

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA)
TECHNOLOGIES FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION (TAAT) PHASE
II/ ADDENDUM GERMANY FUND

TAAT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

SECTOR: Agriculture

CONSULTANCY SERVICES: TAAT Technical Advisor – Seed Systems

Recruitment Type: International Consultant

TAAT II: Financing Agreement reference: 5900155019276
Project ID. P-Z1-AA0-139

This request for expression of interest (REOI) follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared on the African Development Bank Group's Internet Website(www.afdb.org) 12th August 2022.

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is implementing the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Program phase II, financed through a grant from the African Development Bank as administrators of funds under the TAAT II Addendum. IITA intends to apply part of the proceeds of the grant to facilitate payment for TAAT Technical Advisor- Seed systems who will be seconded to Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)- Rwanda to provide technical leadership and coordinate implementation under the “Building a Sustainable Private Sector-Led Seed Sector in Rwanda’s Food Basket Sites”.

IITA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)- Rwanda, seeks to strengthen Rwanda's seed sector through a market-driven and private sector-led approach by supporting youth Agripreneurs establish profitable enterprises engaged in certified maize seed production and basic seed potato multiplication by fostering partnerships with anchor seed companies, Farmer Service Centers (FSCs), financial institutions, and other stakeholders. While technical support for seed production will be provided by anchor seed companies, there is also a need to strengthen the entrepreneurial, financial management, and business development capacities of youth enterprises to ensure their long-term sustainability.

The selected consultant will, among others provide technical leadership in the development of sustainable, market-driven seed systems in Rwanda, working closely with MINAGRI and national

stakeholders; coordinate project planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting across target Food Basket Sites; strengthening partnerships with government institutions, financial institutions, private seed companies, Farmer Service Centers (FSCs), and youth Agripreneurs; ensure the production and delivery of high-quality certified seed of priority crops, particularly maize, rice and potato; facilitate seed demand forecasting and seed balance sheets for maize, rice and potato at the district level; coordinate and provide technical business support to partner youth enterprises to support their business development; facilitate and monitor linkages between Youth enterprises and Anchor Farmers/companies; ensure youth enterprises 'access to adequate extension services and knowledge needed to run the seed business; support MINAGRI in other matters related to seed business and technologies transfer to FOBASIs.

More specifically, the selected consultant will lead coordination of seed system activities, ensuring effective planning, timely implementation, and partner alignment; provide technical expertise in seed production, certification standards, and agronomic best practices; support the establishment and strengthening of Farmer Service Centers (FSCs) and anchor seed companies as incubation hubs; build capacity of youth Agripreneurs in seed production, agribusiness development, and enterprise management; facilitate implementation of financing mechanisms, including catalytic grants and contract-based lending models; develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems to track performance and impact; prepare quarterly and annual technical reports; strengthen collaboration with government agencies (including MINAGRI), financial institutions, private sector actors, and development partners; contribute to knowledge generation, documentation of lessons learned, and dissemination of best practices; undertake any other duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

The selected consultant should possess: a master's degree in Agronomy, Seed Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, or a related field; minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in seed systems, agribusiness, or agricultural value chain development; proven experience in project coordination and implementation; strong understanding of seed production, certification, and extension systems; experience working with government, private sector, and farmer organizations; at least 3 years of experience in East Africa with knowledge of local seed market dynamics, residence in Rwanda is an added advantage; fluency in English (working language); knowledge of Kinyarwanda is an added advantage; demonstrated working experience with international financial institutions (e.g., AfDB, World Bank,) is an added advantage; strong technical knowledge of seed systems, certification processes, and agronomy; demonstrated experience in multi-stakeholder coordination and partnership building; strong analytical, organizational, seed business and reporting skills; ability to work effectively in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams; good understanding of private sector-led agricultural development approaches and excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.

IITA now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultant must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (including their detailed CV and letter of motivation detailing past related experience similar to this assignment.).

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's Procurement policy framework, October 2015,

which is available on the Bank's website at <https://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/procurement/new-procurement-policy>

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 08:00-16:30

Expressions of interest should be sent to the address below on or before **Monday 12th October 2026**.

Attn: **Zozo Rachel**

Interim TAAT Program Coordinator | Program Management Unit

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, www.iita.org

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Appendix 1: Terms of Reference (TOR)



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TAAT -TECHNICAL ADVISOR- SEED SYSTEMS - (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL RESOURCES (MINAGRI), RWANDA) CONSULTANT

TECHNOLOGIES FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION (TAAT)

Project Code: P-Z1-AA0-139

Instrument number (s): 5900155019276

Countries: 37 countries – Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroun; Central Africa Republic; Chad; Comoros; Cote d'Ivoire; Democratic Rep. of Congo; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mozambique; Niger; Rwanda; Sao Tome; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Tanzania; The Gambia; Togo; Uganda; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

Sector: Agriculture

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to generating agricultural innovations to address Africa's most pressing challenges, including hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Collaborating with partners across sub-Saharan Africa, IITA aims to improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resources. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agricultural research partnership working towards a food-secure future. For more information, visit www.iita.org.

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), is a major continent-wide program designed to boost agricultural productivity across the continent by rapidly delivering proven technologies to millions of farmers. The overall goal of TAAT is to double crop, livestock, and fish productivity by expanding access to productivity-increasing technologies to more than 40 million smallholder farmers across Africa. TAAT aims to generate an additional 120 million metric tons (MT) of food while lifting 130

million people out of poverty. Getting certified seeds of the most modern varieties into the hands of tens of millions of farmers is the primary objective of TAAT.

The program supports the Feed Africa Initiative of the AfDB by providing the needed, proven agricultural and food processing technologies and implementation strategies for inclusion within the Bank's loans to Regional Member Countries (RMCs). It is implemented by the Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure (RTDI) made up of the Commodity Technology Delivery Compacts (Compacts); the TAAT Clearinghouse (CH); the Program Management Unit (PMU), and a Program Steering Committee (PSC). The Compacts are currently composed of 11 CGIAR centers, 3 Advanced regional R&D African centers, National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) institutions, private sector partners and development partners. IITA is the executing agency of TAAT.

The Program Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for overall coordination and implementation of the TAAT program providing oversight and direction of the program. This is achieved through the provision of technical assistance from technical experts supporting the project. Specifically, the PMU team consists of experts from M&E, Procurement, Financial Management, Environment and Social Safeguards, and Gender, all working together to ensure delivery of TAAT activities in close collaboration with partners to get proven technologies into the programs of the government's agricultural infrastructure.

As the Executing Agency (EA) for TAAT, IITA will continue to oversee program implementation in partnership with other CGIAR Centers and specialized agencies acting as Implementing Agencies for specific components. TAAT currently spans activities across more than 37 African countries, supporting 11 compacts involving 17 institutions:

S/N	TAAT Commodity Value Chain and Enabler Compacts
1	Maize led by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
2	Rice led by AfricaRice
3	Wheat led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
4	Cassava led by (IITA)
5	Sorghum/Millet led by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
6	Livestock led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
7	Fishery led by WorldFish
8	Nutrition (A combination of OFSP, Soybean, High Iron Bean and Vegetables value chains)
9	ENABLE TAAT (Youth) led by IITA Youth Agripreneurs

10	Capacity Development and Technology Outreach led by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
11	Policy by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)

2. OBJECTIVES OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The objective of this consultancy is to engage an Individual Consultant for the position of Technical Advisor - Seed Systems, seconded to Rwanda's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), to provide technical leadership and coordinate implementation of the project "Building a Sustainable Private Sector-Led Seed Sector in Rwanda's Food Basket Sites," in support of a more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable seed system in Rwanda.

Specifically, the consultancy aims to strengthen Rwanda's seed sector through a market-driven, private sector-led approach, by supporting youth Agripreneurs in building profitable enterprises in certified maize seed production and basic seed potato multiplication, in partnership with anchor seed companies, Farmer Service Centers, and financial institutions. Beyond the technical production support provided by anchor seed companies, the consultancy will also strengthen youth enterprises' entrepreneurial, financial management, and business development capacities to ensure long-term sustainability, while ensuring implementation aligns with national priorities through liaison with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) and the Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA) on harmonizing seed certification protocols.

3. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Among others, the consultant is expected to liaise with the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) and the Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA) to harmonize seed certification protocols. The position will be seconded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) in Rwanda to support implementation and ensure alignment with national priorities.

The Technical Advisor - Seed Systems will:

- Provide technical leadership in the development of sustainable, market-driven seed systems in Rwanda, working closely with MINAGRI and national stakeholders.
- Coordinate project planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting across target Food Basket Sites.
- Strengthening partnerships with government institutions, financial institutions, private seed companies, Farmer Service Centers (FSCs), and youth Agripreneurs.
- Ensure the production and delivery of high-quality certified seed of priority crops, particularly maize, rice and potato.
- Facilitate seed demand forecasting and seed balance sheets for maize, rice and potato at the district level.

- Coordinate and provide technical business support to partner youth enterprises to support their business development.
- Facilitate and monitor linkages between Youth enterprises and Anchor Farmers/companies.
- Ensure youth enterprises ‘access to adequate extension services and knowledge needed to run the seed business.
- Support MINAGRI in other matters related to seed business and technologies transfer to FOBASIs.

Deliverables

The Advisor will be expected to produce, as applicable:

- **Approved annual and quarterly implementation plans** for seed-system and youth Agripreneurs activities.
- **Functional coordination mechanism** involving MINAGRI, implementing partners, FSCs, anchor seed companies, financial institutions and other stakeholders.
- **Technical seed production and quality-assurance protocols** developed and operationalized.
- **FSCs and anchor seed companies strengthened and functioning as incubation and service-delivery hubs** for youth seed Agripreneurs.
- **Youth Agripreneurs trained, mentored and supported** to establish or strengthen commercially viable seed enterprises.
- **Youth enterprise/business plans developed, and financing linkages established**, including catalytic grants and contract-based lending arrangements.
- **Functional results-based M&E system and project performance database/dashboard** established and regularly updated.
- **Four quarterly technical reports and one consolidated annual technical report** produced each year.
- **Stakeholder partnerships and market linkages strengthened** across government, finance, seed companies, input suppliers and buyers.
- **Knowledge products and documented lessons** produced to support learning, replication and scaling of successful youth-led seed business models.

4. SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

i	Lead coordination of seed system activities, ensuring effective planning, timely implementation, and partner alignment.
ii	Provide technical expertise in seed production, certification standards, and agronomic best practices.

iii	Support the establishment and strengthening of Farmer Service Centers (FSCs) and anchor seed companies as incubation hubs.
iv	Build capacity of youth Agripreneurs in seed production, agribusiness development, and enterprise management.
v	Facilitate implementation of financing mechanisms, including catalytic grants and contract-based lending models.
vi	Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems to track performance and impact.
vii	Prepare quarterly and annual technical reports.
viii	Strengthen collaboration with government agencies (including MINAGRI), financial institutions, private sector actors, and development partners.
ix	Contribute to knowledge generation, documentation of lessons learned, and dissemination of best practices.
x	Undertake any other duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

4.1. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

a	Master's degree in Agronomy, Seed Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, or a related field.
b	Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in seed systems, agribusiness, or agricultural value chain development.
c	Proven experience in project coordination and implementation.
d	Strong understanding of seed production, certification, and extension systems.
e	Experience working with government, private sector, and farmer organizations.
f	At least 3 years of experience in East Africa with knowledge of local seed market dynamics, residence in Rwanda is an added advantage.
e	Fluency in English (working language); knowledge of Kinyarwanda is an added advantage.
g	Demonstrated working experience with international financial institutions (e.g., AfDB, World Bank,) is an added advantage.

4.2. CORE COMPETENCIES

a	Strong technical knowledge of seed systems, certification processes, and agronomy.
b	Demonstrated experience in multi-stakeholder coordination and partnership building.
c	Strong analytical, organizational, seed business and reporting skills.
d	Ability to work effectively in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams.
e	Good understanding of private sector-led agricultural development approaches.
f	Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.

4.3. Reporting and Supervision

The Technical Advisor will be administratively supervised by the Senior Research and Delivery Specialist at the IITA Rwanda Office and will work in close technical collaboration with MINAGRI, where the position will be seconded. The Specialist will coordinate closely with government agencies, private seed companies, Farmer Service Centers, financial institutions, and youth Agripreneurs groups to ensure effective project implementation.

5. Duration of the Assignment:

The duration of the assignment will be for an initial period of one year, renewable subject to satisfactory performance and fund availability from the donors. The assignment will commence in November 2026.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

6.1. Evaluation Criteria and Weighting

Applications will be assessed against the following weighted criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Academic Qualifications	20%
Years of Experience	10%
Specific Experience in Seed Systems & Agribusiness	30%
Experience with Multi-Stakeholder Coordination & Partnership Building	10%
Experience with International Financial Institutions (AfDB, World Bank, or Similar Institutions)	20%
Experience in East Africa & Knowledge of local seed market dynamics is essential.	10%
Total	100%

6.2. Detailed Scoring Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Points	Assessment Indicators
Academic Qualifications	20	Master's degree in Agronomy, Seed Science, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, or a related field (max 20 points). (<i>MSc= 20 points, BSc/HND relevant courses = 10 points.</i>)
Years of Experience	10	Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in seed systems and agribusiness, (5 years =10 points), Less than 5 years = 5 points)
Specific Experience in Seed Systems & Agribusiness	30	Demonstrated experience in managing or advising on seed certification, quality assurance, and working with extension systems. Specific examples (1 =10 pts, 2 =15 pts, 3 and above = 30 pts).
Experience with Multi-Stakeholder Coordination & Partnership Building	10	Proven experience working effectively with diverse partners, including government, private sector (seed companies, financial institutions), and farmer organisations. Examples (1 = 5 pts, 2 =8 pts 3 and above =10 pts).
Experience with IFI (AfDB, World Bank, or Similar Institutions)	20	Demonstrated working experience with international financial institutions (e.g., AfDB, World Bank) on similar assignments. Evidence of work with IFI (1=10 points, 2 =15 points, 3 or more = 20 points).
Experience in East Africa & Knowledge of local seed market dynamics is essential.	10	Minimum of 5 years of experience working in East Africa. 5 years of experience = 5 pts, specific experience in Rwanda = 5 additional points
Total	100	