



PAN-AFRICAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Your ref:

Our ref: **ARSO/PAQI/A55/VOL.1/502**

PAQI Secretariat

3rd Floor, International House
Mama Ngina Street
P. O. Box 57363-00200

Nairobi, Kenya

Tel. 254-020-2224561/3311641/3311608

Email: paqi@arso-oran.org

Web: www.paqi.org

Date: 2019-08-10

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO CONDUCT A GAP ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

1. Background and Context.

The 20th AU CAMI Ordinary Session held on 10th - 14th June 2013 on quality, standards and metrology recognized the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) composed of the African Organisation of Standardization (ARSO), the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), the Intra-Africa Metrology System (AFRIMETS) and the African Electro-technical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) as the continental platform for all matters related to standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Africa's goods and services and contribute towards the industrialization of the continent and its sustainability.

The Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) is in line with international good practices with regard to Quality Infrastructure, which consists of Standards, Metrology (Measurement) and Accreditation. The work of the four PAQI institutions is critical for economic Integration in Africa as envisioned in the signed African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in March 2018 especially its annexes on Technical Barriers de Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS). PAQI was officially launched in August 2013 by the Director of trade and industry, African Union Commission (AUC) and on 30th August 2013 they signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the following objectives:

1. To promote the development of a coherent PAQI supporting the objectives of African integration in accordance with the Abuja Treaty;
2. To strengthen the development and implementation of African policies on Standards, Measurement, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation that supports the realization of Africa's Economic integration and environmental sustainability;
3. To provide timely Standards, Measurement, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation solutions to the region whilst upholding the values of openness, transparency and consensus;
4. To develop effective relations with the AU and RECs in order to promote and reinforce the role of PAQI as a tool for supporting AU policies those enhance intra-African and global trade to improve quality of life;
5. To represent Africa on all matters pertaining to standards, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation;
6. To secure adequate funding for the PAQI to support capacity development in Standards, Measurement, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation in close collaboration.



In their 8th Joint Committee meeting that took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 4th August 2016, PAQI institutions agreed to cooperate in undertaking a joint project to improve the quality and competitiveness of the Cassava and Cassava products in all levels of the value chain. This project will be implemented through the following 3 major phases:

Phase 1: Gap Analysis and needs assessment

Phase 2: Capacity Building and harmonisation of standards and conformity assessment systems

Phase 3: Implementation of Conformity assessment and Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA)

2. Objectives of the consultancy

The purpose of the consultancy is to conduct a gap analysis and needs assessment study in African Countries investigating the state of the art on existing developments and gaps in standardisation and conformity assessment for cassava and cassava products and the role that different stakeholders including quality infrastructure institutions in African countries would be expected to play. The report will be expected to make recommendations that will enable the designing and the implementation of effective plans to improve the quality of cassava through harmonisation and application of standards, methods of test and accurate measurements. Special attention should be paid to examining the role that national quality Infrastructure institutions currently play, their accessibility to the users and to identifying ways in which discrepancies between regulations and standards can be reduced while protecting legitimate public interests.

3. Scope of Work

3.1 Analyse the current state of cassava sector in African top producing and consuming countries, examine the existing national or regional standards and technical regulations and conformity assessment regimes with a view to demonstrate gaps and draw recommendations that will guide the development of plans to improve quality of cassava and cassava products with the aim to boost trade volumes among African Countries and outside Africa.

3.2 Identify project participants at each stage of the cassava value chain, from pre-production, production, post-harvest, processing, market and consumption from the targeted countries.

3.3 Conduct feasibility study to gain intra-Africa mutual acceptance of measurement standards benchmarking to international best practices

3.4 Develop a regional MRA framework for intra-Africa acceptance by linking measurements in Cassava processing to the international measurement system

4. Methodology

In undertaking the tasks described above, the Consulting Company will employ a combination of desk research and telephone or skype interviews with representatives of NSBs, African accreditation bodies, surveillance and inspection bodies' offices, Cassava Producers cooperatives, Cassava collection centres, transporters' associations and any other relevant stakeholders. The Consulting Company will also take into account relevant and updated documents, reports, industrialisation and market issues related to cassava sector and provide recommendations accordingly.

5. Deliverables and Reporting

- a) **Inception Report** - The Consulting Company will provide a brief inception report confirming understanding of the full scope of work to be carried out and the proposed methodology.
- b) **Draft Report** - The Consulting Company will prepare a draft detailed report with necessary annexes/appendices fully providing the items outlined below for consideration by the PAQI Joint Committee:
 - (i) Gaps between different qualities of cassava and needs for improved specifications, guidelines and conformity assessment systems in targeted countries
 - (ii) Existing cassava standards and gaps in standards and conformity assessment schemes
 - (iii) Existing Electrotechnical standards for processing equipment and gaps in the same
 - (iv) Existing and missing methods of test for the cassava Value Chain
 - (v) Priority African standards to pursue certification
 - (vi) Product maps and charts for possible food and non-food products obtainable from cassava and technical realization of the products including authoritative references
 - (v) Criteria to identify and select 200 cassava value chain players in targeted countries to participate in various project activities including capacity building and certification
 - (vi) Methodology to gain intra-Africa mutual acceptance of measurement standards and
 - (vii) Regional MRA framework for intra-Africa acceptance by linking measurements in Cassava processing to the international measurement system
- c) The Consulting Company will be expected to present their **Draft Report** to a select audience put together by the PAQI Joint Committee and may thereafter be requested to rework on recommendations made at the workshop.
- d) The Consulting Company shall submit a **Final Report** in the form of the document covering the full scope of work as outlined in section 3 and including any suggestions and recommendations made at the workshop referred to in point b) above.

6. Timeframe

The Consulting Company will be expected to conduct the actions **within 120 working days over a period of six (6) months** to commence no later than **30th September, 2019**.



7. Consulting Company Qualifications

The Consulting Company should possess the following qualifications/competencies:

- Not less than 10 years' experience in quality infrastructure situation in developing countries; At least 5 years' experience in national and international quality infrastructure work and sound knowledge of best practice approaches;
- Demonstrated understanding of import/export procedures, and regulatory environments;
- Demonstrated experience in agriculture economics with particular knowledge on cassava production
- Familiarity with the development of voluntary standards, metrology systems and technical regulations; and
- Demonstrated experience in undertaking similar assignments in developing countries /or other countries in the region

8. Bidding

Applicants are requested to submit an application package in **ZIP Format** which includes:

- A technical proposal outlining the suggested work plan and methodologies;
- References for similar work carried out in the past;
- The applying company profile with Curriculum Vitae of its core staff; and
- An estimated budget for carrying out the exercise.

The deadline for submission of bid is **10th September, 2019 latest 5:00 p.m.**

Applications should be addressed to:

African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) Central Secretariat
Ref: Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) Joint Secretariat
International House 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 57363-00200 Nairobi-Kenya
Tel. +254-20-2224561, +254-20-3311641

Or by e-mail to: info@arso-aran.org, paqi@arso-aran.org and nadineu@arso-aran.org



ANNEX

Example: Flow chart of various processed and unprocessed products derived from cassava (Kouakou *et al.*, 2016)

