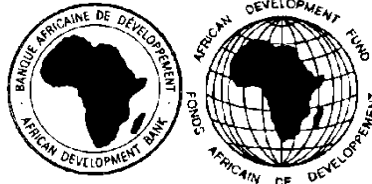




REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
National Investment Commission (NIC)
M&E Professional Building/ UN Drive
Monrovia, Liberia



Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
(Consultancy Services)

Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project

CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR “FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
(ISO 22000) AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (ISO 9001)
CERTIFICATION TRAINING”

Sector: Agriculture/Industry

Financing Agreement Reference: 2100150042703

Project ID: P-LR-AA0-009

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Liberia (GoL), through the National Investment Commission (NIC), has secured funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to prepare and implement the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project within the Buchanan Special Economic Zone. This project aims to stimulate economic growth, foster sustainable agricultural development, and ultimately reduce poverty in Liberia. The project's specific objectives include reducing unemployment, decreasing reliance on imported staple foods, and establishing essential infrastructure and a favorable economic environment to attract private sector investment in agriculture and agro-industry.

The project development objectives are to:

- i) Create a better business environment for increased investment in the agro-industrial sector,
- ii) Create opportunities for investments at the industrial level and coordinate the integration of smallholder farms and agro-processing industry into sustained agro value chains and,
- iii) Improve capacities and skills to benefit from new agribusiness employment and value chain opportunities.

The project is structured around three related components, including:

- a) Support the development of Climate-resilient Infrastructure to attract investments into Agricultural Value addition/industrialization,

- b) Support Business Competitiveness, enable skills and climate-smart agricultural value chain development and strengthen farmer coordination and,
- c) Strengthen Institutional Capacity, Project Coordination & Management.

The SAPZ Project in Liberia aims to strengthen the agricultural sector by providing smallholder farmers, MSMEs, and youth with essential skills in business management, farming practices, and entrepreneurship. The SAPZ will enhance local capacities to produce high-quality, competitive agricultural products through structured training. This empowers Liberia's agribusiness sector to reduce its reliance on food imports and positions it to contribute to regional food security and economic integration within the West African market.

On an international scale, the project aligns Liberia with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) goals, making the country an attractive destination for investment in agribusiness. The SAPZ Project also encourages youth engagement in agriculture, creating employment opportunities and fostering a generation of Agri Entrepreneurs. This transformation builds a foundation for Liberia to become a competitive regional agribusiness hub, ultimately contributing to a self-sufficient, interconnected African agricultural economy.

Furthermore, adopting international standards in food safety and quality management across SAPZ operations is essential. This requires training in ISO 22000 (Food Safety Management Systems) to ensure food safety standards are consistently met and ISO 9001 (Quality Management Systems) to standardize the quality process and increase efficiency.

Both certifications will help meet the global market requirement, enhancing the competitiveness of its agricultural products and attracting private sector investment aligning with SAPZ Project's broader economic and development goals.

The SAPZ Project seeks to engage a qualified training firm with the required certification to provide comprehensive training and guidance on the implementation and certification process of both ISO 22000 and ISO 9001 standards.

2. Objectives of the Assignment

This training program aims to equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to implement, manage, and maintain Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) according to ISO 22000 standards and Quality Management Systems (QMS) according to ISO 9001 standards. By the end of the training, participants will:

1. Understand the requirements and principles of ISO 22000 and ISO 9001.
2. Be capable of developing and implementing systems that ensure food safety and quality control in their respective organizations.
3. Be prepared for the certification process for ISO 22000 and ISO 9001.
4. Understand how to monitor, audit, and improve these management systems.

3. Scope of Work

The consulting or/training firm will be responsible for:

Training Design and Development

- Identify and Map SMEs, Farming Cooperatives, Processors, and Aggregators in Agribusinesses in the value chain of the selected commodities (rice, cassava, oil palm, coffee, cocoa, rubber, fruits and vegetables, and aquaculture).

- Conduct needs assessment and capacity gap of the SMEs, Farming Cooperatives, Processors, and Aggregators, which will serve as inputs into the development of the training modules
- Develop a comprehensive training plan covering all essential components of ISO 22000 and ISO 9001.
- Prepare training materials, including presentations, case studies, manuals, and practical exercises.

Training Delivery

- Conduct interactive training sessions, providing both theoretical and practical knowledge.
- Deliver the training in two modules:
- Module 1: ISO 22000 – Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS)
- Module 2: ISO 9001 – Quality Management Systems (QMS)
- Tailor the sessions to the specific needs of the participants and their industry contexts.

Certification Preparation

- Guide the organization through the ISO certification process.
- Offer insights into compliance audits, gap assessments, and readiness checks.
- Provide recommendations on engaging certification bodies.

4. Training Approach and Methodology

The training methodology should focus on a mix of lectures, group discussions, practical exercises, case studies, and real-world examples. The approach should be interactive and participatory to foster a deep understanding of the key principles and processes of ISO 22000 and ISO 9001. The methodology should include:

- identification and mapping of the primary stakeholders and needs assessment
- Workshops: Hands-on sessions where participants can practice applying ISO requirements.
- Case Studies: Analysis of real-life scenarios to identify risks, opportunities, and solutions.
- Mock Audits: Simulated audits to help participants experience audit processes and requirements.
- Q&A Sessions: Allow participants to ask questions specific to their organizational needs.

The National Investment Commission invites eligible consulting firm (s) to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consulting firm (s) must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services, (i) information detailing the company’s existence and areas of expertise (ii) a list of similar assignments and experience in similar conditions with evidence of past performance, (iii) list of overall permanent and temporary staff in fields related to the assignment (**Business Development/ Agricultural Economist/ Development Planning Expert, Certified Lead Auditor or Trainer for ISO 22000 & ISO 9001 standards** and **Food Scientist/ Expert**), and (iv) any other relevant information that might be useful. Qualification will be considered from one of two perspectives: a. firm’s qualification/experiences and b. staff and consultants’ qualifications/experiences. Consulting firms may constitute joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, the establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s ***“Procurement Policy and Methodology for Bank Group Funded Operations” (BPM)***, dated October 2015”, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monrovia Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in hardcopy or by email to the address below and clearly marked “**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (ISO 22000) AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (ISO 9001) CERTIFICATION TRAINING**” on or before 3:00 pm Local time Thursday, April 17, 2025.

All communication shall be addressed to:

Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Project

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Project Coordinator

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Monrovia, Liberia

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