

## Pre-call announcement

In collaboration with the Governments of Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique the World Bank Group (WBG) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) are jointly launching a Call for Proposals for a Regional Program for Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA). The official call is expected to be launched by August/September 2018. This is part of the preparation for a proposed regional investment project expected to be reviewed by the WBG Board in the spring of 2019. The main objective of this proposed project is to develop competent and relevant human resources required to accelerate agri-food system transformation in Africa through strengthening (i) agri-food related education and training enhanced with transdisciplinary approaches and applied research at selected African Regional Anchor Universities; (ii) university linkages to the regional agricultural sector - its priorities, needs and stakeholders; and (iii) university partnership with private and public entities related to agri-food both within and outside the region. SHAEA is part of the WBG Board significant reinvestment into higher education in Africa and complements the African Higher Education Centers of Excellence projects as well as the regional agricultural projects West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) and East Africa Agricultural Transformation Project (ECAAT).

SHAEA has been designed through a broad consultation with relevant stakeholders in Africa including governments and private sector. Six regional key knowledge gap areas have been identified:

1. Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
2. Agri-food Systems and Nutrition
3. Rural Innovations and Agricultural Extension
4. Agricultural Risk Management and Climate Change Proofing
5. Agricultural Policy Analysis
6. Statistical Analysis, Foresight and Data Management

The Project will support the governments of the participating countries to collectively address challenges in these regional key knowledge gap areas with interventions of: (a) selecting Regional Anchor Universities (RAUs) through a competitive and transparent process from existing higher education institutions in participating countries which have capacity within agriculture at post graduate level and shows strong potential to help address the defined challenges; (b) strengthening these specialized RAUs through professionalizing leadership and management, streamlining administration and capacitating faculty, to produce excellent training and applied research which can meet the needs of highly-skilled personnel and knowledge transfer for the agri-food sector; (c) establishing a strong culture of collaboration and partnership with the sector to ensure that the knowledge generated, and the youth educated are capable of addressing the needs of the agri-food sector and the society at large. The RAU should become the regional hub for innovative solutions creating real development impact; and (d) developing a culture of results-orientation and accountability in institutional management through a performance-based financing mechanism of the project. As a regional project, SHAEA will be governed by its Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and facilitated by its Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) – RUFORUM Secretariat.

RAUs will be selected within participating countries through a transparent and competitive process. The submitted proposals will be evaluated by an Independent Evaluation Committee and the RSC will make the final selection decision. Interested institutions should meet all the following eligibility

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criteria: (i) be from the participating countries; (ii) offer PhD program(s); (iii) show strong willingness at senior management level toward institutional changes; and (iv) have or be willing to launch post graduate programs in at least four of the above listed key knowledge gap areas. Proposals are expected to encompass the following elements: (a) clear willingness at senior management level to further advance the university as a professionally run institution that has the intellectual and organizational capacity to lead regional knowledge generation within agri-food system transformation; (b) ability to deliver quality training for the region following international standards to address challenges in four of the six regional key knowledge gap areas; (c) strengthening and expanding partnerships to enhance the impact on agri-food sector transformation and increase the relevance of education and research; (d) strengthening national tertiary agricultural education and extension system through collaboration and capacity building; and (e) enhancing institutional governance and management, and the participating university to improve monitoring and evaluation.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to the RFU through the government ministry responsible for higher education in their respective countries. [SHAEA Proposal Submission Form](#), [SHAEAI Evaluation Protocol](#), [SHAEA Project Description and Results Framework](#) are available on the SHAEA website: [www.ruforum.org/SHAEA](http://www.ruforum.org/SHAEA) .The deadline for submission of proposals to the RFU by the respective governments is November 30, 2018.

Additional information may be obtained from: SHAEA Regional Facilitation Unit, RUFORUM Secretariat.