



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST & SHORT CONCEPT

COMPETITIVE AFRICAN RICE INITIATIVE

The Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) wishes to announce its call for expression of interest & short concepts under the CARI Matching Fund (MF) in Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Tanzania.

Main target group of the MF are **Private Sector Organizations**. In reasonably justified exceptions, **Public Sector Institutions** or **Non-Governmental Organizations** heading a consortium of partners can be eligible as lead MF partners. If the lead partner is not a rice mill, one of the consortium partners need to be an off-taker with whom the lead partner has a proven relationship. All partners must be legally recognized and empowered to enter into binding agreements.

Eligible parties should be well established and have a strong interest in increasing productivity along the entire rice value chain. The inclusion of male and female smallholder rice farmers in sustainable business models is a core principle of CARI. Example key indicators are:

- Increased productivity and quality of paddy rice;
- Improved capacity utilization of the rice mill;
- Improved access to financing of value chain operations by the applicants
- Improved coordination and inclusion among key stakeholders in the local rice value chain;
- Increased adoption of sustainable rice production techniques (www.sustainablerice.org)
- Improved contractual relations (between producer and processor as well as processor and trader/consumer)

The Matching Fund is the backbone of the CARI project. It serves as vehicle to support partners to increase the productivity along the entire rice value chain. The MF partner/consortium is required to contribute at least 2/3 to the project budget, as the CARI contribution is limited to 1/3 (maximum). Depending on the farmer outreach and complexity of the proposed project, the CARI share shall be between 40,000 and 100,000 €. The duration of the project can be up to 18 months.

The expression of interest & short concept should not exceed ten pages and should include:

- a) Roles, responsibilities and contribution of consortium partner(s): a signed MoU of all partners within the consortium or explicit letter of intent to cooperate and contribute under the proposed project (a template is available on the CARI website) must be provided
- b) Brief qualitative description of the project
- c) Problem statement & relevance of project
- d) Goals and objectives
- e) Quantitative key performance indicators
- f) Company profile, staff structure and annual turnover
- g) Roles of service provider in the project
- h) Experience with similar projects
- i) Budget estimate

The Board of Matching Funds will review all expressions of interest & short concepts. The main criteria for the selection will be a competitive technical evaluation. It will be assessed how well each project covers the challenges along the rice value chain. Only concepts, which reach a minimum technical score, will be invited to hand in a full proposal. Furthermore, all applicants will undergo a sanction-list screening.

For more information about CARI please visit: www.cari-project.org

Please note that the deadline for expression of interest & short concepts **closes on 28th February 2019**. Please use exclusively the provided template for your short concept and send it to: Jean-Bernard.Lalanne@giz.de and kristina.spantig@giz.de.

“Increasing productivity along the entire rice value chain”

