



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF POSITION OF
VALUE CHAIN EXPERT

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is seeking candidates for project position for the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF 11).

JOB TITLE	: Value Chain Expert
DUTY STATION	: COMESA Secretariat, Lusaka, Zambia
DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT	: Two (2) Calendar years, with possibility of renewal
REMUNERATION	: EUR 6,000 per Month, ALL INCLUSIVE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat and the European Union (EU) have signed a Grant Contribution Agreement worth EUR 8,8 M for the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP).

The RECAMP is a four-year programme that aims at contributing to increased private sector participation in regional and global value chains. The Programme Overall objective is to contribute to the deepening of regional economic integration in the COMESA region through enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector with the Specific objective to increase private sector participation in sustainable regional and global value chains by increasing access to markets and improving business and investment climate.

The program integrates two key result areas which will be implemented with two sub result areas each as follows:

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| Result 1: | Competitiveness and market access of MSMEs and other firms in the targeted value Chains/sectors are sustainably enhanced. |
| Sub result 1.1: | Market access and business linkages in the targeted sectors are enhanced. |
| Sub result 1.2: | Capacities of beneficiary firms related to SPS and regional standards and quality management are improved. |
| Result 2: | Business environment is improved for MSMEs and other firms in the selected value chains. |
| Sub result 2.1: | Regional public-private dialogue platforms are supported and enhanced aimed at promoting business opportunities. |

Sub result 2.2: Regional policies in favour of value chains development are further developed and mainstreamed in national policies.

The action will prioritize the following three value chain sectors: agro processing, horticulture, and leather and leather products, with agro processing focusing on maize, livestock (fish, dairy, poultry, meat and related products) and agro-inputs particularly quality seeds.

The beneficiaries of the RECAMP will primarily be the Member States of COMESA, and particularly the private sector businesses with focus on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including MSMEs' youth and women entrepreneurs.

The policy measures to be taken and major operations foreseen include i) support private sector particularly Micro, small and medium enterprises to enhance their productivity through interventions at various stages of value chains and facilitating business linkages and market access; ii) to enhance the business and investment environment in the region by influencing the implementation of regional and national regulatory frameworks and policies that create a favorable environment for business.

It is expected that at the end of the programme, the impact will be that MSMEs productive/innovation capacity and competitiveness will be enhanced and that the business environment will be improved in the COMESA region, where women and youth will also be active participants and beneficiaries of enterprise development.

II. SPECIFIC TASKS/KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall guidance of the Director, Industry and Agriculture, and direct supervision of the Programme Team Leader, the Value Chain Expert will be responsible for providing technical lead for the value chains development, identifying viable value chain actors, facilitating market linkages, MSMEs engagement and coordinating capacity building support. The specific responsibilities include:

1. Set clear approach that supports facilitates value chain development;
2. Design and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan that continuously tracks performance in identified value-chains and that allows for adaptation or adjustments where and when necessary;
3. Develop and implement an action plan for upgrading identified value-chains by carrying out among others the following tasks:
 - (a) Contribute to the timely development and submission of annual project workplan and reports in line with the Contribution Agreement.
 - (b) Analyses the constraints and opportunities related to selected value chains with emphasis on the functionality of regional markets, support services, trade policies, market institutions and organizations, risk management systems and private sector engagement;
 - (c) undertake a literature review of studies and undertake further assessments of value chain development in COMESA region and Member States conducted by technical partners and other reputable institutions to come up with possible options for promoting MSMEs development and inclusion in the value chains;

- (d) Develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) for engaging Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA), supervision of consultants to conduct analytical studies and assessments on value chains and MSME businesses and carry quality assurance of deliverables;
- (e) support linkages for MSME businesses with lead firms and ensuring that technologies, knowledge and information required to meet quality and sanitary standards are accessed by MSME businesses including women-led businesses;
- (f) support development of sector specific regionally harmonised SPS/TBT good practice guides for prioritised value chains to enhance regional trade in close collaboration with SPS/TBT experts under TF programme;
- (g) support capacity building for MSMEs on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and regional standards and quality management in close collaboration with SPS/TBT experts under TF programme;
- (h) Support alignment of national policies to the regional policies in favour of value chains development, MSMEs growth, and industrialisation;
- (i) Facilitate public-private dialogues on SPS/TBT and Seed policies, regulations and their implementation at regional and global levels;
- (j) Carry out well planned information Communication and Visibility activities in line with and the agreed ICV plan
- (k) Ensure coordination and close collaboration with the other COMESA institutions and other development partners in the implementation of activities.
- (l) Facilitate project formulation by member states for submission under the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF). This is complemented by regular provision of accurate project information to member states to enable them informed decisions.
- (m) Ensure coordination of activities with other cooperating partner both at regional and national supporting complementary activities
- (n) Undertaking any other duties which may be allocated by the Supervisor

III. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Economics and Development Studies or related fields.

IV. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. At least 8 years of demonstrated knowledge and experience in value chains development and governance
2. Proven experience in value chain and private sector development, MSMEs strengthening, trade facilitation, export promotion and marketing;

3. Knowledge of policy, regulatory and institutional environment in the COMESA region and Member States pertinent to agricultural value chains development and private sector growth (MSMEs), and investment; and
4. Knowledge of establishing and facilitating Public and Private sector dialogues on policies, regulations and practices related to enhancing business and investment environment for value chains development.
5. Extensive knowledge and experience in gender mainstreaming/ strengthening women's and youth participation in regional agro and agribusiness value chains.

V. WORKING LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE POSITIONS

Must be fluent in English and/or French and/or Arabic (speaking and writing). A combination of any two or all these languages will be an added advantage.

VI. ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION

Applicants must be nationals of EU, ACP and COMESA Member States. Applications MUST be submitted on the prescribed COMESA APPLICATION FORM which can be accessed at the following COMESA website: <http://www.comesa.int/>. Applications which are not supported by COMESA application form or without attachments of scanned certificates shall not be considered.

VII. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The COMESA is an equal opportunity employer; therefore, female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. COMESA will only respond to those candidates who strictly meet the set requirements.

VIII. HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted in soft copy to the recruitment email address indicated below. Hard copies will not be considered, and only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Interested candidates who meet the qualification and experience requirements for the above-mentioned positions should send scanned soft copies of their applications which MUST include the following:

- (i) COMESA Application Form, clearly indicating:
 - Nationality;
 - Age;
 - Title of the post applied for in both the subject of the email and on the application form;
 - Reliable contact details;
 - Three (3) referees in the COMESA Application Form.
- (ii) Detailed curriculum vitae;

- (iii) Certified academic degrees and other professional Certificates;
- (iv) National Identity Card, Birth Certificate or Passport;

IX. VERIFIABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) All candidates applying must have qualifications that are recognized by the relevant national accreditation body in their respective countries and verifiable by certifying/issuing institutions. This condition is applicable for locally and internationally attained qualifications.
- (b) All professions that require registration with the specific professional bodies will be expected to do so in compliance with the requirements of their respective Member States and Regulatory Institutions. Candidates must also be in good standing with professional bodies that they are members of.

X. FINAL DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS (DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION)

Applications should reach the email address below not later than Friday 14th February 2020 at least by 18.00 hours Lusaka time.

The Director of Human Resources and Administration

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COMESA Centre,
Ben Bella Road,
P.O Box 30051,
Lusaka
Zambia
Email: recruitment@comesa.int