



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR TRAINING
OF SPRAYING AND PRUNING GANGS IN AGRO-
CHEMICALS APPLICATIONS AND PRUNING OF COCOA



Reference Number:

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| Country | Liberia |
| Project | Tree Crop Extension Project (TCEP) |
| Assignment Title | Individual Consultancy Services for Training of Spraying and Pruning Gangs in Agro-Chemicals Applications and Pruning of Cocoa |

A. Context

Generally, pest management in Liberia is characterized by a combination of methods mainly cultural and use of chemicals. The cultural methods carried out usually include the use of manual traps and some predators to check some kind of pest's species or general sanitation among others. Chemical methods generally imply the use of pesticides such as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and nematicide, etc.

Challenges associated with direct procurement of pesticides by smallholder farmers in Liberia include the proliferation of illegal imports by unscrupulous private companies and the presence of unlicensed dealers. While it is illegal to sell unregistered pesticides, some pesticides are being sold without registration. Similarly, there are cases of pesticides being re-packaged, and sold in smaller amounts without any, or at least proper, labels. It is important to note that, the labels on the pesticides containers have information on the pesticide in terms of what is it used for, how to mix it, what pests it will control, what plants and animals may be particularly harmed if one is careless, protective equipment needed for proper handling and use, hazard statements, and environmental hazards and compatibility with other pesticides or Agro-chemicals. During application of Agro-chemicals, it is important to select types of nuzzles for the best spray discharge and also considered calibration of spray equipment. Additionally, to maintain healthy cocoa trees, it is important to cut off every dead branches and twigs, etc. since small holder farmers are interested in harvesting big cocoa pods for increased income.

The training of spraying and pruning gangs target to promote pest control on farmers' fields as well as shading and pruning practices to reduce the vulnerability of cocoa trees to the effects of climate change and damage by other natural disasters thereby enhancing capacities for better disease control.

The consultancy services will require interdisciplinary national consultant with extensive experience in Agro-chemical application and pruning of cocoa; writing policy briefs about pesticides management in tree crops; conducting training sessions on Agro-chemicals management and pruning of cocoa; and associated skills will be required to work with project stakeholders in Liberia to draft manuals that will be used by project team and smallholder cocoa farmers as guide to cocoa pruning and to avoid pesticides traces in cocoa commodities for export purposes.

B. Objective of the Individual Consultancy Services

The objective of this individual consultancy services is for capacity building in **Agro-chemicals application and pruning of cocoa** in order to effectively monitor pesticides use and pest issues amongst participating farmers as well as pruning of cocoa for maximum outputs.

C. Scope of work

The consultant will be responsible for conducting training sessions on spraying of Agro-Chemicals (**safer handling, transportation, storage, mixing of Agro-chemicals, PPEs, pesticides application, maintenance of spray equipment, etc.**) and pruning of cocoa, using integrated approach. The training exercises to be conducted in Nimba County will target 40 lead farmers/cooperative extension agents and 12 Young Professionals. The consultant will provide the services and ensure that all works and outputs under the terms of reference are complied with. The main tasks for the consultant are as follows:

- i. Review background materials on pesticides management in Liberia including the National Pesticides Policy (NPP);
- ii. Interact with the relevant Government Ministries, especial the Ministry of Agriculture and members of the national pesticides committee;
- iii. Conduct seven-day training workshop for 40 lead farmers/cooperative extension agents and 12 Young Professionals in Agro-chemicals application and pruning of cocoa;

D. Detailed Tasks of Individual Consultant

The tasks of the individual consultant will include, but will not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Prepare and organize training workshop (25% theoretical and 75% practical) for 12 Young Professionals and four spraying and pruning gangs consisting of 40 lead farmers/cooperative extension agents from four Districts in Nimba County in topics related to Agro-chemicals application and cocoa pruning;
- Build farmers' resilience to pesticides handling and management on cocoa through the development of training programs on integrated options;
- Identify some vulnerabilities of pesticides use on cocoa and measures of mitigation in the project communities;
- Provide information on integrated approaches to monitoring, managing and controlling cocoa pests/diseases, with a focus on key cocoa pests/diseases in Liberia;
- Discuss and conduct practical demonstration on all aspects of IPM approaches including best practices;
- Conduct practical demonstration on calibration, handling and assembling of spray equipment and application of Agro-chemicals including use of PPEs, preparation of solutions, techniques in spraying, etc.;

- Provide information and practical demonstration on storage of pesticides and disposal of empty bottles/cans;
- Develop simple training manual for farmers in Agro-chemicals application on cocoa.
- Conduct practical demonstration of tools/equipment and techniques commonly used to prune cocoa in accordance with seasonal needs. Practical demonstration to also include care and maintenance of pruning tools, types of pruning, making pruning cuts correctly, wound dressing, etc.
- Develop simple training manual for farmers on pruning in cocoa using integrated approach;

Duration:

The duration of the consultancy is eleven (11) days. The training workshop will cover seven (7) days: four (4) days training sessions on Agro-chemicals application and three (3) days training sessions on pruning of cocoa using integrated approach.

The drafting of training manual will cover four (4) days: two (2) days for training manual on Agro-chemicals application and two (2) days for training manual on cocoa pruning.

Qualification and Experience:

The consultant is required to possess:

- (a) A post-graduate degree in Entomology, Agronomy, General Agriculture, Horticulture or other related disciplines.
- (b) At least five (5) years' experience in conducting TOT workshop in Agro-chemicals applications and cocoa production techniques including cocoa pruning, preferably in tropical Africa.
- (c) Knowledge and work experience in the agriculture sector in tropical Africa would an asset.

Key competencies:

The consultant is also required to demonstrate:

- (a) Good communication skills in English (oral and written)
- (b) Experience in preparing power point presentations
- (c) Experience in international best practices in pesticides management and in tree crops production intensification
- (d) Ability to present information in a clear, precise and well-articulated manner.

All interested and qualified applicants should send a soft copy of their expression of interest by **17th day of February 2020 by 4.00pm to:**

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The subject line should read: **EOI for Training of Spraying and Pruning Gangs in Agro-Chemicals Applications and Pruning of Cocoa.**

Only pre-selected consultants will be contacted.