COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

#

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**EOI Ref**: **EH/19/07/23-02**

**JULY 2023**

**CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A STATISTICAL DATA REQUIREMENT FRAMEWORK OF THE HORTICULTURE VALUE CHAIN IN COMESA MEMBER STATES.**

***Individual Consultant –*** ***to develop a Statistical Data requirement Framework of the Horticulture Value chain in COMESA Member States.***

1. **INTRODUCTION**

COMESA is the largest of the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) recognized by the African Union, bringing together 21 Members States, with a total population of 560 million people. The trade integration agenda of COMESA includes a functioning Free Trade Area (FTA) which currently includes 15 Member States, various trade and transport facilitation instruments, the creation of a Customs Union as well as the progressive liberalization of trade in services, investments, and the free movement of persons in the region.

Value Chains (VCs) are the sequences of productive actors that contribute directly to supply a specific good to the domestic and/or export market. Value chains are major channels for agricultural development due to their capacity to mobilize resources from various economic sectors, create economic value and generate employment. They offer an operational framework for engaging with farmers, businesses, and policy makers to improve income generation. In the COMESA strategy 2017-2026, private sector development with a particular focus on SMEs, women and youth entrepreneurs is a key area of focus supported by initiatives like the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) financed by the European Union. The initiative aims at contributing towards the deepening of COMESA regional integration through increasing competitiveness and market access of private sector in regional and global value chains focusing on horticulture among others.

The COMESA Council of Ministers approved the COMESA Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) 2021-2025. The COMESA RSDS objectives are to strengthen statistics that support all pillars of the new Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2021-2025, and secondly, to strengthen strategic partnerships in statistical development. The COMESA RSDS objective provides for undertaking applied statistical research and collaboration on areas that support the development of statistics to support the MTSP.

To initiate this work, the Secretariat developed applied statistical research proposals to inform the preparation of the work plan for the duration of the RSDS tenure. One of the key areas identified for statistical research was the identification of statistical data gaps in undertaking and supporting horticulture value chain analysis. The ultimate objective is to develop a value chain analysis that will provide an operational framework for engaging with farmers, businesses, and policy makers involved in horticulture, to improve income generation in an inclusive and sustainable way. This work will contribute positively to the COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan’s industrialization pillar.

1. **OBJECTIVE**

This research specifically focuses on developing the statistical data requirement framework for the horticulture value chain in COMESA. The objective of this research project supports the COMESA Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) and other similar initiatives by undertaking a functional statistical data requirement analysis of the horticulture value chain to provide policy makers with evidence-based information to support appropriate interventions. The research shall also provide a detailed description of the data sources.

1. **SCOPE OF WORK**

Under the direct supervision of the Head of Statistics Unit and the overall supervision of the Assistant Secretary General - Programs, the consultant will be required to undertake the following tasks:

1. Deliver an inception report highlighting the roadmap for conducting the assignment.
2. Identify statistical/data requirements for conducting value chain analysis in the horticulture industry (including defining the statistical requirements related to typology of actors in the value chain and identifying sub-chains). This should include analysis of data sources and their stability over time.
3. Establish methodologies for determining the contribution of the horticulture value chain to the economy (using various measures such as contribution to; GDP, agriculture sector GDP, public finances, and balance of trade etc.).
4. Apply the statistical requirement framework and methodologies for determination of the horticulture value chain’s contribution to the economy in pilot Member states in order to identify potential gaps.
5. Recommend *additional* surveys to augment existing official surveys that need to be undertaken in order to comprehensively profile of the horticulture value chain.
6. Convene a stakeholder’s meeting to get input on the draft report.
7. Finalize the assignment report.
8. **DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The assignment shall be completed within a period of 4 months.

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|  | 1st Month  | 2nd Month | 3rd Month  | 4th Month  |
| Preparation of inception report |   |   |   |   |
| Literature Review |   |   |   |   |
| Benchmark studies and field work |   |   |   |   |
| Data analysis and synthesis of results |   |   |   |   |
| Preparation of final technical report |   |   |   |   |

 **5. QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE**

The successful consultant should have the following qualifications and experience:

**Qualifications**

A minimum of a master’s degree in agriculture statistics, agriculture economics, general economics, natural resource economics, agrobusiness, statistics or related field.

**Experience**

* Strong background in agriculture value chains and market development systems,
* Experience in working with stakeholders in the national statistical system (National Statistical Offices, Agriculture Ministries, etc),
* Overall understanding of the Agri Value Chain,
* A minimum of a master’s degree in Statistics, Economics, Demography, Geographical Information Systems, Mathematics, Data Science, Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any field of study related to data science and analytics.

**6.** TheCommon Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services for a duration of four (4) 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 **ehara@comesa.int** during office hours from Monday to Friday, 08:00 hours to 17:30 hours.

Expressions of interest must be emailed to **procurement@comesa.int** with a copy to **ehara@comesa.int** **by 11th AUGUST 2023 at 12.00hrs, Lusaka Time (C.A.T) and mention “EOI – *to develop a Statistical Data requirement Framework of the Horticulture Value chain in COMESA Member States.***

**7. PRICING**

 The budget for this consultancy will be **USD 18,000 (all inclusive)**.

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

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