

Research on Sustainable Governance of Food Systems in Bolivia (South America) and Kenya

Call for Application for a Consultant Senior Research Scientist for a Food Systems Trade Study in Kenya

Date of call: 12 December 2016

Closing date: COB 31st January 2017

Project Setting

CETRAD is a research and training organisation established through a bilateral instrument between the governments of Kenya and Switzerland. We are based in Nanyuki, Kenya. CETRAD is in a consortium of leading research scientists and institutions in Switzerland and Bolivia that is implementing a research project focusing on Food Sustainability in South America and Africa under the funding of the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d Programme) implemented jointly by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The main objective of the Food Sustainability Project is to provide evidence-based scientific knowledge for the formulation and promotion of innovation strategies and policy options that improve individual and aggregate levels of food systems' sustainability. The emphasis of the project is on finding ways to enhance collaboration within and between coexisting food systems.

The project is structured into five thematic Work Packages, namely WP1 (context mapping, trends, and space for democratic participation); WP2 (institutions, actors, and perceptions); WP3 (activities, value chains, livelihoods, and food security); WP4 (environmental integrity and social-ecological resilience); and WP5 (integration, policy options, and dissemination).

Study Content

The WP1 team is looking to recruit a suitably qualified, dynamic, highly motivated, and self-driven person to conduct a study on how economic regimes impact on the food systems under study: local food system (maize); national food system (wheat, dairy, beef); and international food system (flowers and vegetables). The study will specifically look at the prevailing trade regime; government involvement in the food processing industry in Kenya; and the food standard regulation and intellectual property rights, as briefly outlined hereunder:

1. Trade Regime

The component on trade regime will primarily examine the prevailing trade conditions and endeavours to respond the questions “to what extent are the current food systems shaped by Kenya’s trade policy? And to what extent is Kenya’s trade policy embedded in / restricted by international commitments?”

- History of trade regulation (past three decades or more, if relevant)
- Trade data: products sold on local markets, national markets, international
- Which kind of trade agreements are relevant for Kenya / basic obligations
- Actual import / export tariffs on the assessed commodities (except flowers)
- Actual import / export tariffs on the respective processed products, based on the commodities as mentioned above
 - Subsidies paid by the government? In which form? Ex. Tax levy; promotion; input distribution etc
 - Trade statistics of the main commodities assesses (imports/exports to regional and OECD markets)
 - Local markets: supply / demand data, domestic trade flows
 - Market access to regional markets: which are the target markets? is access straightforward, or impeded (and if impeded, by which factors?)
 - Market access to OECD countries: which are the target markets? is access straightforward, or impeded (if yes, which are the main reasons?)
 - Discussion: how is the market shaped? How could it be shaped otherwise? Where is the “soar spot”?

2. Government Involvement in Food Processing Industry

This component will analyse agricultural policy with respect to assessed products and seeks to answer the following key questions:

- Does the government supportsourcing of domestic products by the processing industry? In which form?
 - Does the government have programmes supporting the processing of the respective products, to what extent? Which form?

Discussion: what is done, what is lacking?

3. Food Standards and Labelling policy, in particular GMOs

This component on food standards and labelling policy will focus on standards and labelling policies, particularly , but not only, with respect to GMOs, and enquire on:

- International commitments? WTO SPS- and TBT-Agreement
- National Food Standards: which food standards are relevant?
- Reaction of government to international private food standards (eg. Global GAP) in terms of Assistance? Adaption? Does the government promote domestic GAPs ?
- Labelling: what needs to be labelled, what not; and in particular the GMOs?
- Traceability of respective products etc

Discussion from a food sustainability perspective: what is lacking? What is good? What should be improved?

4. Seed and input rights (intellectual property)

This fourth component looks at the intellectual property rights in the context of seed and inputs and explores in detail:

- History
- International commitments related to intellectual property? WTO TRIPS- Agreement, UPOV 78/91 Agreements;
- How these have been implemented in Kenya?
- International human rights commitments related to seed and input rights
- Which rights do farmers have to propagate or replant seeds in Kenya?
- Issues on the ground? What did researchers who are working in the field find in this regard?

Discussion from a food sustainability / human rights perspective? Is there a problem?

Proposed Methodology and Process of Study

This is largely a desk study with no requirement for field surveys although some scheduled interviews are foreseen mainly with institutional stakeholders in order to get to relevant supplementary information where the desk study approach may become insufficient. The study process will involve wider reading and literature review; intensive interaction and

extensive discussions and exchange/sharing of information with other researchers (PhD students, supervisors and heads of this and other WPs; and also the consultants who are in charge of the trade study in Bolivia) of the larger R4D Project in order to gain relevant local and contextual knowledge that is already available, including on target markets; the concept of food sustainability, and links to the 3 food systems; etc.

The main interaction with the content supervisors at the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern shall be through skype meetings and email correspondence with the possibility of physical contacts during scheduled meetings and workshops here in Kenya. The main content supervisor at CDE/WTI in will be Dr. iur. Elisabeth Bürgi. With her, at least one skype meeting per month shall be scheduled, beginning first week of March.

Qualifications

This is a scientifically involving assignment requiring a senior research scientist and preferably holder of a PhD in law, political science, development studies or its equivalent. A highly experienced researcher who is well grounded into the topic under investigation who should specifically:

- be an expert in international economic law and policies, with particular focus on trade in agriculture and intellectual property rights;
- have good knowledge of Kenyan laws and policies with regard to agriculture, food processing and agricultural trade
- be prepared to work in an interdisciplinary team and to link empirical knowledge to legal questions
- In addition the successful candidate:
 - Must have strong analytical and excellent writing skills; and
 - Must be able to work with minimum supervision and within a multicultural setting

Terms of engagement

1. **Project communication:** Structurally, the successful candidate will answer to the WP1 leadership directly and/or through the local Research Coordination Office at CETRAD. Details of project communication policy shall be availed upon appointment.

2. **Timeframe:** This is a short term engagement, calculated to last four months on full time engagement. However given the challenge of getting a suitable candidate who is not engaged elsewhere, the assignment may be spread between February - September 2017, thus making it a 50% engagement.

3. Level of remuneration: This is a very competitive offer and the specific level of remuneration will be negotiated depending on the level of qualification, work experience, and competence in the topic under investigation.

4. Payment Schedule: The successful candidate shall sign an output/work based contract so that payments are based on successful completion and approval/acceptance of agreed milestones and products by the Content Supervisor at the WTO/CDE and Research Coordination Office in Nanyuki, as follows: 40% first payment will be made, upon signing of the engagement contract on 1st February 2017; 30% second payment will be made on 30 June 2017 upon submission of 1st draft of the report; 20% third payment will be made upon submission of final report on 31 July 2017; and 10% final payment upon satisfactory contribution, as a co-author, to a peer reviewed journal paper (8,000 words and bibliography) on 30 September 2017.

Enquiries/ submission Contact

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