



Request for Proposals

External Independent Evaluation of LEAP4FNSSA Monitoring Data and Impact Assessment Projections

Context and background information

The design and implementation of the EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture was prompted by the level of global hunger, expanding nutritional imbalances, and the need for food production systems in Europe and in Africa to sustainably respond to the rising demands of a global population. A number of past studies conducted by food security organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme have brought attention to the gaps and challenges faced by both Europe and Africa in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, and have subsequently offered solutions through the establishment of dedicated programmes and projects. Some key recommendations from these studies included the need to be innovative and sustainable, as well as forming long-term multilateral/multi-stakeholder partnerships.

To support this bi-continental partnership, the LEAP4FNSSA¹ project has been established to foster and accelerate the implementation of the High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) Roadmap on FNSSA² by transforming the existing Research & Innovation Partnership into a sustainable Platform. The general objective of the Project is to establish a sustainable structure, or platform, for the efficient and coherent implementation of the AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership as described in the Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) Roadmap. Under the aegis of the EU-AU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) and its Bureau, and by building upon related projects such as RINEA, CAAST-Net. Plus, ProIntensAfrica and LEAP-Agri, LEAP4FNSSA aims to achieve this overall objective through three specific objectives:

- Increase the synergies and coherence between actors, research and innovation projects, initiatives and programmes, through the development of institutional alliances and clusters of projects;
- Develop a learning environment and a large knowledge base, including monitoring and evaluation activities, creating communication and links between different initiatives to improve STI cooperation;
- Establish a long term and sustainable governance and funding mechanism for the Platform.

To reach these objectives, LEAP4FNSSA builds on a consortium of experienced partners to implement a methodology based on 3 principles: long-term impact, relevance of the outputs to the HLPD, and innovative actions.

¹ <https://www.leap4fnssa.eu/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/eu-africa_roadmap_2016.pdf

Purpose and scope the external independent evaluation

This evaluation will assess the effectiveness of data collection tools, methodological approaches and existing Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) delivery processes, to provide recommendations for future data collection within the delivery of the LEAP4FNSSA MEL framework.

This external evaluation is foreseen in LEAP4FNSSA Grant Agreement, under Task 1.4 of Work Package (WP) 1.

The work will be focused on a review of the indicator data collected for the Baseline Study, the 1st Annual Progress Report on monitoring and impact, and the light interim evaluation of the FNSSA partnership.

It is expected the selected external independent evaluator will review collected monitoring data using a methodological framework driven by the evaluation criteria described in the FNSSA Roadmap, and guided by the Theory of Change and the indicators agreed in the Logframe.

The selected external independent evaluator is also required to undertake an assessment of the data collection process, specifically looking at the design and application of monitoring tools and stakeholder communication strategies. Of particular interest will be appropriateness of the data collection strategy to the LEAP4FNSSA programme owners and project coordinators.

Finally, recommendations are to be drawn from the evaluation which will support future indicator data collection tools, systems and strategies for the Partnership.

Specific objectives of the external independent evaluation of LEAP4FNSSA monitoring data and impact assessment

1. To assess the relevance, coherence and quality of collected data to the overall monitoring and evaluation framework;
2. To assess the systems and processes in place to collect data that inform impact assessment.

Meetings, reporting and timelines

The external independent evaluation will be conducted using desk-based reviews of the quantitative and qualitative datasets collected by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)³.

The external independent evaluation is expected to start on 4th January 2021 with a draft report submitted for review on the 5th February 2021, comments from the draft report will be provided to the evaluator within 1 week of submission and approval. Final submission of the report to the ACU and the LEAP4FNSSA WP1 co-leaders will be on the 19th February.

³ <https://www.acu.ac.uk/>

Presentation of the findings of this external review to the HLPD FNSSA WG will be done afterwards, at a date yet to be confirmed.

The total budget available for the external independent evaluation is 8,750 €, including VAT (bids exceeding this amount will not be considered). 25% of the budget will be paid on the submission and approval of the draft report of the external independent evaluation, with the remainder paid on submission and approval of the final external independent evaluation. Following the selection process, details of the workplan are to be submitted by the consultant/organisation and approved in consultation with the ACU, and the LEAP4FNSSA WP 1 co-leaders. The subcontractor has no rights or obligations towards the Commission/Agency or the other LEAP4FNSSA project beneficiaries (it has no contractual relation with them).

Confidentiality

The external independent evaluation is confidential, and to be disseminated only for the ACU, members of the Working Group and other relevant members of the Consortium.

Deliverables

Deliverable	Date Due
First draft of an external independent evaluation report of monitoring data and indicator collection systems.	5 th February 2021
Comprehensive final external independent evaluation report that puts forward the evaluator's findings of monitoring data and indicator collection systems, including recommendations for future indicator data collection strategies.	19 th February 2021

How to apply

If you are interested in carrying out this first external independent evaluation, please send a company profile to tim.fry@acu.ac.uk, indicating your previous experience in relation to evaluation work done for reputable entities and a tender including the following elements:

- Organisational profile (including detail of evaluations completed in the past) and CV's (max. 2 pages) of proposed project team.
- Technical proposal (3 pages maximum) including proposed evaluation questions, methodology and delivery plan.
- Full budget presenting the costs.
- A sample report from a previous project evaluation.

Submission of expression of interest by email to: tim.fry@acu.ac.uk by 16th December 2020, any submissions after this date will not be accepted.

Evaluation criteria for applications

1. Experience of managing discrete evaluation projects within complex international, multi-stakeholder consortia.
2. Experience of delivering or working with projects in the international relations and or international development sector.
3. Clear identification of evaluation questions relating to the data quality and relevance.
4. Clear identification of evaluation questions relating to the indicator data collection systems and processes.
5. Value for money within the proposed scope of work and budget available.
6. Not be a member of the LEAP4FNSSA project.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the proposals will be based on “best value for money” with the following criteria and percentage weighting.

Criteria	Percentage weighting
Quality of the proposal	50%
Experience and competences of the submitting team	50%

Evaluation process

The Task 1.4 leaders the ACU, will evaluate the submitted proposals according to the evaluation criteria and make a prioritized list of recommendations for the WP1 co-leaders and the Coordination to decide who should do the evaluation.

Conditions

The results and the delivered study report will be owned by LEAP4FNSSA and will be confidential.

The conditions mentioned in the ToR are not for negotiation.