

Invitation to Tender: IFOAM study on organic food and HIV/AIDS response in sub-Saharan Africa

Background information

In 2006, over 39 million people (children and adults) were living with HIV worldwide; however, sub-Saharan Africa continues to bear the brunt of the global epidemic. Approximately 63% of the people (24.7 million) infected by HIV presently live in sub-Saharan Africa (UNAIDS 2006).

The sad reality of HIV-AIDS is that it causes the death of a large number of adults in their prime; this has become a particular concern and challenge in Africa. In 2006, almost 2 million adult and child AIDS-related deaths (72% of the global AIDS deaths) occurred in sub-Saharan Africa (UNAIDS 2006). HIV/AIDS poses a direct threat to household food and nutritional security as it affects the most productive household members.

Terms of Reference

Objective

The proposed study should help to deepen the understanding of the role of food security and nutrition in preventing and treating AIDS. It should not merely be a recycling or summation of information that is already in the public domain, but should seek to also bring out fresh perspectives and greater clarity and precision on how organic food and nutrition influence the lives of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa.

Specifically, the study should:

1. Examine the links between HIV/AIDS and the agricultural sector.
2. Describe the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security.
3. Explore the reciprocal relationship between access to organic food and nutrition and HIV/AIDS, especially for rural people with little or no access to high levels of medical attention required for HIV/AIDS treatment.
4. Provide arguments on how improved and diversified foods permitted by organic agriculture have a positive impact on preventing and reducing HIV/AIDS.

5. Provide a solid base of documentation on which further research can be conducted.
6. Make recommendations on the necessity to integrate organic agriculture in AIDS programs.

Tasks of the consultant

1. Collect information about food security and HIV/AIDS through a literature review.
2. Select regionally diverse case studies on organic agriculture and HIV/AIDS.
3. Get approval from IFOAM for the selected cases.
4. Develop the structure of the publication and seek approval from IFOAM.
5. Organize and write the analytical compilation of the information collected through the literature review and through the case studies.
6. Provide quantified data to back up the statements.
7. Write an introduction and analytical conclusions.

Target groups

The publication should be an advocacy tool that can be used by IFOAM and its members to convince organizations such as FAO, the World Bank and donors about the positive role of organic food in preventing and tackling the impacts of HIV/AIDS.

Conditions

Time frame:

Deadline for the approval of the case studies: May 18, 2007.

Deadline for the approval of the set up of the final publication: June 15, 2007.

The final proofread documents shall be delivered to IFOAM by August 31, 2007.

Property rights and acknowledgement:

The report will be owned by IFOAM. The name of the author will be indicated. Any use of the results by the contracted consultant must be approved by IFOAM.

Budget:

The total costs shall not exceed 6.000 Euros. Subcontracted contributors should be compensated adequately in order to ensure high quality of their contributions. The tenderer should provide a clear, detailed breakdown and justification of the cost of their proposal.

Submission of Offer

Date of submission of offer

Your offer must be received by IFOAM's Head Office no later than April 14, 2007 and submitted by e-mail to Anne Boor at a.boor@ifoam.org, with cc to Hervé Bouagnimbeck at h.bouagnimbeck@ifoam.org. Please indicate the following on the subject line: "Tender: organic food and HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa"

Your submission shall include:

- A proposal of how you will carry out the assignment (process of collecting information and for reaching the final product) and what the final product will look like (what type of publication, which format, which "look", approximate number of pages, etc.).
- A draft version of the structured framework for collecting the information
- An explanation why you are qualified for this assignment and, in particular, your experiences regarding the expected content.
- Any other relevant references.
- A company profile
- A CV.
- Any relevant reflections on the assignment.

Schedule for decision

IFOAM will decide on who will carry out the project no later than April 30, 2007. Should the decision by IFOAM or the information to the accepted tenderer be delayed, and such a delay would make the accomplishment of the task within the time frame as stated above impossible, the time schedule will be renegotiated between IFOAM and the accepted tenderer.