



TERMS OF REFERENCE

A PRIVATE FIRM TO DESIGN AND DELIVER A BIOSCIENCE BOOTCAMP FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL SCIENTISTS IN BIOINNOVATE AFRICA PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. BACKGROUND

The Bioresources Innovations Network for Eastern Africa Development (BioInnovate Africa) Programme is a regional innovation-driven bioeconomy initiative established in 2010 with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). It is implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*), and operates in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and involves partners in South Sudan as well. BioInnovate Africa (BA) assists countries in eastern Africa to build sustainable bioeconomies based on revolutionary advances in bioscience and bioengineering, thereby diversifying sources of growth for the region's population.

BA aims to strengthen the capacity of scientists and innovators in the region's universities, research institutes and private firms to link biobased ideas, inventions and technologies to business and the market. Such links do not only enable translation of research outputs to innovations (goods and services for societal use), but also expands opportunities to create jobs, increase household incomes and reduce poverty in a sustainable way. The Programme's thematic areas are: a) value addition to agro-produce; b) agro-waste/biowaste conversion; and c) bioeconomy policy analysis.

icipe intends to hire the services of a private firm to assist the BA Programme Management Office (PMO) in designing and delivering a 3-5 days bioscience bootcamp involving early-career entrepreneurial scientists at universities, research organizations and firms within the BA participating countries in eastern Africa. The aim of the bioscience bootcamp is to enable entrepreneurial scientists to develop innovative and commercially viable biological based ideas. Qualifying teams will gain skills and improve their capacity to develop competitive proposals in response to BA or other similar calls for innovation projects.

2. OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT

The objectives of the assignment are to:

- i. design a bioscience bootcamp for entrepreneurial scientists in eastern Africa.
- ii. deliver the bioscience bootcamp.
- iii. link participating teams in the bootcamp to investment opportunities.

3. SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT

The assignment shall be limited to entrepreneurial scientists competitively selected from universities, research organizations and firms in BA participating countries in eastern Africa. The eligible countries are Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

4. DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

a. Design the bootcamp

This involves preparing a concept note (not more than 5 pages) that includes the design of the bootcamp, and overall plan for its execution.

b. Prepare a call for applications

This involves preparing a detailed call that highlights the objectives, application process, eligibility requirements and selection criteria for applicants to the bioscience bootcamp. The thematic areas for the call shall emphasize green and sustainable solutions, which include but may not necessarily be limited to the following: agroecology, food and feed, waste water treatment, biopharmaceuticals and cosmetics, bioenergy, biomaterials, diagnostics, and green chemicals (biocatalysts). The call shall be widely published for a period of 1-2 months, and should reach the target group in the participating countries. The BA online system will be used for receiving and processing the applications.

c. Selection of participants

This will involve selecting participants for the bootcamp based on a criterion and guidelines approved by BA. The private firm, in consultation with BA PMO, shall prepare a list of independent panelists who will review submissions and select finalists for the bootcamp.

d. Execute the bootcamp

This will involve running bootcamp activities, including providing pre-bootcamp support and mentorship. It will entail a practical, experiential, participatory and knowledge-enhancing 3-5 days' workshop to conceptualize and articulate solutions to specific societal needs, and having prospects for creating new

biobased businesses. The bioscience bootcamp may be structured to include, but not limited to the following:

- i. Creative ideation
- ii. Early matchmaking
- iii. Design thinking
- iv. Systems thinking
- v. Rapid prototyping
- vi. Initial development of product and commercialization pathways
- vii. Pitch decks

Winning teams from the bioscience bootcamp may be announced and awarded a prize during the 1st Regional Bioeconomy Conference co-organized by BA and other partners during the year.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. *icipe*/BioInnovate Africa

- i. Provide guidance on the call and selection processes.
- ii. Provide a suitable venue, prepare invitations, travel, accommodation and meals for participants.
- iii. Facilitate travel logistics for the consultant (if any) to the workshop venue.
- iv. Provide workshop materials such as projector, writing board with markers, and any other basic stationery required for the assignment.
- v. Prepare the award prize for winning teams from the bootcamp.

b. Private firm

- i. Prepare a concept note for the bootcamp.
- ii. Prepare and disseminate the call for applications.
- iii. Manage the call and selection processes.
- iv. Develop a detailed program and content for the bootcamp.
- v. Execute the bootcamp.
- vi. Recommend relevant private firms outside of BA network to be invited to the bootcamp.
- vii. Prepare a final report of the assignment.

6. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The private firm must have sufficient practical hands-on experience (over 3 years) in preparing, facilitating and executing bioscience bootcamps. The firm must demonstrate the ability to manage a call and selection process and share some examples of success stories from previously conducted science-related bootcamp

activities. The firm should have good working knowledge of BioInnovate Africa mission and objectives including nature and type of sustainable innovation projects. Knowledge and experience working in eastern Africa is an added advantage.

7. DELIVERABLES AND TIME FRAME

The deliverables of the assignment will be as follows;

	Deliverable	Deadline, 2020¹
i.	A concept note and inception plan	4 July
ii.	Selected participants	4 September
iii.	Delivery of the bootcamp	19 – 22 September
iv.	A final report	15 October

8. RESOURCES

The firm shall be provided with relevant programme and/or project documentation as required during the planning process.

9. BUDGET

Subject to the provisions of this assignment, the firm shall be facilitated for travel, accommodation and other requirements listed under section 5. The consultant will be compensated as follows:

	Deliverable	Deadline, 2020
i.	A concept note and inception plan	10%
ii.	Selected participants	30%
iii.	Delivery of the bootcamp and a final report	60%

¹ The dates are subject to change