



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



SMALLHOLDER TREE CROPS REVITALIZATION SUPPORT PROJECT (STCRSP) CREDIT NO. 51010

RECRUITMENT OF THREE INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS TO PREPARE TREE CROPS MASTER PLANS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCIES)

- 1.0** The Government of Liberia has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of the Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP) and intends to apply some of the proceeds for consulting services for Recruitment of three (3) Individual Consultants to provide Tree Crops Master Plans for the Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP). The STCRSP started in 2013 and ends in November 2018.
- 2.0** The objective for hiring these three (3) individual consultants is to provide professional technical services in assisting the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in preparing and validating Master Plans for all four targeted smallholder tree crops (cocoa, coffee, oil palm and rubber) in Liberia. The project development objective is to increase access to finance, inputs, technologies and markets for smallholder tree crop farmers in Liberia, and to develop a long term development program for the tree crops sector.
- 3.0** In line with the specific objectives identified above, STCRSP has three Components:
 - Component 1: Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization
 - Component 2: Institutional Capacity Building and Preparation of Future Large Scale Tree Crop Development Program
 - Component 3: Project Coordination and Management
- 4.0** The services (“the Services”) for these individual consultancies are aimed at describing detailed strategic options, scope, detailed activities, operational modalities, costing and phasing, for the development of the four targeted smallholder tree crops, drawing on the lessons from the implementation of past and present tree crop development projects and programs, and building upon existing plans whenever relevant.

5.0 The three (3) Individual Consultants to be hired to will be in the following areas:

a. Agricultural Economist

Responsible for compiling and aggregating all reports from the other consultants and have primary responsibility for the following aspects of the study:

- reviewing the different strategies and policies applicable to the country's tree crop sector;
- assessing the competitive, income-earning potential of the targeted smallholder tree crops in Liberia to generate rural growth and reduce poverty; assess the potential of tree crop production by smallholders for attracting private investments (domestic and foreign); analyze the potential mechanisms whereby small farmers and rural entrepreneurs can secure financing for the medium- to long-term investments that are needed for tree crop production; assess the potential for using different types of financial instruments in developing the smallholder tree crop sub-sector in Liberia. These would include commercial banks, specialized credit funds, guarantee schemes, supplier/buyer credit, and also risk capital financing and related financial instruments for risk mitigation and transfer, e.g., bonded warehousing and crop insurance;
- mapping and rapid assessment of the capacity of the different institutions intervening in the country's tree crop sector;
- with the inputs from the Agronomist/Tree Crop Development Specialist and the Farmer Organization and Capacity Building Specialist, evaluating the performance of the past and existing tree crop development projects and programs implemented in Liberia, including that of the different tree crop development models implemented under the STCRSP; drawing the lessons to be applied to future smallholder tree crop development; and
- formulating tree crop master plans for each of the four targeted smallholder tree crops.

Qualifications

- A relevant graduate qualification incorporating agricultural economics.
- A strong track record, and broad experience of the financial, economic, banking and credit implications of tree crop development in a wide range of countries. This knowledge should span a range of development models and farming systems in both the private and public sectors.
- Familiarity with associated social, organizational and management aspects.
- At least ten years' experience in tree crop smallholder cultivation and development in the West Africa Region; with at least three of those in Liberia.

- Proven team leadership and management skills.
- Strong communication skills in spoken and written English.

Duration: 5 weeks

b. Agronomist/Tree Crop Development Specialist

Responsible for the following aspects of the study: production statistics and assessment, extension services, agronomic issues, planting material multiplication and distribution, marketing of raw and processed products.

Qualifications

- A relevant graduate qualification in agriculture.
- A strong track record, with broad experience of land and crop selection and tree crops development. Knowledge of farming systems using tree crops as anchor components and of alternative development models incorporating smallholders as key participants in a wide range of countries in both the public and private sectors.
- Familiarity with associated social, organizational, management, research and extension, land tenure and credit aspects.
- At least ten years' experience in tree crop smallholder cultivation and development in the West Africa Region; with at least three of those in Liberia
- Strong communication skills in spoken and written English.

Duration: 4 weeks

c. Farmer Organization and Capacity Building Specialist

Responsible for evaluating farmer organisations and advising on institutional capacity building, the consultant will also have responsibility for assessing population and household statistics; livelihood analysis, rural institution (FOs and cooperatives) analysis, capacity building needs of rural institutions, rapid assessment on ongoing/planned activities in these areas, and further elaboration of capacity building activities required; also conversant with tenure and sociological issues.

Qualifications

- A relevant graduate qualification in rural extension, sociology, or similar.
- A strong track record, with expert understanding and at least ten years' experience in working with farmer organisations and capacity building in the West Africa region, with at least three of those in Liberia.
- Conversant with and experienced in land tenure, gender and sociological issues.
- Strong communication skills in spoken and written English.

Duration: 4 weeks

The Program Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing either of these services.

Interested consultants must provide an updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) and relevant documents indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the World Bank's "*Guidelines for the Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers*", January 2011, Revised July 2014, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.worldbank.org>. Borrowers are under no obligation to shortlist any individual consultant who expresses interest.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 9:00am to 4:00pm local Liberian time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below by e-mail by **18 April 2018 @ 4:00pm local time and mention "*Individual Consultancy to prepare Tree Crop Master Plan*"**.

Deadline for Submission: 18 April 2018 @ 4:00pm local time

Mr. Emmanuel Johnson Nimbuen

PROJECT COORDINATOR

**SMALLHOLDER TREE CROPS REVITALIZATION SUPPORT PROJECT
(STCRSP)**

Program Management Unit

Ministry of Agriculture

Tel: +231-886-268378

Email: johnson4emmanuel@yahoo.com; enimbuen@moa.gov.lr

with cc to tnyema@moa.gov.lr