Terms of Reference for Technical Training in Agricultural Enterprise Development

Scaling Commercialization of Drought Tolerant Crops (DTC) Technologies to Secure Dignified and Fulfilling Work for 120,000 Youth in Rural Kenya

5th July 2023
1. Introduction

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for offering training/capacity building of actors along agricultural value chains under Scaling Commercialization of Drought Tolerant Crops (DTC) Technologies to Secure Dignified and Fulfilling Work for Youth in Rural Kenya**, otherwise referred to as the DTCs for Youth Job Creation Project. The purpose of the ToR is to outline the nature of the assignment, the type of expertise required for the assignment and to generate interest from qualified experts (both individuals and organizations).

2. Program Background

For the last decade, Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International, popular name Africa Harvest, the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and other partners, such as Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Egerton University and County governments, have implemented projects in Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya. The projects developed, validated and promoted drought tolerant crops (DTC) technologies which underpin the food, nutritional and income security of many people inhabiting the semi-arid agro-ecologies of Eastern, Coast, Western and Rift Valley regions of Kenya.

Africa Harvest and its consortium partners — ICRISAT and KUZA have partnered with the Mastercard Foundation to scale the use of improved drought tolerant crop technologies (DTCs) and approaches that lend themselves well to adoption by youth in 10 counties (Busia, Homabay, Siaya, Elgeyo Marakwet, Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, Tharaka Nithi, Meru and Taita Taveta) using the whole value chain integration strategy to support system based approaches to mindset change and to optimize opportunities for Youth job creation along the target value chains over a period of 60 Months (5 years). The initiative will build on the experiences, established and new public private partnership networks, and lessons learned by Africa Harvest, ICRISAT and their partners. The goal of the program will be achieved through activities designed around 3 main components namely:

- Production and marketing of improved DTC seeds for 3 cereals (Sorghum, Pearl Millet and Finger millet) and 3 legumes (groundnuts, green grams and pigeon pea);
- Cereal and legume grain production, productivity and quality enhancement and;
- Value addition, market development and access to finances
The program will give emphasis to capacity building, trainings for mindset change, system wide changes in seed production, overall enterprise development and value addition and market access to support sustainable engagement, participation and work opportunities for young people. Other critical pieces of the program include a comprehensive gender strategy to support intentionality around young women, IT based integration for E-learning and digital platforms and advisories, financial inclusion, enterprise development, training and youth mentorship, a comprehensive communication and knowledge management strategy to support the voice of young people, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), public private partnerships and policy.

3. Objective of the assignment and

The selected expert(s) will serve as trainers of trainers with the aim of building technical capacity of community trainers.

4. Thematic areas of trainings:

i. Group Dynamics and Leadership;
ii. Financial management;
iii. Gender inclusion and safeguarding;
iv. Seed Production;
v. Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs);
vi. Integrated Water and soil management;
vii. Harvest and Post-Harvest;
viii. Mechanization;
ix. Value addition and Product development;
x. Enterprise Development/ Agribusiness training;
xii. Contract negotiation and Collective action;

xii. Market approaches and market development.

Important Note: Africa Harvest may combine and/or separate some or all of the thematic areas if there is reason to believe that such action would make the training more effective. Experts may apply/bid to provide training in one or more other thematic areas indicated in Part 4 for one or more of the ten Counties.

5. The main Tasks of the assignment:

- In collaboration with Africa Harvest, the consultant will tailor-make training modules and content relevant to specific value chain players;
- Deliver training to target partners;
- Conduct post-training assessment;
6. **Approach and Methodology**

It is expected that the consultant will develop a comprehensive methodology that will cover appropriate approaches for young people. The approaches should clearly indicate any tools that will be required in the training as well as the time to be taken for each training. It is anticipated each resource person will train between 20 and 30 trainees per session.

7. **Expected outcome**

It is anticipated after the training, the trainees will become resources persons that will cascade the knowledge and skills to farmers and other value chain players.

8. **Timelines and Work Plan**

The assignment is scheduled to be conducted on the 15th July 2023.

9. **Support from Africa harvest**

   i. Preparation and signing of the contract with the consultant upon submission of accepted inception report;
   
   ii. Introduction to select respondents;
   
   iii. Convening of one stakeholder validation meeting;
   
   iv. Payment of the service fee.

**Mode of engagement**

The expert will work as independent agents and will be responsible for obtaining their own working facilities including computers, transport and working space as well as insurance and any such costs. Africa harvest will not be liable for any other cost incurred in the course of conducting the assignment other than the service fee that will be agreed in writing and form part of the contract.

10. **Profile of Expert(s)**

   To be considered, the expert will be required to have the following qualifications:

   i. BSc/MA degree in a relevant field
   
   ii. At least five years of experience in designing and delivering value chain trainings
   
   iii. Good knowledge of youth dynamics preferably with experience handling youth-focused projects
11. Contractual arrangement

The service fee will be paid in two phases:

- First payment (30%) within seven days of signing the contract
- Second payment (70%) upon submitting an acceptable activity report

12. Role of Africa Harvest

Africa harvest will mobilize trainees and pay for training venue and meals during the training

13. Ethical Consideration

In line with best practices and partner requirements, it is expected that the expert conducts him/herself with the high level of financial and social discipline, integrity and dignity. In particular, the expert may not at any time before, during or after the assignment:

i. Misrepresent Africa Harvest and/or partners
ii. Falsify document
iii. Use the assignment to conduct any other business not related to the assignment
iv. Engage in any activity that may raise safeguarding concerns
v. Share the data to any other person or entity without written permission from Africa Harvest

14. Mode of application and Inquiry

Interested, qualified and available consultancies are encouraged to apply by submitting the relevant documents to procurement@africaharvest.org by 12th of July 2023. The following documents will be required as part of the application:

i. Cover letter expressing interest in the assignment (one page)
ii. A technical proposal detailing the proposed methodology and work plan and team members where the assignment will be delivered by more than one expert (Not more than five pages)
iii. Financial proposal indicating breakdown of costs - professional fees and training materials (one Page)
iv. Curriculum Vitae of the expert(s) Max. four pages for each curriculum Vitae