



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS)

FOR

DEVELOPING POLICY BRIEFS FROM AFRICAN AGROECOLOGICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TERRITORIAL MARKET STUDIES

1.0 Introduction

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), established in 2011, is a broad alliance of civil society actors advocating for food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa. These actors include African food producer networks, African CSO networks, indigenous people's organizations, faith-based groups, women and youth organizations, consumer movements, and international organizations that support the stance of AFSA. It is a network of networks, currently with 40 active members in 50 African countries.

2.0 Background

The evolving landscape of African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets presents a crucial opportunity for sustainable development and resilience in food systems across the continent. Agroecological approaches integrate local knowledge and biodiversity to create resilient agricultural systems that are both productive and sustainable. However, the translation of these practices into robust policy frameworks that support sustainable market environments remains limited.

Territorial markets in Africa serve as pivotal platforms for the exchange of goods, services, and information, linking rural producers directly with urban consumers. These markets not only foster economic activities but also help in preserving local cultures and strengthening community bonds. They are vital in ensuring food security, supporting local economies, and providing income opportunities, particularly for marginalized groups such as smallholder farmers, women, and youth.

Despite their importance, these markets face numerous challenges including infrastructural deficiencies, inadequate market access, and limited recognition in national policy dialogues. The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) has highlighted the need for a deeper understanding of these markets to harness their potential fully.

This initiative aims to develop policy briefs that will articulate the findings from comprehensive studies on African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets. The goal is to influence policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners to adopt strategies that enhance the viability and sustainability of these markets. The policy briefs will serve as a strategic tool to advocate for integrated, inclusive policies that support agroecological practices and ensure that territorial markets thrive as hubs of economic and social activity, driving forward the agenda of food sovereignty and sustainability in Africa.

1.0. Objectives

1.1. General Objective/Purpose

To consolidate and translate comprehensive research on African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets into clear, concise, and actionable policy briefs that effectively communicate key findings and insights to policymakers and stakeholders.

1.1.1. Specific Objectives

- To analyse existing research data on African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets that are vital for informing policy directions and interventions.
- To create specific, actionable policy recommendations that address the unique needs and opportunities of agroecological entrepreneurs and territorial market stakeholders, aimed at enhancing their operational sustainability and impact on local economies.
- To ensure that the policy briefs are clear, easily understandable, and accessible to a broad audience, including policymakers who may not have a technical background, to facilitate effective communication and uptake of the proposed recommendations.

4.0. Scope of the Work

4.1. Timeframe: The study is anticipated to be conducted over one month.

4.2. Methodology

To develop the policy briefs on African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets, the methodology will focus exclusively on the analysis and synthesis of existing studies and research. The process will include comprehensive literature review, using secondary data to compile existing knowledge and insights related to the subject matter. This review will inform the content of the policy briefs, ensuring they are grounded in evidence-based research. The drafting of the briefs will have clarity with an emphasis on engaging visuals to support the arguments and recommendations presented.

5.0. Tasks of the Consultant

The consultant should perform the following tasks:

- Perform a detailed literature review to gather relevant data from existing studies, reports, and policy documents.
- Analyse secondary data to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities in agroecological Entrepreneurship and Territorial markets
- Translate findings and analyses into five clear, concise, and compelling policy briefs.
- Integrate visual elements like charts, graphs, and infographics to enhance readability and impact.
- Facilitate a peer review process involving experts and stakeholders to validate the draft policy briefs.
- Prepare presentations and materials for disseminating findings at conferences, seminars, and other relevant events.

6.0. Key Deliverables

- Initial draft versions of the five policy briefs for review including annotated bibliographies of relevant studies, reports, and policy documents.
- Five finalized policy briefs incorporating all feedback.
- Documentation of the peer review process including feedback received and actions taken.
- Prepared presentations, press releases, and other promotional materials intended for dissemination activities.

7.0. Time frame

The consultancy services are scheduled to begin immediately upon the signing of the contract. The entire project is expected to be completed within 30 days from the commencement date.

8.0. Qualification and Experience

For the development of policy briefs on African agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets, the consultant whether an individual or a consultancy firm should possess a combination of academic qualifications, professional experience, and key skills to ensure successful project execution. Here's the suggested profile for the consultant:

Academic Qualifications

- A master's degree or higher in Development Studies, Agricultural Economics, Environmental Policy, Public Policy, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated proficiency in conducting comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research, including literature reviews, data analysis, and field research.

Professional Experience

- Extensive experience in policy analysis with a documented track record of developing impactful policy briefs, or similar documents aimed at influencing public policy or corporate strategies.
- In-depth understanding of agroecology, sustainable agriculture, or related sectors, especially within the African context. Experience with territorial markets and agroecological entrepreneurship is highly desirable.
- Proven experience in engaging a diverse array of stakeholders through consultations, workshops, or focus groups.
- Demonstrated ability to manage complex projects, including coordinating multiple stakeholders, adhering to timelines, and managing budgets effectively.

Personal and Organizational Skills

- Ability to distil complex information into clear, actionable insights, with strong strategic thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Outstanding written communication skills, capable of producing persuasive, clear, and well-structured documents.
- Ability to adapt to changing project demands and creatively overcome challenges.
- Fluency in English is essential

9.0. The consultant shall

- Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) with:
 - A letter (1-2 pages) expressing interest.
 - A short reflection (1-4 pages) on the proposed technical understanding of the assignment, methodology, timeline, and budget.
 - A general profile of the firm/individual, evidence of previous work done and CV(s).
- Submit by email to afsa@afsafrica.org by 5:00 pm (East Africa Time) on July 12, 2024. The email should indicate 'AFSA- Develop Policy Briefs from African Agroecological Entrepreneurship and Territorial Market Studies' in the subject line.