

# **REPORT ON SELECTION OF CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE A SCOPING STUDY TO DOCUMENT THE AGROFORESTRY TECHNOLOGIES/PRACTICES/SYSTEMS, AND THEIR CHARACTERISATION, RELEASE, ADOPTION AND USE BY FARMERS IN KENYA SELECTION PROCESS**

## **Background**

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) is a continental initiative whose mission is to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing and policy making to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security. The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

## **Objectives of the Initiative**

1. To increase documentation of information and knowledge on organic agricultural products along the complete value chain and support relevant actors to translate it into practices and wide application.
2. To systematically inform producers about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivate their uptake through strengthening access to advisory and support services.
3. To substantially increase the share of quality organic products at the local, national and regional markets.
4. Strengthen inclusive stakeholder engagement in organic commodities value chain development by developing national, regional and continental multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for changes in public policy, plans and practices.

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) and two partners, PELUM Kenya and ICRAF, are collaborating in undertaking some activities under the EOA initiative, in which a scoping study to identify the diversity of the technologies and practices developed by ICRAF and other research institutions since 1980 in Kenya, with a view to identifying what and where gap(s) exist, and enabling and dis-enabling the conditions that have influenced their uptake by farmers will be undertaken. This study is to be undertaken by a consultant over a period of about 22 working days.

For this purpose, a Terms of Reference document (annex) was developed to be shared with potential candidates. An advertisement was published in the Daily Nation on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The successful candidate is expected to:

- a) Examine the extent, range and nature of research into technology generation in agro-forestry and NRM
- b) Determine the value of undertaking a full systematic review
- c) Summarise and package research findings so that they can be disseminated to policy makers, practitioners and consumers
- d) Identify research gaps in the existing literature

Seven consultants submitted their expression of interest and after a thorough analysis and summary of the 7 applicants, 3 were shortlisted and invited to attend interviews. The three were as follows;

1. Mr. Nickson E. Otieno
2. Mr. Auma Joseph Onam
3. Dr. Othniel Yila

The three candidates were invited to come to icipe on 18<sup>th</sup> September and make a presentation of their proposals to the EOA Project Management Team.

The team at Biovision Africa Trust carrying out the interviews consisted of:

1. Dr. David Amudavi – BvAT Director (Chairing)
2. Caroline Kwamboka – TOF manager
3. Venancia Wambua – EOA Regional Manager
4. Hudson Were – Programme Assistant

After introductions, each candidate was given a few minutes to give a brief presentation, either orally or power point, on the following aspects:

1. Candidate's Profile – highlighting past experience in similar assignments, referees (with contact details)
2. Candidate's understanding of the TORs
3. Candidate's Proposed work plan for the assignment
4. Candidate's Estimated budget (attach financial proposal) showing consultancy fee and break down of expenses

### **Summary of assessment**

#### *1. Dr. Othniel Yila.*

He was very confident and demonstrated good understanding and interpretation of scope of assignment. He showed evidence of possessing relevant skills and having done similar work in the past. His workplan and timeframe were appropriate. He indicated that he was available to start immediately. The proposed budget was within reasonable limits. Othniel is also based in ICRAF and therefore the team felt he could get relevant information easily. He showed willingness to take suggestions from the Project Team on how best to handle the assignment.

#### *2. Auma Josef Onam*

He did not demonstrate a good understanding and interpretation of the scope of assignment. He however showed evidence of relevant skills. There was no evidence of previous similar work and he was not very open about the team that will work with him in this assignment. Available to start immediately. Financial proposal reasonable as far as budget is concerned.

#### *3. Nickson Otieno*

He showed a good understanding and interpretation of scope of assignment. Showed evidence of relevant skills and having done similar work in the past, however he is a full time employee of National Museum of Kenya and also currently undertaking his Phd. The team was not very confident that he would be able to do the work and deliver on time. It was also not very clear if he is on a study leave or still on duty at his official work plan. Financial proposal was reasonable as far as budget is concerned.

### **Recommendation:**

***The team felt that they could choose one of the three. It unanimously agreed and recommended that Dr. Othniel Yila would be the best candidate to undertake the task. This decision to be communicated to the partners on this project – ICRAF and PELUM Kenya***