



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)**

Country: Ethiopia

Name of Project: The Building Institutions and Systems to Harness and Realize Agenda (BIASHARA) 2063 Project

Grant No: P180117

Assignment Title: Consultant Service for Baseline Study on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import and Export Procedures and Inspection Fees applied by AfCFTA State Parties on Agricultural Commodities and Agro-Processed Products at Selected Borders

Reference No. ET-AUC-424524-CS-INDV

The African Union Commission has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of *The Building Institutions and Systems to Harness and Realize Agenda (BIASHARA) 2063 Project*, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include Consulting to conduct a baseline study on sanitary and phytosanitary import and export requirements, procedures and inspection fees applied by AfCFTA state parties on agricultural commodities and agro-processed products at selected border. Specific tasks include:

- Prepare and present a baseline report of the current Sanitary and Phytosanitary import, export and transit requirements, procedures and inspections fees in place in different countries
- Identify gaps or challenges with the existing Sanitary and Phytosanitary import, export and transit requirements, procedures and inspection fees
- Identify potential or additional interventions that can help ease trading and address the identified gaps
- Identify procedures that are not aligned with international standards, best practices or require immediate harmonization

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this Request for Expression of Interest.

The African Union Commission now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- At least a Master’s degree in agriculture, veterinary medicine, Food safety, or international law, and training or experience in trade is highly desirable
- At least eight (8) years’ experience in carrying out baseline or scoping studies and evaluation studies
- Extensive knowledge and demonstrated experience in non-tariff measures (sanitary and phytosanitary standards, non-tariff barriers, technical barriers to trade) is added value

- Knowledge of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements, WTO TFA Agreement, Relevant ISO Standards and related international standards of the IPPC, WOA and Codex
- Extensive experience in the area of Quality Infrastructure, development, standards, quality, and conformity assessment
- Experience working with International Organizations and government projects, and in the area of trade information will be an added advantage
- Proficiency in French or Portuguese will be an added advantage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, revised November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours *i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours*.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **17 June 2024**

African Union Commission,
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TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANT SERVICE FOR BASELINE STUDY ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT AND EXPORT PROCEDURES AND INSPECTION FEES APPLIED BY AFCFTA STATE PARTIES ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND AGRO-PROCESSED PRODUCTS AT SELECTED BORDERS

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1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1. The Protocol on Trade in Goods is implemented through nine Annexes. Three of these Annexes namely; Annex 5 on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), Annex 6 on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Annex 7 on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) address Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs).
- 1.2. Annex 7 on SPS applies to measures that directly or indirectly affect trade between State Parties. The objectives are to facilitate trade while safeguarding human, animal or plant life or health in the territory of State Parties; enhance cooperation and transparency in the development and implementation of SPS measures to ensure that they do not become unjustifiable barriers to trade; and enhance technical capacity of State Parties for the implementation and monitoring of SPS measures while encouraging the use of international standards in the elimination of barriers to trade.
- 1.3. The AfCFTA Sub-Committees on SPS has developed its Work Programmes for facilitating implementation of the Annex on SPS. The Work Programmes has been approved by the Committee on Trade in Goods and Competition for implementation.
- 1.4. The Work Programme contain key activities that were identified and aligned with the various articles of the Annex. In line with the key activities, the responsibilities of the State Parties, the Sub-Committees and the AfCFTA Secretariat have also been outlined in the Work Programme
- 1.5. The Work Programmes for the Sub-Committees on SPS contains activities identified for pursuing Article 10 on Import or Export Inspections and Fees. In addition, the Work Programme reference the need to facilitate harmonization of import and export procedures.

2. The Assignment

The Consultant shall compile a report detailing all the existing Sanitary and Phytosanitary import, export and transit regulations/requirements procedures and inspection fees from two countries in each of the Regional Economic Communities on agricultural commodities and agro-processed products at selected borders. The Consultant should propose recommendations for legislative reform; simplification of existing procedures and implementing best practices in harmonized approaches in import, export and transit procedures and fees based on the analysis.

3. Objectives of the Assignment

To conduct a baseline study on sanitary and phytosanitary import and export requirements, procedures and inspection fees applied by AfCFTA state parties on agricultural commodities and agro-processed products at selected borders

Specifically, the Consultant is expected to produce a baseline report on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import, Export and Transit requirements, procedures and Inspection fees when compared with international standards and best practices and identifying recommendations for implementing the

best practices in simplification and harmonization of legislation, procedures and fees applied by African AfCFTA State Parties. This will be based upon information gathered from two countries in each of the Regional Economic Communities on agricultural commodities and agro-processed products at selected borders. The objective of the baseline data and report is to provide a benchmark from which to measure progress with seamless trading under the AfCFTA.

4. Scope of Work

The baseline study will constitute a comprehensive report of existing import and export requirements, procedures and inspection fees related to food commodities, plants and plant materials and livestock including products of animal origin other than food such as hides, semen, vaccines, etc., levied at various border points. This information will be used as reference and guidance for implementation of best practices in harmonization of import export and transit inspection standards, procedures and fees. The Consultant will:

- a. Prepare and present a baseline report of the current Sanitary and Phytosanitary import, export and transit requirements, procedures and inspections fees in place in different countries
- b. Identify gaps or challenges with the existing Sanitary and Phytosanitary import, export and transit requirements, procedures and inspection fees
- c. Identify potential or additional interventions that can help ease trading and address the identified gaps
- d. Identify procedures that are not aligned with international standards, best practices or require immediate harmonization

5. Qualifications and Experience

5.1. The Consultant shall have the following qualifications:

- a. At least a Master's degree in agriculture, veterinary medicine, Food safety, or international law, and training or experience in trade is highly desirable
- b. At least eight (8) years' experience in carrying out baseline or scoping studies and evaluation studies
- c. Extensive knowledge and demonstrated experience in non-tariff measures (sanitary and phytosanitary standards, non-tariff barriers, technical barriers to trade) is added value
- d. Knowledge of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements, WTO TFA Agreement, Relevant ISO Standards and related international standards of the IPPC, WOH and Codex
- e. Extensive experience in the area of Quality Infrastructure, development, standards, quality, and conformity assessment
- f. Experience working with International Organizations and government projects, and in the area of trade information will be an added advantage
- g. Proficiency in French or Portuguese will be an added advantage.

6. Deliverables for the Assignment

	Deliverable	Duration after contract signature
1.	Interim Report	15 Days
2.	Draft Report	30 Days

3.	Final Report	45 Days
4.	Total Number of Days	90 Days

7. Reporting

- 7.1. In the execution of the assignment, the Consultant will work directly with the Principal Officer, SPS, and the Head, Non-Tariff Measures, and report to the Director of Trade in Goods and Competition, AfCFTA Secretariat Offices, Accra, Ghana.

8. Terms of Payment

- 15% Payment of Contract Amount upon submission of Inception Report and approval by AfCFTA;
- 45% Payment upon acceptance by AfCFTA of the draft Report;
- 40% Payment upon acceptance by AfCFTA of the Final Report

9. Duration

- 9.1. The Consultancy service shall be for a period of 90 days commencing.

10. Evaluation Criteria

- 10.1. The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a shortlist and the selection procedure shall be in conformity with the WBG's Rules and Procedure for the Selection of Consultants. Interested individuals should provide information on their qualifications and experience demonstrating their ability to undertake the assignment (CV, reference to similar services, experience in similar assignments, etc.). The consultants shall be evaluated based on the following criteria.

General Education, Qualification and Relevant Training	40%
Experience and Technical Expertise	50%
Proficiency in Language	10%
Total	100%

11. Working Arrangement

- 11.1. The expert days on the assignment are 90 days excluding travel days. The consultant is expected to be based in their home country for most of the assignment with travel envisaged to the 16 State Parties (2 Member States per REC) for a two-day consultation in each country excluding travel days. The return tickets (economy class) will be via the most direct and economical route, along with daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at the contractor's applicable rates.

12. Services /Facilities to be provided by the client

The AfCFTA Secretariat shall provide the following to the consultant:

- Existing policy documents, rules and regulations.
- Access to staff for interview process (if required)
- Any other materials required to conduct the assignment