



CIFOR-ICRAF is looking for

A Consultancy – to carry out an external evaluation of the AWARD Strategic Plan

AWARD

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) was founded in 2008 as a career-development Fellowship program that sought to widen the pipeline of confident, capable, influential African women scientists in leadership in the Agricultural Research and Development (ARD) sector. The flagship AWARD Fellowship benefited 1,576 individual scientists (664 fellows, 594 mentors and 415 fellows' mentees) across Africa. The successes of the AWARD Fellowship led to scaling of the novel model to expand our target groups, capacity development interventions and thematic areas. As a result, AWARD designed the pan-African AWARD Fellowship to increase its presence in francophone Africa. Moreover, through the One Planet Fellowship (OPF), we are building a robust pipeline of scientists equipped to lead climate change research in Africa. A total of 260 beneficiaries (130 Laureate candidates and 130 mentors) are currently involved in the One Planet Fellowship. Responding to a need for enhanced capacity across Africa's ARD. Since 2008, AWARD has designed and offered customized training courses that have benefited 7,569 individuals, from 274 institutions drawn from 66 countries, globally. AWARD is also working with ARD institutions to strengthen their capacity in leadership and integrating gender in their organizational processes and the whole ARD spectrum.

AWARD is hosted by World Agroforestry (ICRAF), a member of the CGIAR that is headquartered on United Nations Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya.

We invite you to learn more about AWARD and World Agroforestry by accessing our web sites www.awardfellowships.org and <http://worldagroforestry.org/>.

Description of services

Background

The AWARD strategy 2017-2022 envisions a robust, resilient gender responsive agricultural innovation system working toward agriculture-driven prosperity for Africa. AWARD invests in African scientists and research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa's food systems. The strategy is anchored on three pillars including 1) build a pool of capable, confident, and influential African scientists to lead critical advances and innovations in the agricultural research and development sector 2) Support African ARD institutions to prioritize and embrace gender responsiveness in both policy and practice 3) build an enabling environment for gender responsiveness to become an embedded cultural norm and practice in the African ARD. As this year culminates the last year of the current strategy, we are in the process of developing a new strategy (2023-2027) that charts the way forward for AWARD.

AWARD plans to conduct an external evaluation on the effectiveness of its current strategy and areas of work since inception, to take stock of achievements, identify gaps, challenges, opportunities and lessons that will be used as a foundation for the next strategic plan development.

1. Objectives of the Evaluation

The primary focus of the evaluation will be the current Strategic Plan (2017-2022) and the previous Strategic Plans since the inception of AWARD, in order to distill lessons and identify strategic focus areas as an input into the new Strategic Plan (2023–2027). The evaluation will assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, visibility, and sustainability of AWARD strategy. The evaluation will identify gaps, challenges and lessons that will inform the development of the new AWARD strategy

The evaluation will have the following specific objectives:

- Assess the appropriateness of AWARD's strategy-, short-, medium-, and long-term priorities and objectives for the achievement of AWARD's mission.
- Assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, coherence, and sustainability of the programmatic areas of the Strategic Plan in terms of delivering quality services and interventions to the beneficiaries.
- Assess AWARD's programmatic areas (AWARD Fellowships, GRARD, ATU, GAIA) relevance, performance and identify areas of improvement in terms of implementation modalities, portfolio management, M&E, knowledge management, partnerships, and resource mobilization as stated in the strategic plan.
- Assess the transition and coherence of the program from the previous Strategic Plans to the current Strategic Plan.
- Identify issues, challenges and lessons and provide strategic conclusions and recommendations including important programmatic elements, structural and management considerations for the next strategic plan, taking into consideration the changing landscape.
- Make recommendations on strategic priorities for AWARD's next strategic plan

2. Project expected results

The outputs of this work shall include:

- An inception mission to meet with AWARD Staff and subsequent inception report which details the findings of the initial inception mission and desk review as well as a stakeholder analysis and engagement strategies, detailed methodology and timeline, the sampling framework, data collection tools, and ethical protocols, amongst other information critical to the successful completion of the joint evaluation.
 - Data collection in all the countries where AWARD has on-going activities, through both online consultations and four country visits to selected countries (Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Ghana). This will culminate in debriefing PowerPoint Presentations and validation meetings in for each country and a global validation workshop which will be conducted online or in-person, as necessary.
 - Draft evaluation report including an executive summary and sections on the methodology, findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations.
 - Case studies, in form of an information brief or visual four-page document, for disseminating results.
 - Final evaluation report, validated through a workshop
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3. Approach and Methodology

The evaluation will apply a mixed-methods approach, collecting both qualitative and quantitative data, and will adhere to the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, as well as the Ethical Guidelines for evaluations in the CGIAR system. It will be guided by the evaluation criteria defined by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and additional aspects as detailed in the evaluation questions.

The evaluation will be based on a mix of the following methods (but not limited to): Document review; review of available M&E data; and collection of primary data. Data collection methods during field visits will include:

- 1) focus group discussions to generate broad views on outcomes and issues of concern.
- 2) in-depth interviews with key stakeholders to collect data in individual perspectives and experiences.
- 3) key informant interviews with partners, government, and other duty bearers.
- 4) participant surveys to collect indicator-level data.

While the evaluation will focus on the analysis of key achievements and lessons across all of the countries where AWARD has on-going activities, fieldwork data collection will be conducted in four selected countries, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Ghana, where there is a concentration of activities. The in-depth country field visits will inform the identification and preparation of case studies, that provide an in-depth look at quantitative and qualitative results and illustrate key lessons.

Successful applications will include the following components:

Technical Proposal

Describing the evaluation approach, methodology, timelines and data collection methods to be used to meet the evaluation TOR, including opportunities, limitation and risks.

Proposed Evaluation Team

- a. Team composition

Describing overall approach to team composition and providing team members profiles (include CVs in Annex) as well as roles and responsibilities in the assignment.

- b. Team competencies required to meet the Terms of Reference

Describing the competencies of each team member to meet the evaluation TOR. Including specific expertise in the required areas

Suggestive Budget

The budget with detailed explanatory notes and should be submitted together with the proposal

Knowledge, experience, and competencies

In addition, lead consultant shall have:

- At least 10 years' experience as an evaluator with demonstrated quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis skills, with proven record of conducting formative, process and impact evaluation; including leading evaluations of multistakeholder programs for development organizations in Africa.

- Proven experience in evaluating gender equality and women's empowerment projects of value above 1 million dollars
- Possess at a minimum, a master's degree.
- Extensive experience of program formulation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Application process

ICRAF shall advertise the consultancy for competitive bidding. Interested consulting firms/service providers are requested to submit the following

- A Technical and Financial proposal which should include a description of the proposed methodology to be used and a schedule of planned activities
- CV(s) of the professional(s) with suitable references to undertake the consultancy
- Two (2) samples of previous work.

Any query concerning this consultancy should be addressed to AWARDdirector@cgiar.org

[Please click here for the detailed Terms of Reference](#) for the evaluation

How to Apply

Go to: <http://worldagroforestry.org/working-for-icraf/vacancies>

We will acknowledge all applications, but we will only contact short-listed candidates.

Closing date for receipt of applications: **June 20, 2022.**