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

### **CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT PEST RISK MAPPING AND MODELLING ANALYSIS FOR CROP PROTECTION**

**Reference No.: AU-IAPSC001/07/24**

## SECTION I: LETTER OF INVITATION

July, 2024

Dear Applicants,

### **REF: CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT PEST RISK MAPPING AND MODELLING ANALYSIS FOR CROP PROTECTION**

1. The Inter African Phytosanitary Council of Africa Union Commission wishes to recruit a highly qualified expert or group of expert to undertake the above assignment. The AU-IAPSC now invites interested **Consultants** to submit their offers the assignment as per attached Terms of Reference (TORS).

2. Candidates will be selected under the Consultant Qualification Selection method.

3. The EoI 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 EoI must be submitted e-mail to [auiapsc@africa-union.org](mailto:auiapsc@africa-union.org) with a copy to [andeguen@africa-union.org](mailto:andeguen@africa-union.org). The title of the Procurement must appear as subject of e-mail.

5. The Deadline for submission of EoI is **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5pm Yaoundé Time**. Late applications will not be considered.

6. This call for Request for Expression of Interest comprises of the following:  
Section I – This Letter of Invitation  
Section II - Terms of Reference

Yours sincerely,

**AU-IAPSC Coordinator**

## 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 Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) of the African Union Commission (AUC) is responsible for managing Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment Issues.

In 2020, the Assembly of African Heads of States endorsed the AU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework. The SPS Policy Framework emphasizes the importance of harmonized science-based food SPS systems, collaboration and trade facilitation, capacity building, political support and enhanced investment in assuring safe intra-African and global trade in agricultural commodities and products. The policy framework is the overarching tool for implementing the SPS Annex VII of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Determined to improve food safety, animal health and plant health, the AU Policy Organs adopted the Plant Health Strategy for Africa (PHSA) in 2021. Implementation of the PHSA will contribute to the overall goal of the AU SPS Policy Framework. The implementation of phytosanitary measures at national, regional and continental levels serves to maintain and improve MS phytosanitary status, facilitate trade in agricultural goods in the region, and helps to maintain or improve access to international and/or new markets.

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### Context

Insect pests continue to cause significant agricultural losses across numerous African nations, posing a severe threat to food security of millions. Key pests such as *Spodoptera frugiperda* Fall Armyworm, *S. exempta* African Armyworm, *Phthorimaea absoluta* tomato leafminer, *Bactrocera dorsalis* Asian fruit fly, and are among the most destructive, often leading to devastating impacts on crops and livelihoods.

Despite the promotion of various management strategies, there remains a critical shortfall in the ability to predict and manage these pests effectively. Investment in monitoring, forecasting, and early warning systems is notably low across most African countries. This deficiency results in sporadic and often ineffective interventions and inadequacies in policy-making due to a lack of substantial evidence. Consequently, pest incidence remains high, prompting governments to prefer to resort to chemical controls, which are not only costly but also pose environmental risks. Reports consistently highlight that preventive measures are more economical compared to reactive approaches. The underlying issue of insufficient investment in essential pest management infrastructures stems from a lack of technical expertise and limited access to the latest tools and reliable data.

To address these challenges, a hands-on training workshop for stakeholders from REC will be of huge benefit. Such a workshop will bolster the capabilities of African nations, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools to accurately predict and manage pest threats effectively. This initiative will empower participants to select appropriate management strategies for specific pests at the right times and locations, thereby mitigating the extensive damage caused by these pests and enhancing food security.

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## **The Assignment**

### **1. Objective:**

The overall objective of the workshop is to enhance the capacities of AU member states in the knowledge and application of official phytosanitary information for safe trade, food security and protecting the environment from plant pests and familiarize participants with the Pest risk analysis.

### **Specific Objectives:**

The hands-on training workshop is designed to achieve the following specific objectives:

- **Data management:** To introduce essential data and showcase various data processing tools that support effective pest management strategies.
- **Introduction to GIS and modeling concepts:** To familiarize participants with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and basic modeling techniques crucial for pest risk assessment.
- **Understanding agroecological characterization and ecological similarity:** To provide participants with foundational theories in agroecology to better understand pest dynamics related to their environments and the spread patterns of pests.

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

The Consultant will be responsible for performing the following tasks:

Output 1: Hands-on training on Pest Modelling for Early Warning, Preparedness, and Decision Making

Activity 1.1: Facilitate the hands-on training according to the agenda.

Output 2: Training material developed for stakeholders in other countries in the Near East and Asia.

Activity 2.1: Based on the 5-day hands-on training, make available training material on the subjects treated during the training (e.g. presentations, handbooks, guidance notes).

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

In this regard, the consultant will deliver the following:

- Inception report with detailed methodology and work plan (5 days after signing of the contract)
- Identification of workshop participants, submission of draft agenda (10 days prior to the workshop)
- Submission of final workshop report with clearly outlined regional/continental market access strategy (5 days after the workshop)

#### 4. Reporting:

The Consultant will report to the Coordinator, AU Inter-African Phytosanitary Council. Regular communication with the focal persons for this assignment will be required.

#### 5. Qualification and Work Experience Required

The Consultant who will be facilitating the workshop on pest risk analysis should have at least a Master's degree in agricultural sciences, crop/plant protection, agronomy, food safety or other related area with:

- At least ten (15) years professional experience working in the field of plant health in Africa implementing Phytosanitary measures.
- Experience in the use of result-based management or logical framework approach.
- Demonstrated experience in planning and coordinating multi-sectoral meetings and workshops at regional and continental level.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in the numerous provisions of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council AU-IAPSC and its strategy.
- 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 15 days

#### 7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

S/N	CRITERIA	SCORE
1	A <b>minimum</b> of a Master's degree in agricultural sciences, crop/plant protection, agronomy, food safety or other related area	20
2	At least ten (15) years professional experience working in the field of plant protection/health in Africa with at least 3 years working experience in AU MS NPPO implementing Phytosanitary measures.	25

3	Demonstrated experience in planning and coordinating multi-sectoral meetings and workshops at regional and continental level (at least 3 previous assignments).	20
4	Experience in facilitation of stakeholder engagements/workshops	10
5	Excellent written and oral communications skills in one of 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. Consultancy fees

A portion of the consultancy fee will be paid upon completion of the training activity. The remainder will be paid upon reception and evaluation of final report with the following:

- Final workshop report with clearly outlined activities and participants satisfaction.
- Training materials including data, literature and step-by-step guide on pest mapping.

The fee is inclusive of all assignment costs and profits as well as tax obligations that may be imposed on the Consultant.

## 9. Invitation

The African Union Commission now invites eligible **Consultants** or Companies 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:

- The TORs
- Technical approach and methodology to undertake the assignment