

## **Terms of Reference for a Consultancy to Conduct a Scoping Study on the State of CSA in Africa**

### **Expert in Climate-Smart Agriculture policy in Africa (NKE 2.3, Cat I)**

#### **A. BACKGROUND**

The DeSIRA programme, funded by the European Commission (DG INTPA), seeks to enhance an inclusive, sustainable and climate-relevant transformation of rural areas and of agri-food systems, by linking better agricultural innovation with research for more developmental impact. It supports actions in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the resilience of their agri-food systems, the relevance of the national and regional research and innovation systems, and the coherence and efficiency of their agricultural public research and extension services related to climate change challenges.

DeSIRA-LIFT is a service project (June 2021 – May 2024) to the European Commission (EC), Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) with the main objective to enhance the impact of the DeSIRA Initiative by providing (on-demand) services to DeSIRA project holders and partners. DeSIRA-LIFT includes three service areas aligned to the three DeSIRA Pillars: *Service Area 1* supports country-led DeSIRA projects to enhance their impacts on climate-oriented innovation systems in line with more sustainable food system transitions. *Service Area 2* supports the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) ex-pillar IV organizations in their Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) related roles. *Service Area 3* supports policy makers on themes related to agricultural research for development (AR4D) and innovation policies and programming.

This assignment is part of *Service Area 2: Sub-service area 2.2*. The consultant will directly support FARA in its preparations for the CSA biennial conference (September 2022) and the CoP27 (November 2022).

#### **B. RATIONALE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Climate change is a significant problem confronting our world; its cause and effects are linked to all walks of life, ranging from essential endeavors such as agriculture, food processing, and industrial actions. The science behind climate change is carbon chemistry and greenhouse gas emission. It is known that since the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its industrial revolution and use of fossil fuel, the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases has increased by more than 45% leading to the warming up of the globe. This has led to the changes in the different weather variables and responses that are different from what has been known and experienced over the decades. The agricultural sector has been pinpointed as a critical contributor to climate change as it operates on land and soil, which is the source and sink of carbon in the terrestrial space.

The world's response to the cause and control of climate change spans over three decades. The efforts are more geared towards finding solutions that can mitigate the effect of the changes and control the factors contributing to them than adaptation. Efforts are also geared toward developing an adaptation mechanism to create a new normal for human survival. Climate change and extreme weather events disproportionately affected vulnerable communities in less developed areas who contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions.

The Conference of Parties (CoP) on climate change has been one of the key global conferences to address issues in climate change at the global level. It is convened under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC has about 176 member countries as parties in its convention. The conventions hold the member countries to act in the interest of humanity. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC Convention is “to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system. It states that “such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, ensure that food production is not threatened, and enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”. (UNFCCC.int). The CoPs held annually for the last 27 years give the different sectors, regions, and stakeholder groups an opportunity to dialogue and proffer solutions to climate change issues.

It is noteworthy that Africa has participated in all the CoPs; the CoPs that were held in Africa was CoP 17 ten years ago in Durban, South Africa (28<sup>th</sup> November – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011). The next CoP is proposed to take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, between 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It will be necessary for the African partners to take advantage of hindsight to review and document the progress made on the continent related to its actions on climate change and prepare a foresight intelligence on plausible futures. Significant attention needs to be given to African agriculture, which engages most of the workforce on the continent. Efforts at mitigating and adapting to climate change in Africa have followed the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) framework defined by FAO. Since 2020, FARA and its partners, the SROs and AFAAS, have documented the different CSA initiatives on the continent. An interactive portal was developed to collate information and analytics to generate valuable data for analysis and inferencing for policy and technical actions.

In addition, the Africa Union Commission has given FARA the mandate to lead the operationalization of the [Africa Climate Change Strategy \(2020-2030\)](#). FARA has developed the Africa Climate Smart Framework (ACSAF) as a partnership tool to actualize this mandate to create a ten years implementation plan for the strategy (Decadal Plan). It is planned that the ACSAF and the Decadal plan will be finalized for discussion and validation at the upcoming Biennial Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Conference slated for 14-16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Accra, Ghana. It will then be launched at the CoP 27. Secondly, the proposed study of the progress made in Africa on Climate Change and the different resolutions of CoPs and lessons learned and foresight intelligence on plausible futures and action to achieve them. The report will be discussed and validated for presentation at CoP 27.

To actualize this plan, FARA proposes engaging a suitable consultant with requisite knowledge and experience in African climate change and Climate Smart Agriculture to run activities towards preparing these two documents and facilitating the discussion during the Biennial climate-smart agriculture conference. A specific focus of DeSIRA-LIFT, which supports CAADP-XP4 commitment towards sustainable food systems, is on sustainable agricultural practices to support agroecological transitions of food systems.

### C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The general objective of the assignment is to develop knowledge materials that will inform appropriate policy action at the continental, sub-regional, and national levels for managing climate change adaptation related to agriculture.

Specific objectives include:

1. Analyze Africa’s action between CoP 17 – CoP 27 and detailing lessons learned and plausible future actions and efforts to achieve the foreseen actions in relation to Africa agriculture. The report could be called Durban+10
2. Develop the Decadal Plan to implement the Africa **Climate Change Strategy** on agriculture
3. Present the findings to validate the two documents at the Biennial CSA Conference.

Guidelines on the expected content of the document will be shared with FARA and DeSIRA-LIFT, which will also review and approve the deliverables.

#### **D. SCOPE and SCHEME OF WORK**

The consultant will carry out desk studies, review published literature and other documents to develop the two reports: the review of Africa's actions on CoPs (Durban+10) and the Decadal Plan (10 years operational plan for the Africa Climate Change Strategy). The drafts will be discussed with FARA and DeSIRA-LIFT and reviewed before the conference. More specifically:

- i. The consultant will produce a short inception report to discuss the methodology and timelines before starting the work based on guidelines provided by the organisers.
- ii. Online surveys and virtual key informant interviews may be conducted to draw information for analysis. Proposals of key networks and experts will be proposed by FARA and DeSIRA-LIFT in addition to the proposals from the consultant.
- iii. The consultant will present the two reports at the Biennial Africa CSA Conference in September 2022.

#### **E. OUTPUTS OR DELIVERABLES**

The following outputs are expected.

- i. An inception report.
- ii. Review of Africa's policy action between CoP 17 – CoP 27 and detailing lessons learned and plausible future actions and required efforts to achieve the identified actions in the plan (Durban+10).
- iii. Decadal plan for the implementation of the Africa Climate Change Strategy part related to agriculture.
- iv. Presentation and validation of the reports at the CSA Biennial Conference (physical presence required).

#### **F. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The Expert will report to FARA Senior Technical Cluster Leader / Innovation Systems and DeSIRA LIFT on a regular basis during the assignment.

The consultant is required to submit a short activity report at the end of the assignment together with a financial report (including invoice and supporting evidence in the form of monthly timesheets).

#### **G. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The duration of this assignment will be 50 consultancy days spread over three months, specifically June-August 2022.

#### **H. LOCATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The consultant will carry out the assignment from its domicile; contact with key informants as s/he may deem fit will be by virtual means. The consultant will be required to travel to attend the Biennial Conference in September 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

#### **I. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

The Consultant is expected to undertake the services with the highest professionalism, ethics, competence, and integrity. S/he should be able to deliver the listed assignments in Section C most effectively and efficiently within the period of work stated in Section E.

#### **J. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY FARA and DeSIRA LIFT**

FARA and DeSIRA-LIFT will provide the following materials to facilitate the assignment of the consultant:

- Facilitate contacts for interviews
- Leverage FARA Dgroup platform to conduct the survey

- Facilitate logistic support for travel and participation in the Biennial Africa CSA conference to present the findings and proposal for a Decadal plan.
- DeSIRA-LIFT will cover the expenses (travel, accommodation and subsistence, and conference fees) of the consultant to attend the CSA Biennial Conference following the EC guidelines.

## K. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The following qualifications are required.

### Qualifications and skills

- Education at least Master degree in a discipline related to agronomy, agricultural economics, social sciences, or in its absence, equivalent professional experience.

### General professional experience

- At least 12 years' professional experience in areas directly relevant to international development, innovation with a social science perspective, knowledge and innovation systems, or likewise.

### Specific professional experience

- At least 5 years' professional experience in areas directly relevant to climate change issues in Africa.
- Experience working on climate-smart and sustainable agriculture in Africa, expertise in agroecology is desirable.
- Experience of Participation in CoPs and understanding of the African dynamics with CSA.
- A track record of writing reports evidenced by publication records as books and chapters in books, conference papers, and journal articles.

### Soft skills

- Ability to work in a team and in a multicultural context.
- Motivation, self-direction and proactiveness.
- Methodological rigour, priority management and organisational skills.
- Excellent writing and oral presentation skills in English.
- Evidence of knowledge of analytical skills for continental framework and strategies.
- Ability to facilitate expert discussion at a high level.

## APPLICATIONS

Please send a comprehensive curriculum vitae and short motivation letter to [desira.lift@wur.nl](mailto:desira.lift@wur.nl). With a copy to [ofatunbi@faraafrica.org](mailto:ofatunbi@faraafrica.org). Deadline for applications is 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 COB.