

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN AFRICA (FARA)

PROMOTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT (PSTAD)

Financing Agreement reference: **2100155008294A**

Project ID No.: **P-Z1-AA0-090**

Assignment Reference Number: **FARA/AfDB/DONATA-RAILS/3.2/14**

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) *has received* financing from the African Development Bank toward the cost of the Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development Project, and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this *grant* to payments under the contract for the:

External Financial Audit of the Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development Project for the Financial Years 2013, 2014, and January to March 2015

FARA is the apex organization for agricultural research for development in Africa and the AUC/NEPAD mandated institution to lead implementation of Pillar IV of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) focusing on generation, dissemination and adoption of agricultural innovations. Harnessing the development and poverty-reducing potential of CAADP depends crucially on the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of agricultural research institutions and services in addressing the challenges facing African agriculture.

As a result of the evolution of agricultural research and development (ARD) processes and approaches both within and outside Africa, FARA revised its strategic and medium term and operational plans and five networking support functions were established; (i) Advocacy and resource mobilisation, (ii) Access to knowledge and technologies, (iii) Regional policies and markets (iv) Capacity strengthening, and (v) Partnerships and strategic alliances; to respond to the challenges and opportunities agricultural research and development in Africa presents. And in that regard, the FARA led African Development Bank (AfDB) supported project on the 'Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development Project (PSTAD)' is one of the FARA projects that contributes to the attainment of the CAADP growth agenda. The project has three components: (i) Knowledge and Information Management: This component will create a functional African information and communications technology network for access and exchange of agricultural information; (ii) Technology Transfer and Good Agricultural Practices: This is a support to the wide-scale adoption and dissemination of the new proven agricultural technologies; and (iii) Project Management and Coordination

The Scope of the Assignment:

The audit will be carried out at the FARA Secretariat and the three Sub-regional organizations, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) or International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAs) issued by International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and will include such tests and controls, as the auditors consider necessary under the circumstances. In conducting the audit, special attention should be paid to the following:

- (a) All Bank funds have been used in accordance with the conditions of the grant agreement, with due attention to transparency, economy and efficiency and only for the purposes for which the fund was provided;
- (b) Goods and services financed have been procured in accordance with the grant agreement and in accordance with the Bank's rules and procedures;
- (c) All necessary supporting documents, records and accounts have been kept in respect of all project activities. Clear linkages should exist between the books of account and the financial statements presented to the Bank;
- (d) Special accounts have been maintained in accordance with the provisions of the grant agreement and in accordance with the Bank's rules and procedures;
- (e) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards-either the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRs), or National Accounting Standards that comply with IPSASs or IFRs in all material respects; and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the project as at 31st December of each year of implementation of activities and of its receipts and expenditures for the period ended on that date.
- (f) The auditor should carry out a comprehensive assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and overall internal control system to monitor expenditures and other financial transactions and ensure safe custody of project financed assets.
- (g) Ascertain that Project's fixed assets are real and properly evaluated and project property rights or related beneficiaries' rights are established in accordance with grant conditions; and
- (h) Where ineligible expenditures are identified during the audit, it should be reflected in a separate paragraph of the audit report and if material, the point should be reflected in the auditors' opinion.

FARA now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments carried out, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's ***"Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants"*** May 2008, Revised July 2012, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **3rd February, 2014 at 16:00 Hours GMT (4:00 pm local time)** and mention **"External Financial Audit of the PSTAD Project"**.

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
Attn: Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director
PMB CT 173, Cantonment-Accra, Ghana
Tel.: +233 0302 772823
Fax.: +233 0302 773676

Email: recruitment@fara-africa.org

Consultants are advised to quote the **Assignment Reference Number** in the application.