Regional West Africa Resilient Rice Value Chains Development Program

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security

Central Project Coordination Unit (CPCU)

WALIC Complex, Kerr Serign, The Gambia

Request for Expression of Interest: Recruitment of Irrigation Infrastructure Engineers for the Facilitation of the Design, Design Review, Construction Supervision and Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes

Country: The Republic of the Gambia
Project Title: Regional West Africa Resilient Rice Value Chains Development Program (REWARD)
TSF Grant Number: 5900155019265
Project ID NO: P-Z1-AA0-178

Assignment Title: Irrigation Infrastructure Engineering Services for the Facilitation of the Design, Design Review, Construction Supervision and Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes.

1. Background

The **Regional West Africa Resilient Rice Value Chains Development Program (REWARD)** Gambia National Component represents a strategic investment aimed at strengthening food security and rice self-sufficiency in The Gambia. Anchored in the **RF - National Development Plan (2023–2027),** REWARD promotes climate-resilient and private-sector-driven agriculture, addressing both food insecurity and climate vulnerabilities.

Building lessons from the Rice Value Chain Transformation Project (RVCTP), REWARD focuses on modernizing and expanding irrigation infrastructure to support sustainable rice production systems. Irrigation is pivotal for enabling double cropping, boosting yields, and enhancing resilience against climate shocks. This consultancy will provide comprehensive **technical assistance and facilitation** to ensure the effective design, supervision, construction, and maintenance of targeted irrigation schemes in alignment with project objectives.

2. Objective of the Assignment

The overall objective is to provide technical support and facilitate the design, supervision, construction, and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure aligned with REWARD project objectives of sustainability, climate resilience, and stakeholder inclusiveness. The key objectives include:

1. **Design Facilitation and Design Review:** Guide the preparation of climate-smart irrigation designs tailored to the agro-ecological, socio-economic and environmental context.

2. **Supervision Facilitation:** Oversee and support quality assurance during the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Foster collaboration and ensure stakeholder engagement across all phases, promoting inclusive decision-making.
4. **Maintenance Framework Facilitation:** Establish and operationalize participatory maintenance and sustainability frameworks, involving irrigation committees and local communities.
5. **Capacity Building:** Build capacity of local farmers, Water User Associations (WUAs), and relevant institutions in irrigation management and climate-resilient practices.
6. Align irrigation interventions with broader rice value chain development goals.

3. Scope of Work

A. Facilitation of Design and Design Review

- Conduct participatory site assessments with stakeholders, including farmers, engineers, and local authorities.
- Facilitate the preparation of designs for 3002 Ha and 22 Km of Feeder and Access Road.
- Incorporate environmental and social safeguards into designs in line with AfDB standards.

B. Facilitation of Construction Supervision

- Provide oversight to contractors, compliance with the approved technical specifications, designs and safety standards.
- Facilitate site inspections, material quality control processes and construction techniques.
- Liaise with the contractors, the Project Management Unit (PMU), and stakeholders to address construction challenges.
- Support adherence to environmental and social mitigation measures during implementation.

C. Maintenance Framework Development

- Engage communities and irrigation committees in developing an inclusive maintenance strategy.
- Engage communities, WUAs, and local institutions to co-develop sustainable maintenance strategies.
- Establish operational plans, roles, responsibilities, and financial mechanisms (e.g., user fees, public-private partnerships).
- Facilitate the implementation of maintenance protocols through capacity building and pilot operations.

D. Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

- Conduct training programs on:
    - Local farmers on water management and climate-smart agriculture.
    - Climate-smart irrigation practices.
    - Infrastructure maintenance and management.
    - Governance and financial planning for irrigation committees.
- Foster partnerships with institutions such as Africa Rice for technical support.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and the adoption of best practices from similar projects.

E. Integration with Value Chain Development

- Ensure irrigation schemes support upstream and downstream rice value chain activities.
- Facilitate linkages between irrigation schemes and private sector actors, including millers and input suppliers.
- Support the inclusion of irrigation design considerations that align with processing, storage, and marketing goals.

4. Duration

The consultancy will be for a period 18 months.

5. Required Competencies, Qualifications, and Skills

5.1. Education and Professional Background

- **Minimum Qualification**: Master's degree in **Irrigation Engineering**, **Water Resources Engineering**, **Civil Engineering**, or a closely related field.
- **Additional Training/Certifications or Expertise** (desirable):
    - Environmental and social safeguards (AfDB/World Bank standards).
    - Project management or construction supervision.
    - Climate-smart agriculture or sustainable land and water management.

5.2. Relevant Experience

- **Minimum of 10 years** of progressively responsible experience in:
    - Designing and supervising small- and large-scale **irrigation systems** (including pump-fed, solar-powered, and tidal systems).
    - Leading or facilitating **multi-stakeholder participatory design processes**.
    - Overseeing **construction supervision**, including contractor coordination and quality control.
    - Developing and implementing **operation and maintenance (O&M) strategies** for irrigation infrastructure.
    - Working with **smallholder farmers**, community irrigation committees, and public institutions in rural settings.
- **Specific experience required in**:
    - At least **two (2)** projects involving design and/or construction of **solar-powered or pump irrigation systems**.
    - At least one (1) project involving **land clearing and infrastructure for commercial and smallholder irrigation** development.
    - Integration of **feeder roads** or access infrastructure in agricultural production systems.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Funded Operations, October 2015", which is available on the Bank's website at http://www.afdb.org

Further information can be obtained from the email addresses below during office hours from **08:00 to 16:00 GMT Mondays to Thursdays and from 8:00 to 12:30 GMT on Fridays.**

Expressions of interest together with CVs and relevant documents must be delivered in a written form and also via email addresses below by 4:00 PM. The Closing date for submission is on **11th November 2025**. Submissions should be in either hard or softcopy marked as "**Recruitment of Irrigation Infrastructure Engineers for the Facilitation of the Design, Design Review, Construction Supervision and Maintenance of Irrigation Schemes.**

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