



WORLD BANK/IFAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION UNIT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION AND AGRIBUSINESS REVITALIZATION PROJECT (STAR-P) AND RURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (RETRAP) 1st Floor LIBSUCO Building Japan Freeway (Formerly Somalia Drive), Gardnersville – Monrovia, Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SUBMISSION OF CONCEPT PAPERS FOR MATCHING GRANTS, REF: LR/MOA/PMU/030/STAR-P& RETRAP/2023

Issue date: May 9, 2023

Closing date for submission of concept papers: No: open-ended throughout the the grant processing period

Overview of the STAR Project and RETRAP:

The Government of Liberia is implementing two projects in the agricultural sector to address challenges in the development of agri-food value chains, paving the way for rural economic transformation.

The Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) was approved by the World Bank Board of Directors on January 15, 2019. The USD 25 million financing agreement was signed on February 15, 2019, and the project became effective on June 28, 2019. The project is co-financed on a pari-passu basis with IFAD. The USD 23 million co-financing was approved by the IFAD Board in September 2019 and the Financing Agreement was signed on 21 November 2019. This brings the total financing envelope under STAR-P to \$48 million. The STAR-P seeks to overcome market weaknesses associated with challenges in the agriculture sector by prioritizing productivity, value addition, and value chain development in rice production, oil palm, and other horticultural products.

The Government of Liberia has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) in the form of credit (hereinafter called credit toward the cost of Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP) in the amount of US\$55,000,000.00. The Ministry of Agriculture, an implementing agency of the Client, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments for overarching Priorities for the Ministry of Agriculture of which this solicitation is requested. The RETRAP was approved by the World Bank Board of Directors on June 21, 2021, and became effective on December 14, 2021. The Project Development Objective is to improve productivity and market access for smallholder farmers and agri-enterprises for selected value chains in project-participating counties. The project supports the value chains of Cassava, Rubber, Piggery, Poultry and Vegetable in all the 15 counties over a period of five years.

Overarching Priorities for the Ministry of Agriculture under the STAR Project and RETRAP:

Seed multiplication

Nurseries
Feed production
 Canning of palm oil (canned palm oil aka palm butter)
 Mechanization
Greenhouses
 Cold chain storage
 Irrigation
Agro-transportation (terrain-appropriate transportation)
Production of “heirloom” rice varieties
Equipment leasing
 Biofuel, climate-smart agricultural practices and green economy production
 Innovative and sustainable approaches in agriculture (warehousing, storage, distribution, farmer registration, etc.)
iTech, Tech-enablers, Fintech and agri-tech
Closed-loop innovative agricultural interventions

Current Funding:

The list of priority interventions will be funded under the Liberia Agricultural Commercialization Fund which provides matching grants to agropreneurs in the following value chains:

SMEs: Up to \$500,000.00
Cooperatives: up to \$200,000

The current solicitation will access cumulative project grants up to \$37,000,000.00. This ceiling figure will be updated via amendment when/if new funding is added to projects.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below or by e-mail to starp-bids@moa.gov.lr and retrapbids@moa.gov.lr with a copy to gtoto@moa.gov.lr; dkulah@moa.gov.lr and rglaydor@moa.gov.lr by 6th June, 2023_@ 16:00 hours local time.

Galah Toto
National Program Coordinator
Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Ministry of Agriculture
Smallholder Agriculture Transformation & Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P)/ Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)
1st Floor LIBSUCO Building, Japanese Freeway (Formerly Somalia Drive)
Gardnersville – Monrovia, Liberia
Tel +231-777576980
Email: gtoto@moa.gov.lr; starp-bids@moa.gov.lr; retrapbids@moa.gov.lr and cc: dkulah@moa.gov.lr and rglaydor@moa.gov.lr

Signed by: Galah Toto
National Program Coordinator – STAR-P/RETRAP