

Request for Applications

Consultants (consultancy firms), Global Crop Conservation Strategies summaries with metrics.

As part of the project "Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies in Plant Treaty Processes", the Crop Trust seeks one or two consultants to produce short, updated summaries of selected Global Crop Conservation Strategies (breadfruit, grasspea, maize, lentil, barley, chickpea, oat, strawberry, faba bean, aroids, cassava, rice, beans, sweet potato, tropical and subtropical forages). These should include an overview of collections at the global level, identification of major collections, the status of the collections, known gaps in the collections, metrics on safety duplication, accessions in the MLS, distribution, and data availability.

1. BACKGROUND

The Crop Trust is currently leading the 3-year project "Mainstreaming the Global Crop Conservation Strategies (GCCS) in Plant Treaty Processes" in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

By mainstreaming the GCCS in Treaty processes, this project will strengthen both the work of the Treaty and the implementation of the GCCS. One of the project activities consists of disseminating information about the GCCS in relevant Plant Treaty fora and includes the production of summaries of the GCCS tailored to Plant Treaty stakeholders.

2. SCOPE OF THE WORK

The following activities are expected:

1. Retrieve accession data from Genesys PGR, FAO-WIEWS, GLIS portal.
2. Integrate accession data into a single dataset.
3. Conduct analysis of the accession data to estimate:
 - a. Number of accessions by holding institute
 - b. Number of accessions by biological type
 - c. Number of accessions safety duplicated at another genebanks
 - d. Number of accessions safety duplicated at Svalbard Global Seed Vault
 - e. Number of accessions in the Multilateral System of the ITPGRFA
 - f. Number of Accessions with DOI
 - g. Passport data completeness index

4. Use information from the Global Information System for PGRFA and the Plants that Feed the World study to estimate the distribution of accessions.
5. Identify relevant publications on ex situ collections of the selected crops published after the selected Global Crop Conservation Strategies were published.
6. Integrate in the information listed above additional information provided directly from the Crop Trust.
7. Write updated summaries of selected Global Crop Conservation Strategies. These should include an overview of collections at the global level, identification of major collections, the status of the collections, known gaps in the collections, metrics on safety duplication, accessions in the MLS, distribution, and data availability.

3. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Output 1: Short, updated summaries of 5 of the oldest Global Crop Conservation Strategies. These should include an overview of collections at the global level, identification of major collections, status of the collections, known gaps in the collections, metrics on safety duplication, accessions in the MLS, distribution, and data availability.

Output 2: Short, updated summaries of 11 of the oldest Global Crop Conservation Strategies. These should include an overview of collections at the global level, identification of major collections, and metrics on safety duplication, accessions in the MLS, distribution, and data availability.

4. GENERAL TERMS OF WORKING RELATIONSHIP

1. Working style

The Crop Trust will commission work related to the activities described in section 2 and 3 of this document. The consultant(s) will be required to meet (virtually) and communicate regularly with the Crop Trust.

2. Location and travel requirements

It is expected that the scope of work will be conducted remotely with contact taking place via electronic communication channels. Travel, in-person meetings, and partner visits, if needed, will be planned together by the consultants and the Crop Trust. Travel costs (flights, accommodation, allowance) will be covered by the Crop Trust.

3. Contract type and duration

The contract will be based on deliverables and cover the period from 1st June 2024 to 30 November 2025. Completion of Output 1 is expected by 15 December 2024, and completion of Output 2 is expected by the 30 November 2025.

4. Payment Schedule
10.000 EUR upon satisfactory completion of output 1, and 20.000 EUR upon satisfactory completion of output 2 and approval from the Project Coordinator, and submission of an invoice.
5. Use of third-party providers
Work should not be outsourced to a third-party provider.

4 MEASURING SUCCESS

The success of the consultancy will be considered mainly based on the following factors:

1. Quality of work
 - Quality and completion of outputs
 - Responsiveness to client input
 - Attentiveness, judgment, initiative
2. Timeliness of performance:
 - Work performed within established schedule/timelines
 - Timely and accurate progress updates
 - Milestones and activities completed within established timeframes
3. Interaction with Crop Trust/partners:
 - Ability to effectively manage interactions / communication with the Crop Trust and with partners

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Minimum requirements
 - At least 3 years of experience conducting work related to the conservation or use of plant genetic resources.
 - English writing: proficient in writing technical documents in English, demonstrated by peer-reviewed publications.
 - Data analysis:
 - a. Familiar with MCPD standards for accession data.
 - b. Familiar with retrieving accession data from Genesys PGR, FO-WIEWS, GLIS portal.
 - c. Able to integrate data from different sources (Genesys PGR, FAO-WIEWS, GLIS portal, Plants that feed the world, and GCCS survey data) into a single dataset.
 - d. Excel: proficient in using Excel.
 - e. Programming: Python or R

2. Additional requirements on qualifications, skills, and experience will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Knowledge and experience in the work and processes of a seed bank (20%);
 - Experience in working with Plant Treaty stakeholders, committees, delegates of contracting parties and Secretariat of the Plant Treaty (35%);
 - Experience in conducting analytical work related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (20%);
 - Cost-effectiveness (relationship between inputs/costs and the likely achievement of high-quality outputs) (20%);
 - Supplier Self Assessment (5%).

6 APPLICATION COMPONENTS

1. *Curriculum vitae* in English (please include your current residence address, telephone, and email address) [if you are applying as a team (company, organization, etc.), please provide for each relevant team member].
2. A proposal describing your:
 - a. Qualifications, skills, and relevant experience (if you are applying as a team, please provide for each relevant team member);
 - b. Availability within the next 18 months;
 - c. Expected number of days, fees, and other costs for conducting the activities described in Sections 2 and 4. Please explicitly mention your daily fees in EUR.
3. Completed Supplier Self Assessment (template to be provided by the Crop Trust)
4. Signed Declaration of Undertaking (template to be provided by the Crop Trust)

7 SUBMISSION OF REQUIREMENTS

Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications to the procurement office by emailing and attaching all requirements to: procurement@croptrust.org, no later than **23:59 CEST on 1st June 2024**

Only emails sent solely to: procurement@croptrust.org will be considered.

Please note, any documents sent (even in copy) to individual members of the Crop Trust, will be automatically excluded from the tender process.



8 GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

For information or feedback on the procurement process, please address your email to procurement@croptrust.org.

Please be advised that the Crop Trust is not bound to accept any application, nor award a contract or purchase order, nor be responsible for any costs associated with the preparation and submission of an application, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.