



**PROJECT: FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE PROGRAM FOR  
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA PHASE 1**

**Grant No.: IDA-E0820**

**Project ID: (P178566)**

**Terms of Reference**

**For**

**CONSULTANCY TO REVIEW CURRENT STATUS OF REGIONAL  
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (RCOE) FOR CLIMATE SMART  
AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPING BUSINESS MODEL FOR IGAD  
SUPPORT TO THE RCOE**

## 1. Background

IGAD region is one of the most highly food insecure regions of the world because of its vulnerability to multiple shocks such as climate change, political instability, conflict, and desert locusts. These shocks exacerbate the plight of vulnerable populations. According to the latest [Global Report on Food Crises](#) with a focus on IGAD region (2023), more than 55 million or close to a quarter of the population in the *region (in seven of the eight IGAD member states)* were in IPC Phase 3 or above or equivalent. Furthermore, according to the [Mid-Year Update](#) for 2023 which was published in September 2023, two of the IGAD Countries (Sudan and Somalia) are among the Six countries in the world with the largest increases in the number of people in IPC/CH Phase 3 or above between 2022 and 2023.

One of the major drivers of food insecurity in the region is the worsening impacts of climate change and variability that is disrupting food production systems.

IGAD is coordinating the region's response to key challenges at the intersection of climate resilience, water resources, and fragility. The World Bank supported IGAD Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) is one among several interventions and has a program development objective (PrDO) of increasing the resilience of food systems and preparedness for food insecurity in the region. To this end, the Program is built on four pillars:

- (re-)building resilient agricultural production capacity;
- supporting the sustainable development of natural resources for resilient agricultural landscapes;
- getting to market, and
- promoting a greater focus on food systems resilience in national and regional policymaking.

Progress toward the program development objective will be measured by three indicators and the indicators are: (i) Three regionally harmonized policy frameworks and legislations facilitated by RECs through the program; (ii) Strengthening/establishing one Regional Center of Excellence (RCoE) in participating countries; (iii) Three technical areas for which a regional knowledge sharing mechanism is put in place.

The objective of establishing a Regional Center of Excellence is to provide a source of evidence and technical support to IGAD member states seeking to reform policies focused on food system resilience.

Therefore, the purpose of this assignment is to review the current status of CoEs, to document lessons learnt in the region and in other parts of the continent (FSRP countries/regions) in order to guide the establishment/strengthening of a Regional Center of Excellence for IGAD region in the specific thematic area of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).

It is envisioned that the creation of the CoE will take place in partnership with the relevant African and International organizations, including but not limited to RUFORUM and FARA-ASRECA, AFAAS, and CGIAR).

## 2. Objectives of the Assignment

The overall objective of this assignment is to undertake a study to review existing CoEs and propose one CoE to be strengthened or propose a network/the architecture of the Regional Center of Excellence on Climate Smart Agriculture.

The specific objectives of the assignment are:

1. To review the status of existing centres of Excellence in the region and in other parts of the continent (FSRP countries/regions) in the specific areas of policy engagement for Climate Smart Agriculture
2. Document lessons learned in establishing/running relevant Regional Centre of Excellence in the IGAD region and in other parts of the continent (FSRP countries/regions)
3. Identify challenges to RCoE working in Climate Smart Agriculture policies
4. Propose an architecture for a regional CoE on Climate Smart Agriculture in IGAD region
5. Develop a business model for IGAD to support RCoE

## 3. Scope of the consulting services and specific tasks

Activities to be undertaken include the review of existing CoE business models (including CCARDESA's APSA model).

### **Current Status and Lessons Learned**

- Review current status and the key lessons from CoEs on Climate Smart Agriculture or Food Systems Resilience in IGAD Region and FRSP countries/regions in Africa (what has worked and why?)
- Identify the global, continental, and national lessons about creating Regional Centers of Excellence for CSA-related policies. Highlight the issues such as coordination, financing, etc.
- Identify lessons in determining the indicators used to measure the success and impact of Centers of Excellence

### **Identify Key Challenges**

- Identify the key challenges facing institutions working as a regional center of Excellence on the issues of policies on CSA or Food Systems Resilience
- Identify how and why regional Centers of Excellence can help to address these challenges.

### **Develop Regional Support Models**

- Provide a clear articulation of how Centers of Excellence will generate, identify and disseminate evidences for CSA related policies.
- Provide a clear articulation on how the RCoE can link with other national, regional and international research centers of excellences
- Provide a clear articulation of how IGAD can build a coalition of participating agencies (including a secretariat), identifying and strengthening and development of human resource capacity for the COE, financing learning and

policy events, commissioning policy-focused analysis and research, financing mechanisms for dissemination (websites, publications, apps, etc), and technical assistance focused on supporting policy reforms for member states. In other words, develop a clear business model for how IGAD could develop and support the Center of Excellence. The role of IGAD should be very clearly defined. This should include sections on partnerships, institutional arrangements, financing, results, etc.

- Provide alternative models of financial support IGAD to the Regional CoE with an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative models taking into consideration procedures of the World Bank and IGAD.

#### **4. Minimum Consultant's qualifications and experience requirements**

1. At least an MA/MSc in Knowledge Management or related areas with experience in food systems resilience, Climate Smart Agriculture, natural resource, agricultural economics, economics, development, policy, research and innovation, extension, and related fields
2. 10 years of general experience in research/conducting studies
3. Experience in establishing/managing/assessing/analyzing regional networks created for knowledge generation and dissemination
4. Track record of a similar task that was accomplished successfully
5. 3 Years of Specific Experience in capacity building and experience in institutional analysis and organizational management
6. 3 years of experience working as a Team leader with a multidisciplinary team
7. Work experience in the IGAD region
8. Language: English and knowledge of French has an added value
9. Excellent report writing skill

#### **6. Duration and Location of the Assignment**

- The consulting services are expected to be completed within 90 days from the contract commencement date distributed over 5 months.
- The assignment should be based on extensive virtual consultations and with physical visits of selected CoE in the IGAD region (For example, RUFORUM, ASARECA, CCARDESA, International, Regional and National Agricultural Research Centres, relevant IGAD entities, etc.) and others based on the guidance and agreement with the Program Manager

#### **7. Reporting requirements and timelines for deliverables**

- The reporting requirements and timelines for deliverables are as shown in Table 1 below.
- One (1) original hard copy together with soft copies of the reports listed in Table 1 below shall be submitted to the project Manager within the scheduled timelines.

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**Table 1: Reporting requirements**

S/No.	Deliverables/Reports	Timelines after contract commencement	Format of submission
1.	Inception Report	14 Days	1 hard copy and a soft copy
2.	Literature review and preparation of data collection tools and fieldwork	35 Days	The tools submission and approval
3.	Fieldwork and Consultation meetings	63 Days	
4.	Draft Report to be presented in the validation workshops	75 Days	Final Draft
5.	Final report	90 Days	Final report

## 8. Payment Schedule

The proposed payment schedules based on satisfactory performance of the contract which will be negotiated with the successful consultant will be as presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Proposed payment schedule**

S/No.	Deliverables*	Timelines after contract commencement	Percentage of the contract amount
1.	Submission and Acceptance of Inception report	14 Days	15 %
2.	Literature review. preparation of data collection tools and fieldwork and Consultation,	35 Days	20%
3.	Draft Report to be presented in the validation workshops	63 Days	40%
4.	Final Report	90 Days	25%
5.	Total		100%

## 8. Supervision

The consultants will be supervised by the Project Manager and will work closely with the project team throughout the exercise to ensure that the processes applied to accomplish the activity conform with IGAD's policies and standards.

## **10. Obligations of the Client**

The client will provide and collaborate with the consultant in making available the following documents relevant to the project subject to the extent of availability of such information:

- i. Supervision of the consulting services contract
- ii. Provide access to existing data
- iii. The Client will also facilitate the Consultant's visits to the selected CoEs
- iv. The client will regularly monitor data quality
- v. Timely review and approval of outputs and payment requests
- vi. Organization of the validation workshop

## **11. Obligations of the Consultant**

- i. The Consultant shall be responsible for the provision of all the necessary resources to carry out the Services such as subsistence allowances, accommodation, information technology, software and means for communications, reporting materials, insurance, and any other required resources.
- ii. The consultant is expected to undertake activities that will ensure the timely submission of deliverables/outputs that are consistent with the professional and legal requirements

## **12. Propriety rights of Client in reports and records**

The data and outputs of this exercise will remain the property of IGAD. The consultants are prohibited from reproducing, using, or sharing the data without prior authorization by IGAD.