REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CARRY OUT PROCUREMENT AUDIT

1. The Savannah Zone Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project (SAPIP) focuses on three of the six agri-business clusters of the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone (NSEZ). The NSEZ constitutes the poorest part of the country with a poverty rate of over 40% which is about double the national average. The zone is characterized with relatively more challenging agro-ecological conditions, low socio-economic indicators and historical deficit in public investments in infrastructure and services. Development of this zone is perceived as a national imperative for Ghana’s balance of payments, macro-economic stability, economic growth, food and nutrition security, job creation and poverty reduction.

Finances of the project (SAPIP) is by a loan from African Development Bank (AfDB) with primary aim of transforming agricultural value chains for food and nutrition security, job and wealth creation. The specific project objectives are:

a) To increase farmers’ food and nutrition security
b) Increase incomes through increased agricultural productivity and diversification
c) To enhance the creation and strengthening of Agribusinesses to increase incomes of actors along selected value chains on a sustainable basis.

The SAPIP project has four Components namely:- (i) Crop_Productivity Improvement; (ii) Value Chains & Agribusiness Development; (ii) Infrastructure Development; and (iii) Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

2. Objectives

2.1 The objective of this audit is to:

(i) verify the compliance and performance of procurement procedures and contract management with the provisions of the Financing Agreement (FA) and as reflected in the most recent approved Procurement Plan;
(ii) verify physical and technical compliance of deliveries in relation with the disbursement rate; and
(iii) review the EA’s procurement capacity to fulfil its fiduciary mandate.

3. SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

During the assignment, the Auditor shall tackle the fundamental aspects of the transactions made under the project and financed by the Bank, with respect to the provisions of the RMCs Public Procurement Laws and Regulations, and the fiduciary work normally carried out by Bank staff. It will mainly involve the following:

- Verifying the Compliance of the procurement process, tendering and the evaluation with the provisions of the FA, procurement plans, the provisions of the public procurement law and regulations
- Verifying conformity of technical quality and quantities delivered in accordance with the contract’s conditions while ensuring reliability and integrity of financial and operational information as these relate to those deliveries
- The risks regarding the respect of the principles of procurement, control, competences and the management capacity of the EA staff, and more generally those related to the national system.
- Assessing the overall EA capacity to validate that it is in line with the assessment made during project appraisal. The assessment shall be based on a threefold due diligence process covering the EA on the basis of an evaluation of past performance and operational track record

The examination and analysis of each contract selected and the determination of whether the actions taken by the EA of the project, conform with the RMCs Procurement Laws and Regulations and the FA, which will be based

If agreed, the Auditor will make a representative selection of procurement transactions, that is, contracts for goods, works, non-consulting and consulting services that used BPS, in order to examine them. The sample size "a posteriori" may vary depending on its importance within this framework, the amounts spent, or the number of contracts signed

4. Interested Individual Consultants must have:

**Essential**: A Master’s degree in science, engineering, management or related field. Minimum 20 years of experience in implementing procurement and contract management for technical cooperation projects in different countries. Extensive knowledge of the African Development Bank’s PROCUREMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR BANK GROUP FUNDED OPERATIONS – October 2015 and Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663), the Public
Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 914) and in the Guidelines of the Public Procurement Board of the Republic Ghana; procurement procedures and guidelines including procurement of goods, works, consultancies and non-consultancies, civil works, consultancies and supply services.

**Desirable:** Additionally, the Consultant should have extensive experience in carrying out Procurement Audit on donor projects and specifically on an AfDB sponsored projects involving agriculture infrastructure development.

5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Individual Consultant Selection (IC) Method procedures as specified in the African Development Bank’s PROCUREMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR BANK GROUP FUNDED OPERATIONS –October 2015) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.

6. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours.

7. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 10.00HRS Thursday 15th April, 2021.

**The Project Coordinator (SAPIP)**
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