COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

#

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**EOI Ref**: **CS/COM-IAD. /15/07/21.1/KJ**

**JULY 2021**

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMESA REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WAREHOUSE RECEIPT SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**

***Individual Consultant – Develop COMESA Regional Guidelines on the Establishment, Operation, and Management of Warehouse Receipt System (WRS).***

**1. BACKGROUND**

1. The Expression of Interest is called to identify a suitable Consultant to develop COMESA Regional Guidelines on the Establishment, Operation, and Management of Warehouse Receipt System (WRS).
2. COMESA developed the COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Security Response Plan to ensure harmonized and coherent regional response. The response plan was endorsed by the COMESA Council of Ministers in November 2020. The overall objective of the response plan is to contribute to the deepening of regional economic integration through driving sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth and transformation for improved food and nutrition security and shared prosperity in the COMESA region.
3. One of the key initiatives of the response plan is, the development of Regional Guidelines for Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) for agricultural commodities as a strategic framework for enhancing food aggregation, storage, trade, and market integration in the region. The WRS is part of the whole processes of depositing commodities in a licensed warehouse, the issuance of a warehouse receipt reflecting the quantity and quality of the deposited commodity, the management of the transfer of the receipts as a document of title and includes the regulation of warehouses and actors associated in the processes.
4. The WRS initiative is also underpinned by the COMESA Treaty Chapter 18, Article 129, that provide for the Cooperation in Agricultural and Rural Development with the overall objectives of the achievement of regional food security and rational agricultural production within the Common Market.
5. Additionally, the initiative is in alignment with the continental Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. Likewise, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which seeks to harness market and trade opportunities among Member States and beyond makes it an urgent imperative to develop frameworks that will ensure quality and safety of agri-foods and commodities as well as enhance farmers and other actors’ access to markets and trade in agricultural commodities across national and regional boundaries.
6. The overall project goal is to develop COMESA regional guidelines on the establishment, operation, and management of WRS for agricultural commodities, covering areas that include legislation, registration, licensing, quality assurance and certification services, collateral management and settlement services, contract dispute resolution. Conformity assessment issues continue to muddle and act as major Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in cross border agricultural commodity trade in the region. It is hoped that the guidelines, if domesticated, will create an enabling environment to enhance competitive access to markets and trade in the agri-food commodities in the region. And this will empower small scale farmers, traders, and processors to participate more effectively in agribusiness to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in the market supply chains.
7. The project will have a strong element of capacity development. This will include increased knowledge of how to process HCES data so that they are accessible to food security indicators and increased knowledge on how to use this data in multiple types of analysis.

**2. OBJECTIVE**

The overall project goal is to develop COMESA regional guidelines on the establishment, operation, and management of WRS for agricultural commodities, covering areas that include legislation, registration, licensing, quality assurance and certification services, collateral management and settlement services, contract dispute resolution. Conformity assessment issues continue to muddle and act as major Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in cross border agricultural commodity trade in the region. It is hoped that the guidelines, if domesticated, will create an enabling environment to enhance competitive access to markets and trade in the agri-food commodities in the region. And this will empower small scale farmers, traders, and processors to participate more effectively in agribusiness to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in the market supply chains.

**2.1 Specific objectives**:

1. Assess the current and define acceptable standards and practices for:
	1. establishment of WRS;
	2. operation of WRS
	3. management of WRS.
2. Develop COMESA regional guidelines on the establishment, operation, and management of WRS for Agricultural Commodities.

**3. SCOPE OF WORK**

The Consultant will be expected to:

* 1. Explore good practices and identify challenges and lessons learned within and outside of the COMESA region.
	2. Assessment of why the current WRS have not been very effective in terms of delivery on their mandate(s).
	3. Examine the linkages and synergies between WRS and commodity exchanges (e.g., East African Commodity Exchange; SAFEX, ZAMEX) as well as with other commodity aggregators at local levels.
	4. Examine how WRS can intervene and incorporate sampling, rapid testing, and some form of certification and risk-based approaches along commodity value chains.

These assessments will inform the development of the COMESA regional guidelines on the establishment, operation, and management of WRS for agricultural commodities.

**4. DELIVERABLES**

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| S/N | Milestone | Delivery period |
| 1 | Technical proposal on the assignment | 31st July 2021 |
| 2 | Inception report and meeting  | 30 August 2021 |
| 3 | Submission of Draft Guidelines  | 15 October 2021 |
| 4 | Submission of Revised Guidelines  | 20 October 2021 |
| 5 | Validation workshop | 25 October 2021 |
| 6 | Submission of Final Guidelines  | 30 October 2021 |

**5. Eligibility of Consultants**

This consultancy is open to reputable international and local consultants from COMESA member States that have sufficient experience to undertake this assignment.

**6. Duration of the Assignment**

The assignment is expected will be undertaken in two Months.

**7. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Consultant(s) will report to the COMESA Agriculture Economist- Agriculture and Industry Division. COMESA Secretariat will facilitate the consultant(s) with letters of introduction to Member States and other agencies if requested.

**8. QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE**

**Qualifications and skills of the Consultant**

The consultant should possess the following qualifications and skills:

* A minimum of a master’s degree in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, and related studies.
* At least seven years of experience in the field of agriculture strategy and policy framework development and formulation and facilitating multi-stakeholder engagements with particular focus on agribusiness development in the COMESA region and Africa.

**Professional Experience**

The candidate should have professional experience in:

* Professional experience in food and nutrition security and food safety, agribusiness value chains, Agricultural Commodity Exchanges, and private sector engagement.

**Competencies**

* Excellent legal drafting, analytical, problem solving and strategic thinking skills.
* Proven ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
* Communicating with Impact- diplomatically, logically, and clearly conveys information and ideas through a variety of tools.
* Good research, evaluations, evidence-generation, policy debate and advocacy skills.
* Knowledge of agricultural commodities’ trade ecosystem in both the public and private sector in the COMESA region.

**Language requirements**

* English language, proficiency in other working language (s) of the COMESA would be an added advantage.

**9.** Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services for duration of Two (2) months. Interested consultants must provide information through their Curriculum Vitae indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc...).

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with COMESA rules and procedures.

Interested consultants may obtain further information by writing to **procurement@comesa.int** with a copy to **smwesigwa@comesa.in**t during office hours from Monday to Friday, 08:00 hours to 17:30 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **31st JULY 2021** at 12.00hrs, Lusaka Time (C.A.T) and mention “EOI – **Regional Consultant to develop COMESA Regional Guidelines on the Establishment, Operation, and Management of Warehouse Receipt System (WRS)”.**

**THE HEAD OF PROCUREMENT**

**COMESA SECRETARIAT**

**BEN BELLA ROAD**

**P.O BOX 30051**

**LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**Tel: 260 211 229725 – 32**

**Attention: Mr. Silver Mwesigwa**

**10. Pricing**

 The budget for this consultancy will be **$20,000 (all inclusive)**.

 There will be no price variation after signing of contract except upon a mutual written agreement between the two parties.

**11. Payment**:

Payment terms and conditions shall be as per COMESA’s procurement Rules and Regulations payment guidelines.