CONSULTANCY VACANCY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST

Introduction:

The Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA) is implemented by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) and supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the US Feed the Future (FTF) initiative. LADA activities are in four counties Bong, Nimba, Lofa & Upper Montserratado with focus on three components:

C1: Increase private sector investment in agriculture inputs;
C2: Increase private sector investment in post-harvest handling support, packaging, marketing, storage and auxiliary services; and
C3: Strengthened facilitation, market information, advocacy and support.

LADA works to increase private sector investment and commercial finance to the agribusiness sector and expand commercially sustainable linkages between consumers, producers and post-harvest enterprises. LADA is designed to provide broad support to agricultural development and food security initiatives at the community and national levels in Liberia. It supports forging innovative partnerships with the private sector to leverage new resources and maximize impact in support of development efforts. The activity supports USAID/Liberia IR 2.1.2: Agricultural Sector Growth Supported, Sub IR 2.2: Selected Value Chains Strengthened and IR 2.3: Enabling Environment Supports Private Sector Growth.

PROJECT STATEMENT:

LADA activities coincide with the partial fulfillment of the government of Liberia’s commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), which is the agricultural program of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. Additionally, the review phase one of the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP 2010 - 2015) and the development of the phase two of the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP – 2017 - 2021) are in harmony with LADA support to the Government of Liberia. These initiatives provide an opportunity to leverage USAID/LADA interventions with those of Liberian government and private-sector actors to create positive change in the agricultural sector of Liberia. The government goals under CAADP/LASIP are closely aligned with those of LADA, including a strong focus on reducing food imports, mainly rice and cassava. As a result, strong leverage is being generated with the GoL to create initiatives with high impact on Food Security, Nutrition and Agribusiness development.

LADA activities are closely coordinated with the Government of Liberia, and in particular the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), to increase the impact and leverage of the interventions in the
agricultural sector. Therefore, LADA will engage a selected professional to work with the MOA and its partners to develop the second phase of the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) for a period of thirty days. LASIP 2010-2015 was a five years intervention aimed at promoting agricultural growth and development through a public-private partnership (PPP) in which investment growth for the export sector was led by the private sector, while the public sector concentrated on the promotion of smallholder farmer growth and development. LASIP phase one which starting in 2010 and ending in 2015 will require a five year extension from 2018 – 2021 to further strengthen gains made during the LASIP phase one and address critical gaps brought about as a result of the Ebola virus disease outbreak in 2014/2015.

CNFA/LADA IS IN SEARCH OF ONE QUALIFIED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION EXPERT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION TO ASSIST THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS PARTNERS TO DEVELOP A FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF THE LASIP PHASE TWO IN THE CAPACITY OF A CONSULTANT.

OBJECTIVES:

The Food Security and Nutrition Consultant will provide technical assistance to MOA and its partners to develop the food security and nutrition component which will include a provision to address social protection theme of LASIP phase two.

ACTIVITIES:

The Consultant will be deployed at the Ministry of Agriculture and tasked with important roles and responsibilities leading to the development of the second phase of the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) for Liberia.

The key roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Preparatory Phase

- Carry out an assessment of the food security and nutrition component of LASIP-I to identify gaps and recommendation;
- Conduct desk review on key policies relating to social protection, food security and nutrition;
- Identify key gaps and challenges/emerging issues that the investment plan intends to address through meetings with key stakeholders;
- Field visits to evaluate specific Food Security, Nutrition and Social Protection projects to identify challenges; and
- Develop strategic framework around nutrition, food security and cross-cutting theme on social protection.

Formation Phase

- Develop five year strategy for the food security and nutrition component for LASIP Phase two.
- Support a team of experts including the Agricultural Development Specialist to develop a five years investment plan for the nutrition and food security component and cross-cutting theme on social protection.
- Develop five years food security and nutrition communication strategy.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation plan for the food security and Nutrition component.

**Validation Phase**

- Facilitate the validation of the five years strategy and investment plan for the Food security and Nutrition component.
- Facilitate the validation of M&E plan as related to the investment plan;
- Participate in the validation of the costing and its relationship to the investment plan; and
- Facilitate the validation of the five year communication strategy of the food security and Nutrition component.

**Deliverables**

This engagement will focus on key deliverables that measure the implementation of the assigned roles and responsibilities to inform the Ministry of Agriculture and CNFA/LADA on achievements during the duration of the assignment. These deliverables will be achieved while serving as a liaison between the Ministry of Agriculture and CNFA/LADA, interfacing where needed to ensure that resources are leveraged properly.

The deliverables are as per the below:
- Assessment of the LASIP-I food security and nutrition component of and develop recommendations to be included in LASIP-II.
- Develop a Strategic framework to implement the food security and Nutrition component including addressing social protection.
- A team of experts including the Agricultural Development Specialist is supported and a five years investment plan completed for the nutrition and food security component and cross-cutting theme on social protection.
- Develop a Five year food security and nutrition communication strategy
- Develop a Monitoring and evaluation plan for the food security and Nutrition component.

The deliverables will be completed under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture’s CAADP focal point. The Consultant will jointly report to the Ministry of Agriculture’s CAADP focal point and to the LADA Chief of Party.

**Timeline:** The applicable deliverable timeline is for a period of about six weeks which should commence on June 12, 2017 and be completed on July 28, 2017 or as indicated within the Consultancy Agreement.

**Level of Effort:** The consultant will have a short-term personal service contract from CNFA/LADA of six weeks (June 12, 2017 – July 28, 2017) to complete the tasks or as indicated within the Consultancy Agreement.
Qualifications: The following characteristics and background are required:

- Master’s degree in Agriculture Economics, Food Security and Nutrition, International Development, Business or related field. Or bachelor’s degree and an additional five years of relevant experience.
- Minimum of 10 years of work experience in Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition and Social Protection, with three years of experience in economic development practices.
- Experience in developing economic investment plans for national and multi-national interventions in food security and nutrition and social protection.
- Acquainted with agricultural and rural development conditions in emerging markets. Priority will be given to knowledge of Liberian agricultural development and economic investment conditions.
- Practical skills in food security, nutrition and social protection.
- An understanding of CAADP
- Experience working with USAID and other donors.
- Excellent writing and oral communications skills.
- Capacity to interact effectively with people from different cultures and work with governments and donor agencies.

Deadline for submission of application: 9 JUNE 2017 at 4:00 P. M.

Applicants within Monrovia and its environs may apply in the following manner: Application should be submitted in hard copy addressed to the Human Resources Department, CNFA/USAID - LADA, Tubman Boulevard, Congo town (Behind Cuttington Graduate School), Monrovia, Liberia. Please indicate on the back of the envelope: “CONSULTANCY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST”). Applicants sending their applications electronically should use the following email address: ladahr@cnfa-liberia.org. These applications should include the position title: “CONSULTANCY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST”) in the subject line. CNFA is an equal opportunity employer. Female candidates are encouraged to apply. Applicants should submit salaries histories (past/current) within their CVs. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Failure to place the “CONSULTANCY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST”) on the envelopes (hard copies) or in the subject (electronic copies) and failure to provide salary histories is an automatic disqualification of such applications.