seeking a Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, based at the Project Implementation Unit of REWARD in Abuja, Nigeria. The main objective is to ensure that all monitoring of the REWARD project implementation and assessment of the development impact are conducted effectively as well as track progress, provide guidance on the overall M&E Strategy and implementation of related activities, both directly and through development partners. He/she will report directly to the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development.

2. Position Summary and Scope of Work

The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be responsible for the planning, supervision, monitoring and evaluation activities of the Project including developing, updating and disseminating monitoring of all key activities of the Project and the tracking of the same. S/He will update the yearly key performance indicators of the project as well as track how project activities contribute to the output and outcome especially the overall objectives of the project. S/He will be responsible for the critical evaluation and impact assessment of the project activities. S/He will report directly to the REWARD Project Coordinator under the overall supervision of the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The role will initially be for one (1) year, with possibility for yearly extensions until the project ending upon satisfactory performance and availability of budget.

3. Main Activities for the Assignment

The main activities for the assignment include but not limited to:



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

- a) Establish and operationalise a Monitoring and Evaluation system
- b) Undertaking systematic analysis of data collected through the M&E system to generate lessons learnt, highlight key issues and bring them to the attention of project management
- c) Defining the need for specific studies and overseeing design and execution.
- d) Strategic planning and defining/reviewing of direction and content of Project activities to ensure compatibility with Project approach and guidelines.
- e) Contribute to preparing the Project Annual Work Plan and Budget based on proposals submitted by the directorate of agriculture and rural development;
- f) Maintenance of the management information and monitoring and evaluation systems;
- g) Undertaking systematic analysis of the monitoring data to generate lessons learnt and key issues and bring these to the attention of the Project management.
- h) Supervise baseline surveys if they are contracted out to external agency.
- i) Contribute to data analysis and reporting based on the AfDB project context.
- j) Monitor project activities in ECOWAS REWARD Project.
- k) Review reports, validate data and feed it into the regional M&E system
- l) Track overall progress towards project targets and flag delays in implementation
- m) Provide continued M&E support to project (e.g. capacity building)
- n) Contribute to the regional M&E system by identifying challenges and formulating adjustments/improvements
- o) Capitalize the project activities and publish the success stories of the activities
- p) Support with drafting Terms of Reference and backstopping consultants
- q) Report on progress on REWARD project KPIs for the annual report, steering committee requests, and general assembly meetings.
- r) Develop and test questionnaires for data collection efforts across a wide range of topics (yield, nutrition, farming practices, etc.)
- s) Program questionnaires (where necessary or appropriate) into standard data collection apps (e.g. ODK, Kobo Toolbox, etc.)
- t) Conduct statistical analysis of a variety of data sets, including data cleaning and preparation
- u) Synthesize findings into clear, coherent and visually appealing formats (time series, water fall charts, etc.)



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

- v) Develop and provide contributions to biannual and annual progress reports (and any other ad-hoc report) in line with deadlines and requirements for content and quality
- w) Work with the technical committees of AfricaRice to prioritize key M&E issues.
- x) Support the project coordinator to track and cross-check KPIs managed at the ECOWAS REWARD project to provide quarterly updates to the steering committee on progress and issues needing attention.
- y) Support the maintenance of a section of the ERO website related to knowledge management (with contractor support) and the DARD E-learning platform.
- z) In collaboration with the communications expert, create knowledge management products to be shared with internal and external audiences.

4. Qualifications and Experience

- a) The candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree in one of the subjects (Monitoring and Evaluation, Economics, Project Planning, Statistics, & Development Studies etc
- b) A Master's degree would be an added advantage
- c) Must have at least 4 years post-graduate experience working on Project Monitoring and Evaluation activities.
- d) Experience working in collaboration with private sector actors (companies, associations, traders)
- e) Demonstrated expertise developing and managing project M&E systems, including data quality control and analysis
- f) Basic knowledge about the working mechanism of agriculture value chains (rice-specific knowledge is an asset).
- g) Ability to use the Microsoft Office standard software (Word, Access, Excel and Power Point).
- h) Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interact effectively with colleagues from diverse disciplines.
- i) Strong organizing, work planning and scheduling skills.
- j) Excellent communication and presentation skills, both oral and written English and /or French with a working knowledge of the other.

5. Duration and Duty Station

The assignment will commence at completion of the selection process and upon contract signing. The project is expected to end in December 2029. The contract with the selected Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will last for a period of 12



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

months, with the possibility of further renewal, based on satisfactory performance and relevant rules. The duty station will be the REWARD PIU located within the ECOWAS Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development Offices in Abuja, Nigeria.

6. Reporting

The Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be a full-time member of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and will report to the Project Coordinator.

At the conclusion of the assignment, the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert's outputs will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) Professional competence
- b) Analytical, reasoning, organizational and communication skills
- c) Reliability and organization
- d) Output
- e) Quality of work produced.

7. Due Diligence

The Consultant shall perform the services in line with the terms of reference and carry out their services with due diligence, efficiency and economy according to the generally accepted techniques, practices, professionalism, and consulting standards recognized by Africa Development Bank. In respect of any matter relating to the services, the Consultant shall always act in respect of any matter relating to the services as a faithful adviser to DARD and shall always support and safeguard the DARD's legitimate interest.

8. Submission for Application

Application Package

- A letter of expression of interest / motivation, including the date of availability.
- A recent curriculum vitae providing details on professional experience and similar assignments.
- Three professional references (full name, current and previous functions, telephone, and email contacts);
- Certified copy of the highest diploma.
- Copies of work certificates or provision of services, as listed in the curriculum vitae.

The package must include supporting academic and other relevant work-related documentations in English or French to be delivered in a sealed envelope clearly marked the position being applied for or could be submitted by e-mail to the address below by



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

not later than **XXX 2025 (5:00 pm WAT)**. The expression of interest must be in the form of a single PDF file. The ECOWAS Commission reserves the right not to consider applications that do not comply with the above submission conditions. Interested consultants can obtain additional information by writing to the following email addresses **XXXX with the subject « REWARD Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert - ECOWAS »**.

Attn: Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Annex River Plaza
496 Abogo Largema St
Central Business District
Abuja
Nigeria

Email: atraore@ecowas.int; badebowale@ecowas.int

9. Method of selection

The selection process will take place in two phases:

- CV screening and analysis: at the end of this phase, candidates will be ranked in order of merit based on the scores obtained in the CV evaluation.
- Interview phase: shortlisted candidates will be interviewed individually by a panel. The best candidate at the end of the interview will be recommended for contract negotiations.

Important Notes to applicants:

Only Shortlisted Candidates will be contacted for interviews.

ECOWAS Commission reserves the right not to proceed with this call for applications.