



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(Ref. No. NRS/534/052023)

Consultancy to support implementation of the project 'AgEco IPM: Agro-ecological management of the fall armyworm in Eastern and Southern Africa' in Malawi

1. Background

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE, branded as *icipe*) is an international scientific research institute, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, that works towards improving lives and livelihoods of people in Africa. *icipe* focuses on sustainable development using human, animal and plant health as the bases and the environment as the foundation for sustainability. The centre's main objective is to research and develop alternative and environmentally friendly pest and vector management strategies that are effective, selective, non-polluting, non-resistance inducing, and affordable to resource-limited rural and urban communities while addressing the interlinked problems of poverty, poor health, low agricultural productivity, and degradation of the environment.

icipe is seeking an experienced consultant to support implementation of the project 'AgEco IPM: Agro-ecological management of the fall armyworm in Eastern and Southern Africa' in Malawi, funded by the Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag), commissioned by Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ).

2. Project description

The fall armyworm (FAW) is a recent invasion in Africa and threatens maize production for millions of smallholder farmers in Africa because few agro-ecological pest management innovations exist against the pest. In partnership with the private sector and national agricultural research and extension organizations (NARES), the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) has developed climate-smart, gender-responsive, agro-ecological approaches such as habitat management (push-pull companion plants) and biorational products (biologicals, parasitoids and sex pheromones) for FAW management. Some of these innovations are already used by farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa but are unavailable in the target countries. This project aims to test, adapt and demonstrate the suitability of these innovations in the context of smallholder farming systems in a multi-environment through a public-private-people partnership (PPPP) approach, and scale promising combinations of innovations using innovative and inclusive dissemination mechanisms. Existing digital approaches will be used to: (1) monitor FAW dynamics; (2) assess demand for innovations by smallholders; (3) establish a multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge exchange among actors related to agroecological FAW management; (4) enhance targeting of disadvantaged groups (women, youth); and (5) ensure feedback from end-users. Various efficient dissemination approaches (social media networks, digital extension, nudging, field days and demonstrations, early-warning systems) will be used to create awareness and stimulate adoption within the multi-stakeholder platforms. Socio-economic and environmental drivers of value chains of FAW innovations will be analyzed and demand for innovations estimated to support awareness creation, facilitate adoption, inform policy decision and ultimately ensure project sustainability.

The project has four outputs:

- Project output 1: locally adapted agroecological FAW management innovations are available to smallholders

- Project output 2: smallholders are able to make informed decisions about agroecological FAW management innovations
- Project output 3: the position of women in the production or marketing of agroecological FAW management innovations is strengthened
- Project output 4: scientific evidence on the implementation of agroecological FAW management innovations is prepared for political processes

Locations: Malawi, Uganda, Zambia

Key implementing partners: Malawi - Total Land Care (TLC), Uganda – National Agricultural Organisation (NARO), Zambia - Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)

3. Outputs and deliverables

Under direct guidance of the Head, Technology Transfer Unit (TTU) of *icipe*, and in collaboration the project coordinator of TLC in Malawi, implement farmer training and provide project management support to the project scientists, staff and students for efficient and timely implementation of project output 1 and project output 2.

Specific duties

- Coordinate and plan project activities within TLC, Malawi, specifically focusing on (1) making available locally adapted agroecological FAW management innovations to smallholders (develop and implement trainings for agricultural advisors, select combinations of agroecological FAW management innovations, select suitable demonstration plots and demonstration farmers, implement participatory field trials) and (2) enabling smallholder farmers to make informed decisions about agroecological FAW management innovations (develop an information and communication strategy, adapt existing and develop additional gender-sensitive information and communication formats, establish smallholder learning groups led by demonstration farmers, implement gender-sensitive trainings within the framework of smallholder learning groups).
- Assist in (1) implementation of qualification programs in the areas of production and marketing of FAW management innovations, and (2) organisation and moderation of consultation meetings between relevant stakeholders through multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Assist in project administration (technical and financial reports).

4. Requirements/qualifications

- MSc degree in agricultural science or related discipline.
- Practical field experience in research and development, and technology dissemination with smallholder farmers.
- Diverse experience in insect science especially in IPM strategies for pest control.
- Experience working with maize pests and the fall armyworm is considered an asset.
- Excellent computer skills and proficiency in MS Office (Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook).
- Malawi national.

Other desirable attributes

- Excellent organisational skills, attention to detail, time management, ability to multiple tasks, define and set priorities, and problem solve.
- Effective communication and scientific writing skills including farmer communication tools.
- Experience in facilitating teamwork and collaboration with partners at all levels.
- Strong ability to anticipate and plan ahead, and take personal initiative, work both independently and as a team member, and collaborate and coordinate with others.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work under pressure.

5. Budget and payment details

This is two-year consultancy contract, renewable subject to continued project needs, funding for the

position, and performance of the staff. This is a nationally recruited position. A competitive compensation package will be offered to the right candidate. The Consultant will be paid monthly by *icipe*.

6. Reporting

The Consultant directly reports to Head of Technology Transfer Unit, *icipe*. In addition, the appointee will closely align workplans under the guidance of the Project Coordinator, TLC. This position will be housed in TLC.

7. How to Apply

Applications will be accepted up to 22nd May 2023. Interested individual Consultants should submit: (a) a confidential cover letter; (b) detailed CV with names and addresses of 3 referees, including e-mail addresses; and (c) a statement illustrating suitability against the listed qualifications/competencies/abilities, and skills.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Candidates are required to apply online through: <http://recruit.icipe.org> or by Email: recruitment@icipe.org

For any queries, please contact Thomas Dubois at tdubois@icipe.org

icipe is an equal opportunity employer. It fosters a multicultural work environment that values gender equity, teamwork, and respect for diversity. Consideration for employment is given to qualified applicants regardless of race, color, age, gender, religion, disability status, nationality and ethnic origin, or social status.