CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANTS

1. Background Information

The African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) is an association (regional network) of financial institutions involved in providing financial services to the rural population in Africa. AFRACA is a one-stop heterogeneous network of over 110 members, spread across the African Continent. Membership is open and consists but not limited to the following categories of institutions: Central Banks; Central Bank similar institutions; Agricultural and Development Banks; Commercial Banks; Microfinance Institutions; Apex Organizations such as Microfinance Networks and SACCOs; Universities; Training Institutions and Research Institutions; Insurance organizations; Ministries and Ministerial agencies dealing in poverty reduction with focus on rural and agricultural development.

AFRACA was founded in 1977 with its Secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya. The concept of Regional Agricultural Credit Associations (RACAs) originated from the FAO sponsored Regional Seminar on Agricultural Credit for Small farmers held in Accra, Ghana in 1973. Subsequently, the World Food Conference on credit for small farmers in developing countries held in Rome in 1975 recommended that FAO should assist its member countries to establish such associations in different parts of the world. This resulted in the creation of three regional credit associations: African Regional Credit Association (AFRACA), Near East, North Africa Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA) and the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) and later a similar Association - Latin American Association of Development Financial Institutions (ALIDE) was established for the Latin America Region.

African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association was established with the following broad objectives:

a) Facilitate enhancing policy environment and legal frameworks for rural/agricultural financial services development in Africa;

b) Facilitate demand driven capacity-building initiatives for enhancing the skills of professional staff and member institutions through cross learning and centers of excellence;

c) Support and enhance innovative financial services, delivery methodologies that increase outreach, improve the performance of member institutions that allow significant funding to reach various stages of the value chains in Africa;

d) Initiate and support multi-country studies on issues of common interest and undertake such other activities as may be conducive to the fulfillment of the AFRACA objectives;

e) Seek to interest lenders, local and international investors in opportunities for investment in rural and agricultural sectors for accelerated economic growth in the continent;

f) Catalyze and create greater synergy through partnerships with local and international development partners to increase investment in the rural and agricultural sector;

g) Foster cooperation in planning and improving financial inclusion for rural and agricultural development in Africa;

h) Establish a broad-based one stop virtual knowledge and information hub on rural & agricultural finance in the continent.

2. Activities Scope

The Call is directed to professionals with background and proven experience in rural and agricultural finance. Within this broad domain, AFRACA is interested in those with expertise in

a) Agricultural value chain finance
b) Risk management systems in agriculture
c) Agricultural Insurance
d) Microfinance
e) Financial Inclusion
f) Green /Climate Smart Finance
g) Policy Development, Formulation and Implementation in Rural and Agricultural Finance
h) Agricultural Economics
i) Impact Finance/Investment
j) Risk Sharing Financing Mechanisms
k) Blended Finance
l) Digital Finance
m) Warehouse Receipt Finance
n) Monitoring & Evaluation
o) Knowledge Management
p) Translation and Interpretation Experts
q) Workshop/Conference Facilitators
r) Trainers/Coaches (in any of the above-mentioned areas)
s) IT Experts
t) Emerging Best Practices in Agricultural Financing

Good analytical skills, familiarity with working in developing countries, proficiency in spoken and written English or French languages will be highly desirable.

3. Minimum Short-listing Criteria

i. Availability and ability to be ready for an assignment,
ii. Availability of skilled staff for the firms and individuals with not less than 5 years of experiences on similar areas described above especially in agriculture and finance or both combined. Attached individual CV’s and cover letter describing qualifications and past experiences in the concerned areas of activities (See Activities Scope)
iii. Experience in working in developing countries,
iv. Attach relevant copies of certifications, degrees and any relevant documents,
v. Valid copies of certificate of incorporation registrazione, tax compliance, relevant licenses for local firms/individuals and equivalent for foreign firms.
vi. Be capable to undertake some assignments in both English and French or be able to avail the assignment results in both English and French,
vii. Be willing to travel especially within African countries.

4. Clarification and Submission of EOI

The “Call for Expression of Interest” is not related to a specific opening within our team. It is aimed at strengthening our roster of consultants we draw from as needs arise in the future.

All relevant documents relating to the EOI and any correspondence shall be in the English Language. Interested firms and individuals may submit their applications with relevant documents relating to the EOI in a plain sealed envelope or via electronic mail clearly titled: “EOI NO: AFRACA/EOI/001/2019” to the address indicated below:

Secretary General,
African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA)
Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS)
Noordin Road, Off Thika Supper Highway
P.O. Box 41378-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Email: afraca@africaonline.co.ke

The applications should be received on or before 30 September 2019.

Only shortlisted firms and/or individuals will be invited to submit detailed Request for Proposal (RFPs) for an assignment. Canvassing shall lead to disqualification.