



ADVERTISEMENT

CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TITLED, “IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE EAC”



Summary of the assignment:

Nature of assignment	Short term
Location	Eastern Africa Countries, varying depending on the respondents
Timeframe	21 working days
Reporting	To Executive Director/CEO

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE EABC-AERC PROJECT

East African Business Council (EABC) in collaboration with The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) formed a Trade Technical group on **"Strengthening trade data tracking and analysis; Rapid impact assessments; and Private-Public Sector consultation and Dialogue,"** under the AERC Covid-19 pandemic response in East African Community project. This project aims to undertake a regional study on the impact of Covid-19 on Trade with a focus on manufacturing, tourism and agriculture in East Africa.

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) is one of the most active Research and Capacity Building Institutions (RCBIs) in Africa. Established in 1988, AERC is a public not-for-profit organization devoted to advanced economic policy research and training. AERC’s mission is to strengthen local capacity for independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of African economies, through programmes that combine economic research with postgraduate training in economics and agricultural economics, supported by an interactive communications and policy outreach programme.

The project aims to:

- i. To increase uptake and use of evidence to plan, develop strategies, advocate and secure member states' commitments to implement evidence-informed policies and response guidelines.
- ii. To minimize the societal and economic impact of COVID-19 by leveraging the Private Sector technical and resource capabilities for the COVID-19 emergency response in the EAC.
- iii. To minimize the societal and economic impact by building the regional inter-governmental institutions capacity.

2.0 ABOUT EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

The East African Business Council (EABC) is the umbrella body of the Private Sector in the East African Community (EAC). It brings together national private sector umbrella bodies, manufacturers, employers, bankers, insurance and transporters associations, chambers of commerce, corporates, and medium and small enterprises from the entire East African region.

EABC's mandate is to represent and promote the interests of the EAC business community, provide value-added services that enhance trade and competitiveness, and to participate actively and positively influence legal and regulatory formulation to improve the business environment. EABC works with the major stakeholders such as the EAC Secretariat, Organs, Institutions and National Governments and provides input in policy discussion while advocating for the implementation of resolutions at the national level aimed at increasing intra-regional trade. For effective implementation of the Regional PPD programme, EABC was selected by AERC as the lead implementing partner for the Private Sector/Trade Component of the project.

3.0 RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC) provides that the overall objectives in the agricultural sector are the achievement of food security and rational agricultural production with the Community. To achieve these objectives, the EAC Partner States have adopted the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy which outlines the strategic interventions identified for the acceleration of agricultural sector development. The six interventions are: improving food security, accelerating irrigation development, strengthening early warning systems, strengthening research, extension and training, increasing intra and inter-regional trade and commerce and physical infrastructure and utilities.

In the EAC region, agriculture is considered as the backbone of most of EAC Partner States and plays a key role in their industrial development. Agriculture accounts for more than 32 percent of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employs about 80 per cent of its labour force, accounts for about 65 percent of foreign exchange earnings and contributes more than 50 percent of raw materials to the industrial sector. Despite the importance of the sector in the EAC, the agricultural sector still faces numerous challenges preventing it from achieving the desired objectives of food security and rational agricultural production with the Community. Some of the challenges are declining agricultural yields, drought, ecosystem degradation, floods and locusts. These challenges are exacerbated by the fact that over 95% of agriculture in the region is rain-fed.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has far-reaching impact on the ailing agricultural sector in the EAC region. Due to the disruption of global supply chain and restrictions put by EAC Partner States to contain the spread of COVID-19, and the agricultural sector will negatively be impacted. The existing and potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic include: disruption of food supply, production, farm inputs, price fluctuations, restrictions of import and exports as well as shortages of labour supply. The region has already felt the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the horticultural sub-sector as flowers, fruits and vegetables are finding it very difficult to access international markets due to travel and import restrictions.

Given the impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector, EABC under the AERC Covid-19 pandemic response Project in East African Community is seeking a consultant to

undertake a study titled “***Impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture and Food Security in the EAC***”.

The study is expected to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture in the EAC, generate policy options that the EAC Partner States should adopt to protect supply chains from COVID-19 disruptions and future pandemics.

4.0 SCOPE OF THE WORK AND DUTIES

In order to achieve the desired objectives of the consultancy, the technical proposal should detail how consultancy will be conducted. The technical proposal should also contain a work plan which explains how the assignment will be undertaken in line with the timeframe. Finally, the technical proposal will include a methodology that meets both the scope of work and deliverables described in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The main activities of the Consultant are but not limited to:

1. Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the agriculture & food security in the EAC; (with specific emphasis on Maize, Rice, Coffee, Tea and Horticulture);
2. Assess the agricultural stimulus packages put in place by the EAC Partner States and propose workable alternatives;
3. Analyse the current fiscal incentives for agriculture and propose appropriate interventions,
4. Assessment of the Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) arising from COVID-19 pandemic
5. Organise internal validation workshop and make presentations in policy forums as may be organized by EABC, AERC and other partners in the project;
6. Present report of the impact assessment of the COVID 19 and post-COVID recovery recommendations for the Agricultural sector and food security in the EAC
7. Develop EABC Policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and post-COVID recovery recommendations for the sector;

5.0 DELIVERABLES

The key deliverables include:

- **Inception report** which among other things will contain the detailed work plan for carrying out the scope of work, proposed methodology and research design, and survey instruments
- **Draft report** of the Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture & food security in the EAC and Post COVID-19 recovery recommendations for the sector
- **Final report** that includes, final findings on the Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture & food security in the EAC and Post COVID-19 Recovery recommendations for the sector. The report will cover the Consultant’s final findings, after feedback from EABC Secretariat and other key stakeholders
- **Policy brief** which will contain a summary of both findings of an impact assessment of COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture & food security and post COVID-19 recovery recommendations for agriculture & food security in the EAC (see the attached format).

6.0 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

A suitable candidate should hold the following qualifications and key competencies:

- a) **Academic qualifications:** A Master degree or postgraduate qualification in any of the following fields, Agricultural Economics, Economics, Business Administration or any other relevant field is required.
- b) **Work Experience:** A minimum of ten (10) years' demonstrable experience in conducting research /survey on agriculture-related field, an understanding of agriculture commodity trade across EAC region
- c) **Proven track-record** in related assignments
- d) **Communication and Networking:** Must be able to identify key stakeholders; seek their views, correctly interpret their messages and respond appropriately
- e) **Knowledge of EAC Integration, international trade and the EAC agricultural sector is a must**
- f) **Languages:** Fluency in oral and written English is required as it is the main EAC working language. Good working knowledge of French and Kiswahili will be an advantage.
- g) **Additional Skills:** Excellent computer skills (Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), Email, analytical tools/software for data analysis, experience in working with internet searches, online databases, and data retrieval) are required.
- h) **Nationality:** The position is only open to Nationals of any of the EAC Partner States, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan.

7.0 THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The technical and financial proposal must be submitted separately addressed to;

**The Executive Director / CEO
East African Business Council (EABC)
Ninth Floor, Mafao House, Old
Moshi Road P. O. Box 2617
Arusha, Tanzania.
Email: director@eabc-online.com with a copy to procurement@eabc-online.com**

clearly marked “**Consultancy to Undertake an Impact Assessment of COVID-19 Pandemic on Agriculture in EAC**”.

The proposal should include among others; current curriculum vitae, proposed methodology, workplan, tool for data collection etc.

The financial proposal should be protected with a password.

Applications close on (10th January 2021) at (5.00 p.m.)

EABC is an equal opportunity employer thus recruitment is on merit and with no regard to one's age, colour, gender, marital status, disability or impairment, race or creed. Canvassing shall lead to automatic disqualification. Environmental aspects will be taken into consideration.

END

Annex 1: Structure of the report

Section	Guidance
Title page	Research title; Author(s) and affiliation, Date (Month, year)
List of Figures	Provide the list of all figures in chronological order
List of Tables	Provide the list of all tables in chronological order
List of Abbreviations/ Acronyms	Provide a list of all abbreviation/acronyms
Acknowledgement	Should be one paragraph
Executive summary and key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an executive summary that includes the description of the theme of the paper, the methodology, data, and the analysis. • Provide a snapshot of the critical takeaway findings/messages and how they directly relate to the broader BMGF-AERC objectives and of your area of focus.
1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a broader background of your research topic/area relating to the potential/actual impacts COVID-19 crisis might have. • Situate the paper to the broader context of the project, zero it into the specific theme of your paper by providing thematic macro and social-economic context. • Provide a synthesis of the thematic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis relevant to your specific area of focus. • Provide a brief background and description of the specific thematic COVID-19 interventions falling under the theme of your research. • Contextualise the introduction within the relevant literature that directly speak to the theme of the group and preferably done in East Africa.
2. Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide brief socio-economic performance analysis detailing how your theme has evolved before and after COVID-19 crisis • Provide a comparative analysis of how EAC member country is fairing in fighting the COVID-19 problem relative to other EAC member countries and regional blocs in Africa. • Provide detailed context of the broader activities done and how they relate to addressing COVID-19 challenges in the EAC member country. • Present the thematic interventions and COVID-19 context, i.e., the need for the intervention(s), e.g. the barriers or opportunities it seeks

Section	Guidance
	<p>to unlock and the impact the problem/issues are having on actors and expected change(s) from the proposed interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextualise your paper within the relevant and most recent literature that directly speak to the broader theme of your research preferably done in East Africa.
3. Data and Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the data used for analysis • Use data from authoritative secondary sources to help provide credible and evidence-based narrative useful for making informed decisions • Provide the methodology used for analysis and its justification. • Provide a summary of the limitations of the methodology (if any). Also, explain how the analysis of the paper overcame such limitations to provide a meaningful and reliable analysis.
4. Results/ Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the analysis of the data, the results should bring out the interaction between existing policies and COVID-19 crisis with the goal of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying gaps in resources (e.g., funding, human resources), programmatic and policy response to COVID-19 ○ Mapping thematic constraints and opportunities ○ Proposing practical solutions and best practices to address COVID-19 challenges based on the views of the relevant stakeholders in your research area ○ Identifying the best practices for mainstreaming gender in COVID-19 response now and in the future. • Present the main results in a clear, logical, and coherent manner using graphics (e.g., figures, tables, and graphs) and other visual aids (e.g., photos, boxes with narratives) as much as possible. Triangulate quantitative analysis with qualitative data analysis to make logical and well-connected inferences. • If possible, break down the presentation of the results into logical sub-themes that can help easily digest the key results
5. Discussion of the results/ findings	<p>Discuss the interpretation of the results situating them within the broader literature and policy space within and across the East Africa region and Africa at large.</p>
6. Conclusions	<p>Provide critical conclusions of the analytical paper detailing the main takeaways from the results</p>

Section	Guidance
7. Policy recommendation/ implications (including potential lessons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the relevant, actionable policy recommendations/implications of the analytical paper to policymakers and other practitioners. • Provide an assessment of the sources of coordination failures in your specific theme and provide pointers on how to streamline them. • Provide an assessment of key drivers of policy and programmatic response to COVID-19 crisis and potential future Pandemic in the EAC region • Extract lessons for future policy and programmatic responses to crises like COVID-19
8. References	Provide full references for all cited information using the APA reference list system
9. Annexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed summary of the relevant literature reviewed (including policy reports, policy briefs, and peer-reviewed academic papers) • Secondary data sources and data used in the analysis • Data collection tools (Questionnaire, KII, FGDs) if any • List with contacts of stakeholders interviewed or engaged