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## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)**

### **INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT**

### **CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DEVELOP THE FOOD SAFETY AND PLANT HEALTH STRATEGIES FOR AFRICA**

**Reference No.: AUC/DREA/C/011**

## SECTION I: LETTER OF INVITATION

17 March 2021

Dear Applicants,

### **REF: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD SAFETY AND PLANT HEALTH STRATEGIES FOR AFRICA**

1. The African Union Commission wishes to recruit highly qualified experts to undertake the above assignment. The AUC now invites interested **Individual Consultants** to submit CVs for the assignment as per attached Terms of Reference (TORS).
2. A Consultants will be selected under the Consultant Qualification Selection method.
3. The EoIs must include the following:
  - (i) A Cover Letter outlining the understanding of the assignment and methodology
  - (ii) CV demonstrating experience with similar assignments.
4. The EoIs must be submitted e-mail to [Tender@africa-union.org](mailto:Tender@africa-union.org). The title of the Procurement must appear as subject of e-mail.
5. The Deadline for submission of EoIs is 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 1500 hours Addis Ababa Time. Late applications will not be considered.
6. This call for Request for Expressions of Interest comprise of the following:
  - Section I – This Letter of Invitation
  - Section II - Terms of Reference

Yours sincerely,

**Head, Procurement, Travel and Stores Division**

## **SECTION II: TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Background**

The African Union (AU) is a Pan-African body charged with the responsibility of spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa, as well as developing new partnerships worldwide. Based at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) is responsible for managing agriculture, rural economy and development, environment and natural resources issues. With regard to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policy Framework and the implementation of continental agenda including the Africa Continental Free Trade Area and Malabo Declaration for Agricultural Transformation, DREA intends to streamline its support to AU Member States in improving their capacity to address the multi-faceted health, trade, and food security and nutrition challenges resulting from food safety issues. The Department recognizes the role of multiple players and the need for collaborative efforts with clarity of purpose to register meaningful impact.

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### **Context**

Food safety is key to sustaining life and promoting good nutrition and health. Unsafe food threatens human health and causes the unacceptable status quo in levels of food insecurity, poverty and a range of health related problems making national development more challenging. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) estimate in 2015, 91 million people in Africa fall ill each year due to food-borne diseases and 137,000 die of the same cause, representing one third of the global death toll for foodborne diseases. Foodborne illnesses disproportionately affect the poorest segments of populations. The economic impact of unsafe food is being increasingly understood. In 2018, the World Bank estimated the cost of unsafe foods reaching about \$110 billion in lost productivity and medical expenses each year, particularly to countries in Africa and Southeast Asia. This estimate is without regard to losses of farms, company sales, foregone trade income and many others.

Food safety is an important precondition for access to global food markets, and increasingly, for high-value domestic markets in developing countries. Therefore, raising food safety and quality standards at par with the rest of the world is foundational to make African agriculture a competitive and vibrant sector that promotes trade and agribusiness. On the other and, Africa is host to thousands of plant species, many of which are endemic. Unfortunately, continued occurrence of plant pests and overuse of pesticides within the context of changing climate are leading to high rate of loss of species and biodiversity. In addition, there are increasing problems of pests that have become more serious with widespread movement of plants and plant products through international trade resulting in many cases in the introduction and spread of pests. Pest introductions and outbreaks cost governments, farmers and consumers in the African continent a wealth of money every year. The recent pest outbreaks include the devastating effect of desert locusts and the Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Africa.

Coordinating and supporting plant protection activities in the region focusing on information exchange program, a regional standard development program, inputs into international standard setting and regional pesticide programs ought to be priority. It also requires a leadership role in integrated pest management (IPM) programs for building national capacities in member states to build strong plant health systems for better livelihoods, enhanced trade and biodiversity. In particular, these measures should address; compliance of AU member states with international phytosanitary standards and enhancing effective participation of AU members states to standards setting processes; influencing policy and decision makers to contribute to improved and strengthened plant pest management in Africa; addressing the negative effect of and risks of pandemic and exotic invasive plant pest species on livelihoods and biodiversity in Africa and supporting capacity enhancement and tailor-made training program that address specific plant health challenges.

As Africa moves towards its integration agenda and specifically the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), non-tariff barriers, particularly issues related to food safety/SPS standards and plant health, if not addressed proactively, will undermine the operationalization of the AfCFTA of increasing intra-African trade. Furthermore, without adequately addressing food safety issues and plant health, Africa will not be able to effectively attain the Malabo Declaration and ultimately the African Union Agenda 2063. In summary, food safety and plant health risks not only pose significant threats to the health of the population but also the competitiveness of African agriculture, undermining potential and actual gains to be made in improving public health, food security and nutrition, as well as thwarting efforts at boosting trade in agricultural commodities. Such gains are the foundations of inclusive growth and sustainable development in the continent. However, fragmented and scattered responses by different players, with overlapping activities are not going to solve Africa's food safety and plant health challenges. The need for better coordination in the sphere of food safety and plant health is more apparent today. Food safety and plant health is a multidisciplinary and multi stakeholder effort involving public, private and non-state actors which benefits from better coordination.

It would be possible to achieve great impact and efficiency gains by working towards common and bigger goals set out by a continental strategies for both food safety and plant health, leading to an effective coordination and better collaboration. The strategies will minimize duplication of efforts and help achieve synergy leveraging on resources and capabilities of different actors. Thus, the continental food safety and plant health strategies that respectively provide guidance and direction to the food safety and plant health efforts in the continent are urgently needed. Given the multitude of strategic options, there is a need for stakeholder consultation, in-depth strategic analysis and iterative process to develop robust strategies that will contribute to practical implementation of priority actions across the two sectors by guiding food safety and plant health coordination with clear pathways and end goals. It is in this context that the AU is seeking to

recruit one Food Safety Expert and one Plant Health to support the development of Food Safety and Plant Health Strategies for Africa.

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## **The Assignment**

### **1. Objective:**

To develop the continental food safety and plant health strategies for Africa. The strategies are meant to facilitate the bigger goal of raising food safety and plant health standards in Africa within the context of the AU SPS Policy Framework.

### **2. Scope of Work and Deliverables**

The consultants will be responsible for performing the following tasks:

#### **Food Safety Strategy Consultant**

- Take stock of relevant food safety initiatives including policies, legal frameworks and strategies in Africa
- Review examples of relevant global best practices
- Undertake relevant stakeholder consultations on the priority issues to be addressed by the strategy, the goals, strategic objectives and expected outcomes, the guiding principles, delivery mechanisms, roles and responsibility of stakeholders and the M&E frameworks among others.
- Undertake stakeholder's consultations on the roles and functions of the proposed AU Food Safety Agency and Continental Reference Laboratories as requested by AU STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. These consultations will also address the institutional linkages and coordination mechanisms with existing institutions at regional and continental levels
- Convene stakeholders meetings to review and validate the draft strategy

#### **Plant Health Strategy Consultant**

- Take stock of relevant Plant health initiatives including policies, legal frameworks and strategies in Africa
- Review examples of relevant global best practices regional food safety strategies, regional food safety institutions and regional food safety reference laboratories
- Undertake relevant stakeholder consultations on the priority issues to be addressed by the strategy, the goals, strategic objectives and expected outcomes, the guiding principles, delivery mechanisms, roles and responsibility of stakeholders and the M&E frameworks among others.
- Undertake stakeholder's consultations on the framework for the establishment of an emergency funds for invasive species as requested by AU STC on Agriculture, Rural

Development, Water and Environment. The consultations will be informed by the CN for the establishment of an emergency funds.

- Convene stakeholders meetings to review and validate the draft strategy

### 3. **Key Deliverables and timeline**

In this regard, the consultants will deliver the following:

#### **Food Safety Consultant:**

- Inception report with detailed methodology and workplan (15 days after signing of the contract)
- Report of desk review including global best practices on regional food safety
- Report of stakeholders consultations on the Establishment of an African Union Food Safety Agency
- A continental Food Safety Strategy

#### **Plant health Strategy consultant:**

- Inception report with detailed methodology and work plan (15 days after signing of the contract)
- Framework for the establishment of an emergency funds for invasive species in Africa
- A continental Plant health Strategy.

### 4. **Reporting:**

The Consultants will report to the Head of Division for Agriculture and Food Security; the plant health consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Director, AU-IAPSC.

Regular communication with the focal persons for this assignment and an advisory group to be established by the DREA will be required.

### 5. **Qualification and Work Experience Required**

The **Food Safety strategy Consultant** should have at least a master's degree in public health, life science, food safety, veterinary medicine, plant health, or other related area with;

- at least 10 years professional experience working in the field of food safety in Africa
- Demonstrated experience in strategy development (at least 3 previous assignments);
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English, the working knowledge of another AU working language will be an added value;
- Experience in facilitation of stakeholder engagements/workshops

The **Plant health Strategy Consultant** should have:

At least a master's degree in agronomy, plant protection/health or other related area with

- at least 10 years professional experience working in the field of plant protection/health in Africa with at least 3 years working experience in the field of SPS
- Demonstrated experience strategy development (at least 3 previous assignments);

- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English, the working knowledge of another AU working language will be an added value;  
Experience in facilitation of stakeholder engagements/workshops

#### 6. Duration of the assignment:

The consultancy will be undertaken in 100 days

### 7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

S/N	CRITERIA	SCORE
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>minimum</b> of a Master's degree in public health, life science, food safety, veterinary medicine, plant health, or other related area/</li> <li>• At least a master's degree in agronomy, plant protection/health or other related area</li> </ul>	20
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least ten (10) years of professional experience working in the field of food safety in Africa</li> <li>• At least 10 years professional experience working in the field of plant protection/health in Africa with at least 3 years working experience in the field of SPS</li> </ul>	25
3	At least 3 previous assignments related to experience in strategy development	20
4	Experience in facilitation of stakeholder engagements/workshops	10
5	Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and knowledge of another AU working language;	05
	<b>Technical approach and methodology</b>	
6	Understanding of the Assignment as described in the Term of Reference (ToRs)	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### 8. Invitation

The African Union Commission now invites eligible **Individual Consultants** to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested candidate must provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AUC's consideration:

#### Technical Proposal on:

- **understanding of the TOR**
- **Technical approach and methodology to undertake the assignment**