



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Title of the assignment: **Ghana based Research Consultants to support the implementation of the Grain Quality Grading and Certification Study.**

Department making the request: **Microeconomic, Institutional and Development Impact Division (ECMR.2)**

Place of assignment: **Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire**

Period of assignment: **May 20, 2024, to November 19, 2024**

Expected start date of the assignment: **May 20, 2024**

Last date for expressing interest: **May 10, 2024**

Expression of interest to be submitted to: Alesse Allaba Lucette (a.alesse@afdb.org) and copy to Francis H. Kemeze (f.kemeze@afdb.org)

1. Establishment of the short list

A shortlist of three to six individual consultants will be established at the end of the request of expressions of interest. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The consultants on the shortlist will be judged on the following criteria based on their resume:

General qualifications and relevance for the assignment to be undertaken	35%
Similar experience in the area of expertise of the assignment	45%
Experience with the Bank and/or multilateral donors	5%
Language proficiency	5%
Knowledge of the region (assignment environment)	10%

The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a short list, and the selection procedure shall be in conformity with the Bank's **Procurement Policy and Procedure for Corporate Consultants Recruitment**. 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.

2. Background

2.1. 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 entails delivering financial and technical support to 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 (2013 – 2022) and ensure greater developmental impact, five major areas of focus (High 5), all of which will accelerate our delivery for Africa, have been identified for scaling up, namely, light up and power Africa (energy), feed Africa (agriculture and nutrition), industrialize Africa (industrialization), integrate Africa (regional integration and intra-regional trade) and improve the quality of life for Africans

(sustainable socio-economic development).

- 2.2.** The Chief Economist/Vice-President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management (ECVP) is responsible for (i) providing leadership and visibility for the Bank on economic, finance, financial governance and socio economic development issues; and coordinate the generation of analytical work to inform operational policy; and (ii) systematically emphasize the critical role of knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and their tangible impact on sustainable and inclusive transformation of African economies.
- 2.3.** The Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting and Research Department (ECMR) is dedicated to the generation of high-quality knowledge in the area of development in Africa. ECMR comprises of two divisions, one of which is the Microeconomics, Institutional and Development Impact Division (ECMR.2) which serves as the institutional anchor of the ex-ante Additionality and Development Outcome Assessment (ADOA) of the Bank's private sector operations. As such, it is a key element of the Results Measurement Framework and the primary tool for mainstreaming Development Outcomes into the Bank's operations.
- 2.4.** ECMR.2 also undertakes microeconomic-related research and knowledge generation activities to inform its additionality and development outcomes assessments and more broadly the Bank's operations. These activities cover a wide range of areas, such as development finance, infrastructure development, private sector development, industrial organizations, governance, competitiveness & investment climate, agriculture, institutions, and regional integration, which are relevant to the Bank's High 5 priorities.
- 2.5.** Thanks to the financial support of the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Trust Fund (KOAFEC), ECMR.2 is conducting a research program on improving grain quality and institutionalization of the grading and certification of grain quality in developing countries. The pilot phase of the program will be implemented in Ghana. This research aims to explore whether grain quality grading and certification at the farmers level can significantly enhance investment in uptake of technologies to enhance grain quality, increase farmers bargaining power, market price and consumption of high-quality safe food and, overall, strengthen food and nutrition security. Of primary interest is whether improved knowledge to preserve or improve the quality of grains produced by farmers and independent third-party grading and certification of the quality will strengthen their market power and allow them to obtain higher prices. Our research would lead to several positive results, including empowering farmers in marketing negotiations, allowing them to receive higher prices; and encouraging uptake of technologies to increase the production of high-quality grain suitable for household consumption, high-value processing, and exportation. The research will also contribute to laying the groundwork for the successful implementation of commodity exchange emerging in most African markets.
- 2.6.** The project fits under the Feed Africa Strategy of the African development Bank (AfDB 2016). The Feed Africa Strategy is cognizant of the positive effect of grading and use of standard measures in agricultural markets; it is stipulated in its 2013 guidebook on Africa commodity and derivative and its 2018 report on Africa's agricultural commodity exchanges, warehouse receipt systems and standards that effective market access is key to Africa's Agricultural Transformation. Farmers, traders in the open market, and other stakeholders will need to be sensitized, incentivized, and convinced about the benefits of grading and use of standard measures in marketing. We expect that grading and certification of grain quality at the smallholder level will generate several synergic benefits to actors along the agricultural

value chain including smallholder farmers, traders, processors, consumers, lenders, and the national economy at large and improve their access to market. This would directly contribute to achieving intermediate results for three Enablers for agricultural transformation as specified in the Feed the Future Strategy: 1) increase productivity; 2) realize the value of increased production; and 3) increased inclusivity, sustainability, and nutrition.

3. Scope of assignment and objective of the study:

3.1. ECMR.2 is currently seeking to recruit 2 Ghana based research consultants to support the implementation of the project objectives. The consultants will work alongside AfDB research team in all aspects of the implementation of the project. Preference will be given to individual with strong track-record in project design, impact evaluation implementation, supervision, monitoring of surveys at household and enterprise levels. To achieve the main objective of the study, the selected research consultants will lead the implementation of the study in Ghana, including ensuring high quality research monitoring and supervision, quality control of data collection, establishment of partnership with key stakeholders, hire standard procurement of implementation items and contracts, etc.

3.2. The data collected will be used to assess the impact of grain grading and certification on market negotiation, adoption of grain quality enhancement technologies, consumer willingness to reward for high quality grain and the cost benefit analysis of the institutionalization of the grading and certification system. At the mid of 2024 agricultural season and at the end of the 2024, the study will survey approximately 3000 farmers.

4. Tasks and Responsibilities of the research consultants:

4.1. AfDB research team will have the primary responsibility for ensuring successful implementation of the Project with the selected research consultants responsible for the actual implementation of the research activities. The selected research consultants will report to the AfDB research team and under the leadership of AfDB research team will be responsible for:

4.2. Establish collaborations with key stakeholders: the research consultants will help establish partnership with key stakeholders including the Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX), the Ghana Grain Council (GGC); the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), Food & Beverages Association of Ghana, the Ghana ministry of food and agriculture, etc. The research consultants will work together with the named collaborators to:

- establish the grading and certification protocols for the project.
- acquire and maintain the equipment necessary to implement the grading and certification of grain at farmgate, including scales, moisture meters and aflatoxin test kits/labs;
- organize the Commodity Grade and Certification Units (CGCU) in the study areas, including hiring and training of CGCU agents to carry out the testing and certification at the market/farm gate level.
- collaborate with providers of technologies to enhance grain quality (storage, technologies such as hermetic bag, aflasafe, etc.).
- manage CGCU staff to ensure that a sufficient number of agents are available to carry out the planned grading and certification tasks in a timely way.

4.3. Survey design and implementation: The research consultants in collaboration with the AfDB research team will be responsible for survey design, drafting survey questionnaire, field plan design, hiring of training of field enumerators and

supervisors; piloting of questionnaire, data collection (market study data collection, baseline, midline, endline surveys), data entry, data storage and transmission to AfDB research team.

- 4.4. Develop and present interview guide and instruction for survey administration:** the research consultants will also have the responsibility of developing an interviewer's guide manual to guide the administration of questionnaires across enumerators and supervisors. The guide should be used to train enumerators and survey supervisors on survey administration and provide definition on coding rules, skips and definition of terminology that may need clarification.
- 4.5. Plan for data collection:** the research consultants will produce a "field plan for survey administration" that outlines the details of the various aspects of the data collection exercise to be conducted. The plan should include detailed information on: composition of the survey team, qualification and training plan; number of enumerators; number of field-supervisors; expected task and responsibilities of each member; number of visits per firm (a minimum of two visits will be required to ensure revision of incomplete or inconsistent information, quality assurance and address concerns); calendar of activities; information reporting tool for tracking progress; supervision protocol for quality assurance of data; data entry and submission plan.
- 4.6. Identify and select sampled farm households, consumers, and firms:** the research consultants will be expected to identify farm households, consumers and firms based on criteria defined by the AfDB, including farmers who cultivate maize in the Middle Belt of Ghana – including Central region, Eastern region, Ashanti region, Bono region, and Bono East region – consumers in urban and peri-urban areas, and firms in the maize processing and export.
- 4.7. Oversee successful data collection exercise:** the research consultants will ensure that all aspects of the project are implemented successfully to facilitate the submission of high-quality data to the AfDB research team. Any notable deviation from the approved plan for data collection should be communicated and remedied in a timely fashion to ensure that data quality is not compromised.
- 4.8. Administration and implementation of the interventions:** The research consultants will work closely with the key partners to ensure a successful set up and implementation of the intervention. This includes close monitoring of the activities of the beneficiary farmers, reporting of early warning issues, direct control of the Commodity Grade and Certification Units (CGCU).

5. Expected deliverables and specific output:

- 5.1.** Based on the task to be performed, the following deliverables are expected from the research consultants.

- 5.1.1. Task 1: Collaboration with key stakeholders:**

- 5.1.1.1. Deliverables:** establishment of memorandum of understanding (MOU) with institutions such as the Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX), the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), Food & Beverages Association of Ghana.

- 5.1.1.2. Acceptance criteria:** signed MOUs shared with AfDB Research Team

- 5.1.2. Task 2: Organization of meeting, workshop, and dissemination events:**

- 5.1.2.1. Deliverables:** successful set up of meeting/workshop/outreach venues, selection, and invitation of key participants, drafting of the

meeting/workshop/outreach agenda and materials and completion of meeting/workshop/outreach reports.

5.1.2.2. *Acceptance criteria: discussion and approval of the meeting/workshop/outreach venues, list of participants, agenda, materials, and reports by AfDB research team.*

5.1.3. **Task 3: Survey design and implementation:**

5.1.3.1. *Deliverables:* drafting and submission of the survey questionnaire, survey manual, survey implementation plan, interview guide and instruction for survey administration, data collection report, data quality check report, data file. etc.

5.1.3.2. *Acceptance criteria:* AfDB research team approval of the survey questionnaire, survey manual, survey implementation plan, interview guide and instruction for survey administration, data collection report, data quality check report, data file.

5.1.4. **Task 4: Identification and selection of farmers, consumers, and firms:**

5.1.4.1. *Deliverables:* selection strategy and protocol of farmers, consumers and firms, provision of the spreadsheet of list of farmers, consumers, firms that have agreed to participate in the survey, including contact information, main of operation and location.

Acceptance criteria: AfDB approval of final list of selected firms (treated and control group, approval of institutional Review Board, Informed Consent Forms).

5.1.5. **Task 5: Pilot survey:**

5.1.5.1. *Deliverables:* present survey results of pilot initiative from selected farmers, consumers, firms (treated and uncontrol) with report and short presentation on areas for improvement.

Acceptance criteria: review and approval of revised questionnaire and suggested improvements.

5.1.6. **Task 6: Administration and implementation of the interventions:**

5.1.6.1. *Deliverables:* regular reports of the monitoring of the interventions, report any early warnings.

5.1.6.2. *Acceptance criteria:* AfDB approval of monitoring report and provide feedback.

5.1.7. **Task 7: regular meeting:** This will be expected throughout the consultation at an agreed time and date between the AfDB team and the research consultants.

6. Required qualifications and experience of research consultants.

- A PhD in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics, or a related discipline. A master's degree complemented by a strong research background and proven record of outstanding publications in refereed journals may be acceptable.
- Strong experience in successfully implementing developmental project in Ghana.
- Strong experience in designing and implementing RCT-type developmental program.
- At least eight years of relevant professional experience in development policy research and analysis and the study of economic conditions in developing countries, notably Africa.
- Proven track record to conduct policy-relevant research with publication record in peer reviewed international journals in development economics.

- Sound knowledge and background in theoretical modeling using software such as Matlab, R, etc.
- Sound knowledge and background in the use of statistical and econometric methods and packages such as Stata, SPSS, SAS, etc.
- Evidence of the ability to design and manage research projects, including impact evaluation project, from conceptualization to publication.
- Ability to communicate and write effectively in English and/or French; a good working knowledge of the other language is desirable.
- Strong interpersonal skills, ability to work in teams and in an interdisciplinary environment, and sensitivity to cultural diversity. Competence in the use of standard software applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

7. Implementation Time Frame

7.1. It is expected that the assignment will require the services of the Ghana based research consultants for a period of **6 months**, running from **May 20, 2024, to November 19, 2024.**

1. Remuneration for the assignment

The consultants will be paid a competitive lump sum for the entire period in accordance with Bank's scale set for consultants.

Application process

Please submit an expression of interest that includes a cover letter, portfolio of experiences in ex-ante impact framework development no later than **May 10, 2024**, following the format provided below, and electronically to a.alesse@afdb.org and copy f.kemeze@afdb.org.

MODEL CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Title of the Assignment:

Department:

Surname:

First Name:

Birth Date:

Nationality:

Address:

Country:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Are any of your family members (spouse/partner, father/mother, Brother/sister, Son/daughter, etc.) employed in the African Development Bank?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> If « Yes », the following data must be provided
Name	Relationship	Organisation Unit	Place of Assignment

Language level	Read	Written	Spoken
English	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent
French	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent

Key Qualifications:

Please provide (i) a summary of your experience and training highlighting the most relevant for the proposed assignment, and (ii) the responsibilities that you exercised. Utilise one half-page maximum.

Education (University Level and above only):

Name of University - City - Country	Period		Diploma obtained	Major topic/Major
	From	To		

Professional Training:

Name of Training institution - City - Country	Type of Training	Period		Diploma obtained	Certificates or Diploma Obtained
		From	To		

Employment Record:

Begin with your most recent employment. For each job since your master's degree achievement, please indicate:

- Name of the Employer
- Type of Activity/Business of the Employer
- Title / Function
- Place of Employment
- Brief Description (three lines maximum) of main accomplishments and responsibilities

Reference: