



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) TO ANALYZE POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS THAT GOVERN, RECOGNIZE, AND PROMOTE AGROECOLOGICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TERRITORIAL MARKETS IN AFRICA

Introduction:

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) is a broad alliance of Civil Society actors that are part of the struggle for food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa. These include African food producer networks, CSO networks, indigenous people's organizations, faith-based organizations, women and youth groups, consumer movements, and international organizations. Its members are active in 50 African countries (<https://afsafrika.org>)

AFSA in collaboration with other agroecological movement practitioners in Africa with support from The 11th Hour Project plans to undertake an analysis of policy, legal and institutional frameworks at African Union (AU), Regional Economic Blocs (RECs) and selected countries to inform policy advocacy and campaign for increased recognition and promotion of African Agroecological Entrepreneurship (AAEs) and territorial markets.

Request for Proposals:

AFSA requests sealed proposals/bids for conducting a study on African Territorial Markets. In response to this request, the bidder must submit by email:

1. A letter of expression of interest and understanding of ToRs.
2. A short reflection on the proposed methodology, timeline, and budget, and
3. A general profile of the firm/individual and CV.

Tendering procedure

The consultant shall submit an Expression of interest by the 15th of July 2022 detailing a satisfactory understanding of the ToRs, methodology of execution, the time frame of completion and budget for undertaking the work. Submit by email to afsa@afsafrika.org by 5:00 pm (East Africa Time) on (15th /07 /2022.) The email should indicate '**Policy Analysis Tender** – in the subject line.

Please direct any questions to Charles Mulozi Olweny (charles.olweny@afsafrika.org) or Bridget Mugambe at bridget.mugambe@afsafrika.org.

Applicants will be advised of the results of the tender process within 14 days of the application deadline.

For detailed TORs, please refer to the statement below.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ANALYZE POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS THAT GOVERN, RECOGNIZE, AND PROMOTE AGROECOLOGICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TERRITORIAL MARKETS IN AFRICA

1.0 Background

Over the past several years, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) its partners and donors have been thinking about how to support Agroecological Enterprises (AEEs) and Territorial Markets in Africa, and how finance can support agroecology alongside grants, policy, and advocacy.

In 2020 AFSA with support from the 11th Hour Project commissioned collaborative research and analysis of existing agroecological enterprises (AEEs) and their service providers (SPs) <https://afsafrica.org/agroecological-entrepreneurs/>. In November 2021 and January 2022, AFSA commissioned two research studies on territorial markets and digital marketing respectively. The two research studies aimed at establishing the future contribution of African markets in transition to agroecology; and in May 2022, AFSA in collaboration with other agroecological movements and institutions organized unprecedented convening on agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets.

Based on a review of research publications and feedback from public conversations over two years (May 2020-June 2022), numerous ideas on how to improve financing for AEEs in Africa were generated including different blends of grants and investments and varied programmatic elements such as policy advocacy, communications, convening, finance, education, and support services.

To deepen our work on the ecosystem for AEEs in Africa, AFSA is scheduled to commission a consultancy to analyse the policy, legal and institutional context for AEEs within the African Union, regional economic blocs (RECs) and selected countries. The analysis will ascertain the status of policy, legal and institutional frameworks at the three levels that have a bearing on the promotion and recognition of AE and mobilization of investments to support AEEs and small markets, protect the rights of traders and consumers and drive investment toward better infrastructure for AEEs and territorial markets.

2.0 Rationale

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing socio-economic, environmental, and political crises across the globe. To curb the pandemic's spread, governments instituted lockdowns that disrupted the normal food and farm input supply chains with negative consequences for families, farmers, and local African food traders and markets, school feeding programmes, informal trade, and food prices. Simultaneously, the health crisis has amplified the importance and resilience of shorter supply chains and traditional African markets to withstand global crises.

COVID-19 restriction measures undertaken by African governments and states have demonstrated that the smallholder farmers who produce agroecological food can sustain the food and nutrition requirements of the population. Secondly, there is a shift in demand for healthier and nutritious food because of the COVID-19 situation. The pandemic has left an unprecedented set of challenges and uncertainty but also an opportunity to shift towards alternative pathways.

Yet the pandemic is only one in a series of interrelated health, food, social, and climate crises facing the global community. At this historical juncture in the wake of COVID-19 and with high costs associated with chemical fertilizers and imported wheat, there has never been a more critical time to strengthen traditional African agroecological entrepreneurs with sellers in local markets as key actors in the transition to agroecology. Markets bring together food producers and consumers in a space where people trade food or other goods where ideas and culture mix. In the longer term, this shapes relationships between the supplier and buyer for the free flow of feedback and ideas. Working together with its suppliers, a company can tailor its supply chain to meet its individual needs. Processes can be consolidated; costs can be reduced, and the consumer's product can be improved. The challenge is that markets do not always meet the needs of producers or consumers.

The value of agroecological markets can be determined in various ways, particularly by evaluating the channels through which products move from producers to consumers. However, questions still arise on the diversity of agroecological markets built from the bottom up, the gender roles therein, taking into consideration knowledge of foods, decision making and accessibility to various market opportunities, enabling environment (policies and institutions), agroecological enterprises and convening. Expansion of markets, the various ways in which agroecology is becoming commercialized and envisaged; and, how to support entrepreneurs and markets more efficiently while ensuring benefits for the various actors within the system. There's a need for research into numerous understudied and critical issues that would support and strengthen African markets for agroecological products.

Premised on the above, AFSA in collaboration with other agroecological movement practitioners in Africa with support from The 11th Hour Project plans to undertake an analysis of policy, legal and institutional frameworks at African Union (AU), RECs and selected countries to inform policy advocacy and campaign for increased recognition and promotion of African Agroecological Entrepreneurship (AAEs) and territorial markets.

3.0 Objectives

3.1 General Objective

To analyse policy, legal and institutional frameworks at AU, RECs and selected countries to inform policy advocacy and campaign for increased recognition and promotion of African Agroecological Entrepreneurship (AAEs) and territorial markets. The consultant will identify and analyse existing policies as to their strengths, systemic gaps and operational bottlenecks in the promotion, recognition, and investment in African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets, and recommend advocacy and campaign strategies for strengthening country, RECs and AU policy, legal and institutional frameworks to more effectively support agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets.

3.2 Specific Objectives

Specifically, the study will address the following three objectives:

1. To identify, review, document and probe relevant policy, legal and institutional frameworks at country, RECs and continental levels to establish the extent to which they provide an enabling environment for recognition, promotion and strengthening of African agroecological entrepreneurs and territorial markets.

2. To identify policy, legal and institutional gaps that undermine the recognition, promotion and strengthening of agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets at the country, RECS and AU levels
3. To identify the major actors (including policymakers, entrepreneurs, service providers and CSOs) and ongoing policy processes at country, RECs and AU levels capable of enabling or frustrating the recognition, promotion and strengthening of agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets, and recommend appropriate strategies for engaging with them.
4. To present key findings and recommendations to inform programming and policy advocacy and campaign to recognize and promote African agroecological entrepreneurs and territorial markets.

In addressing these objectives, the study shall aim to answer the following main questions:

- (i) Explore available frameworks including legal and institutional arrangements at the country, RECs and continental level that recognise and promote or hinder recognition and promotion of African entrepreneurs and territorial markets? How effectively are the supportive policies and legal frameworks implemented? How effective are the institutions in promoting AEEs and territorial markets? What investments have the AU, RECs and Governments put in place (financial and human resources) to support AEEs and territorial markets?
- (ii) Who are the key policy players, actors, and stakeholders in the field of African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets? And what are their interests) and objectives/missions?
- (iii) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current legal and institutional framework on entrepreneurship and markets?
- (iv) What good (and bad) practice lessons exist at the regional and level country-level on the implementation of policies and laws to support agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets?
- (v) What advocacy and campaign opportunities can AFSA and its members employ to strengthen recognition and investments in African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets by the AU, RECs and African Governments?

4.0 Geographic Scope

The policy analysis will be done at three levels.

1. Continental level (African Union)
2. At Regional Economic Blocs (RECs)
3. At the Country level (4 case studies)

5.0 Methodology

The consultant will identify a list of policies, institutions, entrepreneurs, service providers, and public policy experts and institutions to interview in conjunction with a suggested list provided by the AFSA team; conduct in-depth policy analysis at AU, RECs and selected countries and conduct interviews in person or remotely with some selected policy experts, agroecological entrepreneurs, markets vendors and leaders, reference materials or evaluations, and facilitate at least two focus group discussion with the entrepreneurs. The consultant will provide a detailed methodological note before undertaking the study.

6.0 Tasks of the consultant

- Present an inception report with the plan for conducting research & identifying policies & institutions
- Identify and review key relevant documents and reports
- Provide a final list of policies, institutions, public policy experts, entrepreneurs, donors, and service providers and include those identified by and agreed upon by the AFSA team as well
- Generate study questionnaires and data collection tools
- Conduct fieldwork with both individual interviews and focus groups
- Conduct several interviews focusing on effective policy with relevant factors such as public policy experts and institutions (e.g. government officials, CSOs or NGOs, researchers, etc.)
- Share the raw interview data
- Hire service of another country level, REC or AU researchers
- Present key findings in a short report to be reviewed by the AFSA team.
- Present a final report after incorporating comments from the key project stakeholders
- Participate in meetings with key project team and AFSA citizens working group members

7.0 Key Deliverables

- An inception report.
- All the raw data including but not limited to; policies and legal instruments reviewed engaged during the research process
- Contact list and names of individuals and institutions engaged
- Consolidated report (20-30 pages) with key findings, lessons, opportunities, and recommendations on the legal and institutional frameworks to be put in place to support agroecological entrepreneurship including through financial and non-financial investments. The report shall integrate relevant quotes and citations
- Make a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the study findings and recommendations
- Provide a list of reference materials with sources

8.0 Qualification and experience

A competent firm/individual with a demonstrated experience in undertaking similar work at the country or regional level, investigative research, writing, and publication are encouraged to apply. A consultant with training or experience in-laws/legal practice, public policy, governance, trade, or livelihoods with over 10 years of practice is of added advantage.

9.0 Time frame

The assignment is for sixty working days and in any case, the consultant shall not exceed the **30th of September 2022** to complete the assignment.

10.0 Reference documents available

- Supporting African agroecological entrepreneurship phase I Publications <https://afsafrika.org/agroecological-entrepreneurs/>
- The 3rd biennial food systems conference report
- Draft Territorial markets and Digital marketing reports
- Concept notes and other supporting documents about the study
- AFSA Strategic Plan [here](#)