

Implementation of Rwanda AGRA country strategy 2023–2027



REQUEST FOR CONCEPT NOTES (RFCN)

Issue date	August 2023
Region	Eastern Africa
Country	Rwanda
Deadline for submission	8th September 2023

Established in 2006, AGRA is an African-led and Africa-based institution that puts smallholder farmers at the center of the continent's growing economy by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle to survive into farming as a business that thrives. Together with our partners, we are working to sustainably grow Africa's food systems.

AGRA strengthens seed systems, develops and promotes sustainable farming practices, helps unlock trade and markets, and supports governments who lead their countries' development. We work with farmers to adapt

to climate change, increase soil health, and protect the environment. AGRA believes deeply in the urgency of reducing the inequality that women face in agriculture, and to unlocking the power and innovation of youth.

More information: <https://agra.org/>

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The Grant Funding Opportunity

To support the implementation of Rwanda AGRA Country Strategy 2023–2027, AGRA Rwanda is seeking potential partners, to manage the necessary sub-awards, to deliver the following three strategic objectives:

SO1: Agricultural SMEs and youth entrepreneurship are thriving by servicing small scale producers in a competitive manner.

SO2: Markets for financial and non-financial services delivery to agri-food SMEs are inclusive of youth and young women, private sector led, sustainable and less dependent on public funding.

SO3: Government has enhanced capacity to coordinate and to create an enabling environment for SMEs and work opportunities in Agri- food sector.

NB: Applicants can submit one or more concept notes, but each concept note must focus on one specific strategic objective. Applicants will select the strategic objective where they have competence and experience.

The concept note must also incorporate and reflect one or more of the following cross cutting issues:

- Youth Empowerment:** Diversified and increased work opportunities (on-farm, wage, etc.) for young men and women; Increased competitiveness of youth-led SMEs and ag. enterprises; Improved enabling environment for youth ag. employment; increased youth uptake of training, finance, and new technologies; Strengthened delivery of SME supports, job supports and last mile services to youth; Finance, and other inclusive reforms and programs passed, cascaded, and implemented.
- Gender Inclusivity:** Improved enabling environment for women farmers; Increased revenues for women-led SMEs; Increased employment for women
- Climate:** Improved national climate strategies; Increased farmer readiness for climate shocks
- Nutrition:** Improved policies supporting nutrition; Increased production and consumption of nutrient-dense crop varieties; Increased crop diversification and adoption of nutrient-dense varieties

Period of Grant performance

The overall period of performance is estimated to be 36 months maximum, from October 2023 to September 2026.

Eligibility Requirements

Type of Organization

The applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Well established private company or NGO engaged in agricultural development with demonstrable track record of delivering positive social impact for smallholder farmers in Rwanda.

- Well established private company, SMEs, or BDS professional with a track record of service delivery to value chain actors that work with smallholder farmers.
- Business Member Organization (BMOs) with a track record of delivering impact for smallholder farmers.
- Civil society organization or local think-tank organization engaged in agricultural development or developing knowledge products used in policy formulation or designing programs that are beneficial to farmers.
- Conversant with continental mutual accountability frameworks such as CAADP and the related BRR process
- Currently not blacklisted from participating in AGRA's project implementation.

Partner capacity

- Proven performance in implementing agricultural development programs and projects.
- Relevant experience in building capacity of SMEs in business management and investment facilitation
- Adequate assets, systems, structures, and presence in the main agricultural regions of the country. Presence here refers to availability of staff, assets such as vehicles and other field tools in the Rwanda AGRA target geographies.
- Proper leadership, governance, financial management, internal controls and monitoring systems, and accountability.
- In-depth understanding of mainstreaming approaches for climate resilience, nutrition sensitive agriculture and participation of vulnerable groups such as women and youth in regional value chains will be considered an asset.
- Excellent understanding of agriculture food trade systems and youth and women empowerment in African context.
- Excellent grasp of markets systems analysis and design of interventions that have the potential to sustainably capture large number of smallholder farmers.

AGRA therefore invites submission of grant applications from interested and qualified organizations operating in agriculture and or related sectors. In terms of geographical presence, an organization needs to demonstrate that it is well established in at least one of the regions cited above. Applicants will be required to possess requisite technical capacities and present CVs of key staff who will implement the project.

AGRA may request additional documentation or references to ascertain declarations that applicants will submit in response to this call for concept notes. Applicants do so on their own volition and motivation, and AGRA will not reimburse any expenses related to preparation and submission of the concept notes.

How to Apply

If eligible and interested in this Request for concept note, please submit your application by following the steps described below;

- Request a new account from here: <https://agra.synisys.com/>
- Create an account as an applicant
- Log in to the system with your credentials: <https://agra.synisys.com/portfolio/requests>
- Choose the request and submit your application via Create New Response section of the form

The following must be presented with your submission;

- A copy of your organization's registration certificate
- Detailed organization profile together with CVs of the project team
- Project implementation brief budget
- Most recent Audited Financial statement

