

# AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



## AFRICA FERTILIZER FINANCING MECHANISM (AFFM)

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT AGRONOMIST

1. The African Development Bank (AfDB) hereby invites Individual Consultants to indicate their interest for the assignment as an individual consultant agronomist for the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM).
2. Interested candidates shall provide information on their qualifications and experience demonstrating their ability to undertake this Assignment (documents, reference to similar services, experience in similar assignments, etc.). They will also provide additional information such as nationality, country of residence and contact.
3. The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a short list and the selection procedure shall be in conformity with the Bank's Procurement Policy for Recruitment of Individual Consultants. Please, note that interest expressed by a consultant does not imply any obligation on the part of the Bank to include him/her in the shortlist.
4. The expected duration of this assignment is six **(06) months** with possibility for extension based on good performances and needs assessment.
5. Expressions of interest must be delivered by e-mail to the address below not later than **February 24, 2023 at 05:00 pm GMT**, specifically mentioning "Expression of Interest for an individual consultant Agronomist- AFFM". Any submissions received after this time will not be considered. Interested individual consultants may obtain further information at the address provided below during the Bank's working hours: 8h00am to 05h00pm GMT.

To the attention of the AFFM Coordinator  
African Development Bank - Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism  
P.O Box: 1387 - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
Tel: +225 20 26 54 05  
E-mail: [affm@afdb.org](mailto:affm@afdb.org)

6. A shortlist of three to six individual consultants will be established based on the following criteria on the basis of their updated resume.

A.	General qualifications and suitability for the tasks to be performed	30 points
B.	Experience in the specific assignment described in the ToR	50 points
C.	Experience in working with government organizations, private Sector, national/international development and research institutions	10 points
D.	Language capacity	5 points
E.	Knowledge of the regions	5 points

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT AGRONOMIST**

## **1. Introduction**

The African Development Bank is the premier pan-African development institution, promoting economic growth and social progress across the continent. The Bank's development agenda is delivering the financial and technical support for transformative projects that will significantly reduce poverty through inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In order to sharply focus the objectives of the Ten-Year Strategy (TYS) 2013 – 2022 and ensure greater developmental impact, five major areas, have been identified for scaling up, namely, energy, agro-business, industrialization, integration and improving the quality of life for the people of Africa.

The Department of Agriculture and Agroindustry (AHAI) of AfDB has the responsibility of the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority of Bank's TYS High 5s, which is called "Feed Africa", the Strategy for agricultural transformation, aiming at allowing the continent to become a net food exporting region while using industrialization to add value to process foods and exports commodities; to help to end extreme poverty, and eliminate malnutrition.

In 2006, at the Abuja African Green Revolution summit, the African Union Member States, conceived the "Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism" (AFFM), an initiative to improve agricultural productivity by providing finance to debottleneck the use of fertilizers. The Summit charged the African Development Bank (AfDB) with the responsibility to establishing and manage the AFFM.

To achieve its mandate, the AFFM developed its 7-year strategic plan. The AFFM's 2022-2028 Strategic Plan is designed around three strategic pillars (i) Strengthening the fertilizer sector through access to finance; (ii) Supporting the development of viable policy reforms to improve production, trade and utilization of fertilizer; and (iii) Facilitating smallholder farmers' access to inputs and technical assistance. The strategy intends to benefit 16 million smallholder farmers in 15 African countries. It will also help support small and medium enterprises and facilitate farmer access to at least two Mt 2 million of fertilizer and other agri-inputs.

AFFM interventions are very strategic in ensuring enhanced and long-term engagement of the private sector in support of improved use of appropriate fertilizer to increase food production and support the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy.

## **2. The Position**

AfDB is seeking to engage the services of an individual consultant agronomist with broad background in soil sciences and a good understanding of the fertilizer sector in Africa. The individual must have a demonstrated capacity to drive change. S/he will work within the AFFM secretariat and contribute to the implementation of the AFFM strategic plan. S/he will support the AFFM in achieving projects' objectives of sustainable and profitable increases in agricultural productivity and product quality, while ensuring soil health, environment and social safeguards.

The specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

1. Oversee agricultural aspects of the AFFM funded projects, Communicating - giving / exchanging ideas, advising, explaining - within the Bank, different donors and partners.

2. Lead the implementation of agriculture productivity and soil health initiatives by supervising and supporting AFFM's projects executing agents and partners, to ensure that projects result in economically, environmentally and socially sustainable impact.
3. Ensure that projects adopt the 4R approach (right source, right rate, right time, and right place) best management practices (BMPs) adapted to local conditions that will maximize agronomic use efficiency of nutrients and improve crop productivity.
4. Provide recommendations for agriculture technologies, fertilizer application; prioritize/promote the use of specialized/specific fertilizer including organic matter on selected crops.
5. Support capacity strengthening of AFFM projects beneficiaries, including among others actors in the fertilizer distribution, smallholder farmers (via Farmer's cooperatives/ village-based grouping), field extensionists etc.
6. Participate actively in all the activities of projects cycle (identification, preparation and appraisal, supervision and evaluation); collect relevant information and data, as a member of project team, with a view to carrying out the technical analysis.
7. Assist in establishing a results-based monitoring and evaluation system that tracks, in a timely manner, improvements in food productivity and soil health against AFFM's annual and medium-term plans, and ensure consistency for the services provided to countries and companies;
8. Collaborate with AFFM/AfDB or any entity commissioned by the Bank during the process to collect project baseline data, on key project performance indicators including among others status on crops grown, yields realized, inputs used and level of input application etc.
9. Serve as AFFM focal point for all agronomic aspects relating to AFFM projects; assist countries and AFFM partners in productivity and soil health studies, feasibility studies, soil and fertility analysis, in collecting, analyzing data and disseminating relevant information.
10. Participate in drafting terms of reference for studies proposed for AFFM financing and participate in the evaluation and processing, and supervision of related projects and activities.
11. Conduct field missions to identify, prepare, evaluate and / or oversee the implementation and monitoring of AFFM projects, programs to support the implementation of the AFFM strategic plan and the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy.
12. Maintain good relationship with executing agencies, research institutions, scientists, specialized institutions and/or technical service providers involved in the AFFM projects/activities.
13. Monitor project implementation by recipients, provide required technical assistance and follow up project periodic reporting.
14. Contribute to implementation of other activities in the AFFM annual work program; contribute to AFFM periodic reports and annual report.
15. Review studies and progress reports on projects and make proposals for actions to be taken by the AFFM and the executing agencies.
16. Undertake any other assignment relevant to the successful implementation and performance of the AFFM.

### **3. Expected Deliverables**

1. Various Reports: For specific tasks, project appraisal reports (PAR), back to office reports (BTOR), etc.

2. Project's specific periodic reports
3. AFFM periodic reports
4. Topical papers/briefing notes/ talking points, PPT etc. as assigned by the Coordinator
5. Any other documents in line with the assignment for the AFFM Management review/approval.

#### **4. Required skill, qualification and Experience**

1. The Consultant must hold a Masters' degree (MSc.) in Agriculture, agricultural economics or any other related discipline.
2. A minimum ten (10) years of relevant experience with particular expertise in fertilizer industry, crop productivity, soil sciences (fertility and health) in Africa.
3. Must have proven experience with agricultural productivity, quality improvement and sustainable land use.
4. Ability to apply systems perspectives to plant analysis, soil fertility management and soil health issues.
5. Capable of providing methodological backstopping for agricultural innovation pilots and tests.
6. Has experience with innovative agricultural community-based, participatory, field-oriented research and extension approaches (farmer field schools, farmer research and extension groups, participatory variety selection, multi-locational trials, etc.).
7. Can deliver training sessions on agronomy to AFFM projects beneficiaries, develop and elaborate user-oriented field notes and leaflets (for extensionists, farmers, cooperatives, Etc.).
8. Ability to build partnerships, possess experience working with Government organization, private Sector, national/international development agencies, research institutions, with a good understanding of key players in the fertilizer sector in Africa.
9. Ability to work independently and collaboratively in multi-cultural environments and in interdisciplinary team to be creative and innovative, with a demonstrated Integrity and ability to work in team.
10. Ability to produce well researched documents and communicate in one of the Bank's two official languages of English or French. Capacity to use both will constitute an added advantage.
11. Proficiency in the use of standard Microsoft software, especially MS Office environment.
12. A track record in successful development and implementation of donor funded projects.

#### **5. Duration and Location**

The consultancy is scheduled to last for a period of Six (6) months starting from March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, latest.

The duty station for this assignment is the African Development Bank Headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. It may however be remotely based on Covid-19-related travel restrictions and pending further implementation of the Bank's "Return to Office" policy. Regardless of location, the successful candidate must secure reliable technology and network connection to smoothly implement her/his duties virtually.