



Strengthening Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Africa

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CALL FOR PROPOSAL

CAPACITY BUILDING SERVICES- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES SELECTION IN MALI

FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SUBDELEGATION NUMBER: 005/AUDA-NEPAD/DPIP-IFAD/2021

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) is an African-owned and led continental agency, spearheading the implementation of Agenda 2063. The decision on the African Union Development Agency is an affirmation by Member States of their commitment to own an instrument that will champion development support to countries and regional bodies in advancing their priorities, through the implementation of Agenda 2063. The Decision was made during the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in July 2018. The AUDA-NEPAD structure and directorates were approved during the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in Niamey, Niger in July 2019. The Programme Innovation and Planning Directorate (PIPD) of AUDA-NEPAD is charged with programme development, data analytics, research, and innovation, as well as technical, cooperation and advisory services. This project is piloted by PIPD.

The purpose of this call for proposal is to identify eligible partner(s) or services provider(s), to support the delivery of the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) project on Strengthening Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Africa. The partner(s) could be a public or private entity. AUDA-NEPAD through the support of a national consultant and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, Mali had identified five priority agriculture and agribusiness value chains for the country: **Gum Arabic, Baobab, Market gardening: onion/shallot; potato; Livestock: cattle/meat; milk.** Value chain herein refers to production and processing of agriculture, livestock, and fishery products. This call is aimed at identifying specific partner(s) that have the relevant capacities, expertise, skills, and ability to support the delivery of results for rural youths indicated in section 3 of the document.

1.2 Problem Statement and Background to the assignment

The 2030 Agenda recognizes young people as “critical agents of change” and integrates their priorities and needs across the economic, environmental and social dimensions of development. Africa's demographic profile indicates that more than 30% of Africa's population is unemployed, of which 60% are young women and men. For Mali, youth unemployment as a percentage of total labour force aged 15-24 stands at 12.1%. More so, 75% of the unemployed youth in Africa are females. Some of the reasons for the continued high youth unemployment rates in Africa is the mismatch between policies and the demand for jobs by young people.

The marginalization of rural youth can be attributed to several factors including: (a) inadequate employment policy for the rural youth, (b) lack of access to land and inability to access finance and (c) illiteracy and skills' mismatch. This gloomy situation has resulted in the high rural-urban/cross-border migrations with the worst

scourge being the inter-continental migration resulting in deaths due to harsh weather condition in the Sahara and at sea. If this situation is allowed to continue, it may lead to instability and risk of civil unrest in the continent.

One of the interventions to address rural unemployment in the continent is the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) led project on Strengthening Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Africa. The project is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The target groups are young women and men between the ages of 18 and 35 years in Mali. The targeted rural youths may have basic literacy and numeracy skills. The overall goal of the project is to contribute towards improving the enabling environment for young women and men to access decent and sustainable employment opportunities, through (i) development of National Action Plans for Rural Youth employment and entrepreneurship (ii) adapting and piloting skills curriculums in Agriculture Training and Vocational Training (iii) strengthening policy dialogue on innovative and inclusive financial services for entrepreneurship and employment for the rural youth.

2.0 Objectives of the of the Project

The project on strengthening opportunities for rural youth employment and opportunities in Africa has a strong capacity building component to ensure that young people are equipped with the requisite skills needed to engage in economic empowerment activities. A partner(s) is required to increase choices of value chains within the formal and informal training in the rural sector, through piloting curriculums in agriculture and agribusiness value chains that have been developed for Mali. A value chain comprises both production and processing.

Component 2 of the AUDA project on Strengthening Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Africa focuses on Vocational Training (Formal and Non-Formal) for the rural youths. It seeks to address the challenge of the mismatch between the education system and the available (and emerging) livelihood (economic) opportunities in rural areas. The focus is therefore to contribute to revitalizing educational, technical, and vocational skills to align with future needs for rural and agriculture-led transformation. The envisaged interventions include piloting of the ATVET curriculums along specific priority value chains. For Mali, the following rural youths would be supported to acquire skills to become agripreneurs in any of the following value chains: **Gum Arabic, Baobab, Market gardening: onion/shallot; potato; Livestock: cattle/meat; milk.**

2.1 Specific Activities and Methodology

The partner is expected to conduct training for the youth in one or two cohorts and would:

1. Pilot customized curriculums that were developed along 5 priority value chains.
2. Conduct admission for the selected youths.
3. Support the Business plan development for the trainees.
4. Develop post-training mechanisms to monitor students trained under the project.

3.0 Expected Outcomes of the assignment and Deliverables

The outcomes of the assignment would be monitored quarterly through field visits and progress reports (technical and financial) based on a budget-based work plan along the following outputs and deliverables:

SN	Expected Outputs	Timelines
1	Report of equipping not less than 150 rural youths (male and female) with employable skills in agriculture and agribusiness enterprises in Mali	Within 6 months of commencement
2	Report of support to the trainees to produce bankable business plans	Within 6 months of commencement
3	Report of support to the establishment of startups amongst the trainees. At least 5 from the project budget	Within 9 months of commencement
4	Report of support to the trainees to participate in AUDA and other partners sponsored national, regional, and continental policy dialogues and agribusiness exhibitions.	Within 9 months of commencement

5	A consolidated report of the project, capturing activities 1,2,3, and 4 on the table	Within 10 months of commencement
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4.0 Resource Requirement

The African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) now invites eligible entities to submit Project proposals to conduct “Formal and Informal Vocational Training on Agriculture and Agribusiness for rural youths in Mali”.

Interested firms must have proven experience and track record in building the capacity of rural youths to engage in farming, agriculture, agribusiness, rural enterprises and agri-preneurship. The entity should be able to undertake the assignment within Ten (10) months. Firms will be required to submit the Project proposal which will also include the following documents:

- a) **An Official signed Letter from an authorized official, expressing interest of participation in the call for proposal**
- b) **A technical and financial proposal not limited to the following components: -**
 - i. Introduction and Context
 - ii. Problem Statement
 - iii. Objectives of the Project
 - iv. Methodological activities and approaches to the call for proposal
 - v. Budgeted Workplan for the project activities
 - vi. Anticipated Risks and Mitigations
- c) **General profile and background of the firm which should elaborate the following but not limited to: -**
 - i. Core Business of the firm and thematic areas of specialization
 - ii. Names of authorized representatives of the firms (Power of Attorney).
 - iii. In the cases of Consortiums/Partnerships/Associations shall be required to submit Joint venture (JV) Agreements/Joint Association letters stating the lead firm.
 - iv. Firms and JVs should be registered in Mali.

5.0 The Shortlisting Criteria will not be limited to the following

Applicants will be selected in accordance with the AUDA-NEPAD Grants and Sub-delegation Guidelines that includes the Core business of the entity and specialization, Demonstration of understanding the project facet and objectives from the inception to closure, Capacity of the entity and Quality of the proposal.

The selection criteria will include the following factors

- ✓ Experience of the in executing similar projects in the past five years.
- ✓ Availability of Professional Key Staff with Suitable Qualifications in the field of the project.
- ✓ Demonstrate experience to deliver at least 3 of the value chains: Gum Arabic, Baobab, Market gardening: onion/shallot; potato; Livestock: cattle/meat; milk.
- ✓ Demonstrate experience to capacitate male and female youths between 18 to 35 years within farming, agriculture, agribusiness, rural enterprises and agri-preneurship.
- ✓ Alignment of the workplan and Budget to the proposal.

6.0 Call for Proposal Information

- 1) AUDA-NEPAD reserves the right to verify any information provided by prospective entities/individuals and false information will lead to disqualification. The Agency reserves the right to reject any or all Calls without stating any reason.
- 2) AUDA-NEPAD will evaluate the proposals and will notify the selected entity.
- 3) AUDA-NEPAD will conduct a due diligence on the entity before entering into a grant agreement with the firm.

- 4) Any documents submitted with this proposal will not be returned and all expenses related to participation in this call for proposal shall be borne by the applicants.
- 5) AUDA-NEPAD reserves the right to request submission of additional information from applicants to clarify aspects of the proposal, if required.
- 6) Interested firms may obtain further information through an email from the Head of Procurement, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Procurement Division, 230, 15th Road, P. O. Box 218 Midrand, 1685 Johannesburg, South Africa. The telephone number is +27-11-074-19621/+27-11-256 3600, and the Email: procurement@nepad.org and VictorineB@nepad.org from 08:00 hours to 16:30hours local South Africa time from Monday to Friday.
- 7) The Call for proposal should be clearly marked “Formal and Informal Vocational Training on Agriculture and Agribusiness for rural youths in Mali, Subdelegation Number: **“005/AUDA-NEPAD/DPIP-IFAD/2021”** and sent by email before on or before **26 November 2021 at 16:30 hours** South African time and clearly addressed to:

The Chairperson
Grants and Sub delegation Committee
The African Union Development Agency
230, 15th Road, P. O. Box 218 Midrand, 1685
Johannesburg, South Africa
Email: procurement@nepad.org

- 8) Interested consultancy firms may obtain further information from the African Union Development Agency website: <http://www.nepad.org/tenders> or, Email: procurement@nepad.org on or before **26 November 2021 at 16:30 hours** South African.

7.0 COPYRIGHTS

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