



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)**

TRIPARTITE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TCBP)

The **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** has received financing from the **African Development Bank** toward the cost of the Tripartite Capacity Building Programme (TCBP), and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contract for **Consultancy for Assessment of Border Operations, Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Developing cost effective risk based SPS/TBT Measures and Convening SPS/TBT Workshops to facilitate Governments’ Engagement on SPS/TBT Reforms.**

The principal objective of this Programme is to provide capacity building to the RECs in support of the proposed Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA). The support focuses on the market integration and industrial development pillars of the Tripartite FTA. One of the outputs of the programme, is development and implementation of simplified sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other technical standards or technical barriers to trade (TBT) to facilitate intra tripartite trade. COMESA Secretariat, as the execution agency, is seeking the services of a competent firm to carry out the following tasks;

- Assessment of border operations along key trade routes to improve understanding of the costs and benefits associated with SPS and TBT requirements;
- Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework;
- Developing cost effective risk based SPS/TBT measures targeting border officials and other economic actors;
- Facilitating Implementation of risk based SPS measures that are at a lower cost to traders;
- Convening SPS/TBT workshops to facilitate Governments’ engagement on SPS/TBT reforms, including bilateral inspection agreements.

Scope of Work of Assignment:

Task 1 & 2: Assessment of Border Operations, development of M&E framework

Tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an analytical framework (s) for assessment of border and behind the border costs/ benefits on identified SPS measures/ TBT standards with reference to selected commodities/trade flows • Develop and deliver a 1 week training workshop on the proposed analytical frame-
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	<p>work (s) for participants from 10 countries and the EAC-COMESA-SADC Secretariats, including a field trip for test running the tool (s) and planning for country activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the methodology (s) based on comments from participants; • Prepare a synthesis report of the country assessments • Conduct a validation workshop of the findings with countries • Support country coordinators in implementation of country level activities • Develop Standard Operating Procedure for SPS/ TBT border clearance procedures • Prepare synthesis report.
Deliverables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft methodology (s) including M & E framework • Training workshop programme, materials and report • Final methodology • Planned and completed country activities • Synthesis report of country assessments • Programme for review workshop • SOP for SPS/ TBT border clearance procedure • Recommendations for Steering Committee on M&E • Synthesis report of M&E framework

Tasks 3 & 4: Risk Analysis and implementation of risk based, lower costs SPS and TBT measures

Tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and analyse information available in the public domain on selected commodities/ products • Prepare workshop programme and materials • Lead workshop to conduct risk analyses/ assessments and identification of options for risk management measures • Finalise the risk analysis/ assessment document and conduct validation workshop • Develop M&E framework • Support implementation of at the border and behind the border risk based and lower costs SPS/TBT measures • Support joint inspections conducted by trade partners
Deliverables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop and training reports • Commodity/product risk analyses and or risk based inspection protocols endorsed by respective SPS authorities • Border assessment reports • M&E framework

Task 5: SPS and TBT workshops

Tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene SPS and TBT workshops on the improved technical measures, targeting government authorities and other economic actors • Facilitate bilateral meetings on SPS and TBT reforms • Facilitate bilateral meetings on inspection agreements and mutual recognition of technical measures where necessary
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Deliverables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop and training reports • SPS and TBT reforms endorsed by respective SPS authorities • Inspection agreements drafted
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Requirements and Qualifications:

The consultancy firm or a consortium of firms should meet the following requirements:

- (a) Must have been incorporated and have experience of at least 15 years in SPS and market access development work;
- (b) The technical team especially the team leader should possess minimum of an advanced degree in agricultural sciences, or related field with specialisation in **food safety, plant and animal health**;
- (c) The team leader should have minimum experience of 15 years in dealing with SPS and capacity building in the same field;
- (d) The proposed technical team should be multidisciplinary, reflecting three of the SPS disciplines (plant health, animal health and food safety) and should have minimum experience of 10 years' experience in dealing with SPS issues and capacity building in the same field;
- (e) The team leader should demonstrate evidence of leading similar projects in developing countries ;
- (f) The proposed technical team should demonstrate broad knowledge of SPS constraints in the region, expertise in risk analysis and SPS capacity development work in accordance with international standards and best practices.

The **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "**Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants**" *May 2008, Revised July 2012*, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from Monday to Friday, 08:00 hours to 17:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **19th September 2014 at 15:00hrs** and mention "**Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for Assessment of Border Operations, Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Developing cost effective risk based SPS/TBT Measures and Convening SPS/TBT Workshops to facilitate Governments' Engagement on SPS/TBT Reforms**".

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