CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

MID-TERM REVIEW: PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE ON A WIDE SCALE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. BACKGROUND

Despite the continued experience of natural shocks linked to climate change and its associated impact on food security and poverty, the uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices in southern Africa is currently limited. This is partly attributed to existing institutions, policies, regulations, and programmes, which in most southern African countries do not provide a clear and concise roadmap to deal with climate risk and are generally not conducive for promoting CSA related investments. Such shortcomings often preclude producers and other actors along the agricultural value chain from accessing a range of climate smart products and services. A conducive environment would allow, for instance, public and private sectors' participation in various interventions, including provision of quality and affordable climate smart inputs and equipment, finance, insurance and capacity building of farmers to improve their adaptability to climate change.

While farmers remain on the frontline of climate risk, their input towards the formulation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes has been very minimal, hence their interests, needs, and concerns are hardly taken on board. Worth noting, however, is the fact that farmers and Farmers' Organisations (FOs) can play a significant role in facilitating wide-scale adoption of CSA practices. One key avenue to accomplish this is by improving their capacity, knowledge and skills to champion change in public policies and advocate for an enabling environment to appropriately incentivise scaled-up private sector participation in CSA related investments.

To this end, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)\(^1\), through support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), is implementing a

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\(^1\) SACAU is a membership-based organisation that represents the interests of farmers in southern Africa. Its core membership is open to national farmers’ unions based in the region. It currently has 18 members from 12 countries in southern Africa: Botswana Farmers’ Association (BFA), Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU), Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM), Confederation des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA), Fikambanana Fampivoarana ny Tantsaha African (FIFATA), Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), National Smallholder Farmers’ Association of Malawi (NASFAM), Uniao Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC), Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU), Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU), Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA), African Farmers’ Association of South Africa (AFASA), Agri-South Africa (AgrISA), Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU), Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT), Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU), Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFU) and Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU).
four-year project titled “Promoting the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture on a wide scale in southern Africa”. The project, which commenced in October 2017, seeks to achieve the following objectives:

(i) Enhance capacities of National Farmers’ Organisations (NFOs) to advocate for better CSA-related policies and investments;
(ii) Increase the influence of SACAU in CSA policy and related processes at regional and global levels; and
(iii) Increase the influence of Zimbabwe Farmer’s Union (ZFU) in CSA policy and related processes in Zimbabwe.

Further details on the project (outputs and specific activities) are contained in the attached project documents.

2. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE

Given that the project has been implemented for two years (out of the projected four), the purpose of the mid-term review is to draw lessons for SACAU and Norad from what has been achieved thus far. The two organisations will use this exercise to assess whether the project is still relevant and on track to fulfil its objectives, or whether there are changes that need to be made in the remaining years. Hence, the mid-term review will focus on verification of activities and outputs and will provide recommendations for the remainder of the project period.

3. OBJECTIVES

The mid-term review will focus on relevance and effectiveness of the project. It is important to note that the project is still in its early phase, hence it might be too early to identify actual changes that can be attributed to the project (impact). Specifically, the review will:

(i) Assess the relevance of the project objectives and activities;
(ii) Determine the results achieved thus far;
(iii) Assess the extent to which the objectives of the project have been achieved or are likely to be achieved; and
(iv) Determine the likelihood of results being sustainable over time.

4. REVIEW QUESTIONS

The following are some of the questions that will guide the review process, providing a basis for conclusions and recommendations.

(i) Who are the main stakeholders in CSA, and what are their perceptions on current CSA related policies and regulations at regional and country level?
(ii) To what extent do the objectives of the project correspond with priorities of the identified stakeholders in (4.1 above)?
(iii) Are the activities and outputs of the project relevant to achieve the project objectives?
(iv) To what extent will activities, outputs and outcomes be expected to continue after the project comes to an end in 2021?
(v) What risks and potentials are visible regarding the sustainable effectiveness of the intervention and how likely is their occurrence?
(vi) What is the current level of public and private sectors’ investment in CSA at regional and national levels?
(vii) To what extent are NFOs involved in CSA related advocacy and/or lobby initiatives in their respective countries?
(viii) To what extent is SACAU influencing CSA related policies and processes at regional and global levels?
(ix) To what extent is ZFU influencing CSA related policies and processes in Zimbabwe?
(x) What key lessons are emerging with respect to project design and implementation?
(xi) What main conclusions can be drawn from the review?
(xii) What changes are recommended, if any, to the project that could enhance the probability of achieving the specific objectives?

5. SCOPE OF EVALUATION

The mid-term review will cover all activities implemented from October 2017 to September 2019. The assignment will be undertaken in close consultation with the SACAU Secretariat, and will focus on the southern African region, with a particular focus on five countries (Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

6. METHOD

The mid-term review will be qualitative in nature, and will be conducted using a mixed approach, including a desk study, telephonic/on-line interviews with stakeholders, and a visit to SACAU Secretariat and ZFU. Thus, no travel is expected to the other countries mentioned in 5 above.

7. DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

The assignment is expected to be completed within a maximum of 50 working days. The proposed start date is 02 September 2019 and the completion date is 11 November 2019.

The following timelines are foreseen:
(i) Signing of contract by 02 September 2019 after a debriefing session
(ii) Draft evaluation report by 21 October 2019
(iii) Final draft of the report by 11 November 2019
8. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of interest should be made through a detailed proposal which should include an understanding of the assignment, the approach/methodology, deliverables, and a budget in South African Rand (ZAR). Detailed CVs of people who will be involved in the assignment outlining relevant academic qualifications, knowledge and experience in undertaking similar assignments should be provided. The proposal should also provide information on the legal form and ownership structure of the applicant.

In addition, applicants should attach a stamped affidavit to confirm if they are NOT in any of the following situations:

(i) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

(ii) they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a final judgment;

(iii) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means that can be justified by a third party;

(iv) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established, or in South Africa (please attach the latest certified copy of a tax clearance certificate);

(v) they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have been convicted for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or money laundering by a final judgment; and

(vi) they make use of child labour or forced labour and/or practice discrimination, and/or do not respect the right to freedom of association and the right to organise and engage in collective bargaining pursuant to the core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Assessment of proposals will consider both technical (80% weighting) and budgetary (20% weighting) aspects. For the technical aspect, a minimum score of 70% will be required.

Expression of interest should be sent to info@sacau.org for the attention of Mr Ishmael Sunga and copied to majolam@sacau.org not later than 31st July 2019, 1700Hrs South African time. Correspondence should specifically mention: Consultancy services for conducting a mid-term review for a project titled, “Promoting the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture on a wide scale in southern Africa”

The total budget for conducting the mid-term review is between ZAR300 000 and ZAR350 000.