



CONSULTANCY

Location: Lusaka, Zambia

**Terms of Reference for the development of
an alternative plant clinic database for
Zambia**

ABOUT US

1.0 Background

CAB International (CABI), through its global flagship PlantwisePlus programme and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a community-based agricultural extension approach known as the Plant Clinic Approach. Modelled on a human health concept, the Plant Clinic Approach delivers plant health advice to farmers worldwide through Department of Agriculture (DoA) extension officers who are trained as Plant Doctors. Ideally, smallholder farmers take a sample of their diseased crops to the plant clinics within their community, where trained plant doctors help to diagnose plant health problems and provide evidence-based recommendations to address them. All plant health cases addressed by the plant doctors are recorded and stored in a database known as Plantwise Online Management System (POMS).

After nearly ten years of implementing the Plant Clinic Approach in Zambia, the need to localise the storage and management of plant health data recorded by plant doctors has been identified. A local data storage and management system is key in fostering the use of plant health data to support decision-making.

Therefore, CABI seeks a local consultant to develop a plant health data storage and management system.

2.0 Objective

This Consultancy aims to provide a locally developed and managed online database that will host Zambian Plant Clinic data as an alternative to the POMS database. Current and future Plant Clinic data housed on POMS will be transferred to an alternative database that will satisfy user experience and meet all the prescribed ICT standards including cyber security, data access, sharing and use. The new platform will enable continued data storage and management for Plant Clinic data while providing an opportunity for training in data use by the Zambian extension service department.

3.0 Scope of work

To achieve this, the consultant will;

- Collaborate with technical staff from CABI and the Department of Agriculture to understand plant clinic data structure and identify ideal formats for storage, access and management. This includes understanding stakeholder data needs and platform performance expectations.
- Design a standard quality online platform using an appropriate database engine suitable for the storage of

By sharing knowledge and science, CABI tackles global issues like poverty, hunger, education, equality, sustainability, climate change and biodiversity. We do this by helping farmers grow more and lose less of what they produce, combating threats to agriculture and the environment from pests and diseases, protecting natural habitats from invasive species, and improving access to scientific knowledge.

CABI is an international, inter-governmental, not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Our approach involves putting information, skills and tools into people's hands. CABI's 49 Member Countries guide and influence our work which is delivered by scientific staff based in our global network of centres.

CABI is committed to making a difference, playing its part in creating a brighter, more equitable and sustainable future.

current and future plant clinic data for Zambia. This will integrate suitable data models both conceptual and physical.

- Develop a high performance and secure data storage and management system that complies with industry data standards to house both current and future Zambian plant clinic data.
- Implement plant clinic data migration to the new data storage and management platform that will be locally managed.
- Develop a parallel data collection system that will enable continuity of plant clinic data uploads by local plant doctors across the country.
- Prepare and avail technical documentation for the new plant clinic data system and provide training for stakeholders on system functionality and management. This is to enable continued use and maintenance of the system by the relevant Ministry of Agriculture departments
- CABI donors should be duly recognized in the appropriate documentation and training materials;
 - [PlantwisePlus](#) gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the [Directorate-General for International Cooperation](#), Netherlands (DGIS); [European Commission Directorate General for Partnerships](#) (INTPA); [UK International Development](#) from the UK government; and the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#) (SDC).

Ideally, an acknowledgment slide should be incorporated into presentations during training on the new data system



Thank you slide

4.0 Deliverables

By the end of the consultancy, the following deliverables are expected from the consultant:

- A functional, high performance and legitimate online data management platform housing currently available Zambian plant clinic data that can also accommodate uploading of storage and management of future plant clinic data.
- A field-accessible, easy-to-use and reliable data collection mechanism for uploading Zambian plant clinic data by trained plant doctors across the country.
- Technical documentation detailing system functionality, management and maintenance to enable continuity of use of the system/s.
- Training of the appropriate stakeholders (as guided by CABI) on the use, management and maintenance of the new plant clinic data collection and management system/s.

5.0 Consultant qualifications and experience

Suitable consultant will possess the following qualifications and experience:

- The Consultant or Lead Consultant should possess at least a bachelor's degree in computer science, software engineering, data Science, computer information systems and information technology from a well recognized university.
- Demonstrated experience working in the development of agricultural or government data management systems.
- Demonstrated ability to develop, manage and train diverse users on complex systems anchored on modern database architecture.

- Experience in data migration, web/mobile application development, cybersecurity, agricultural information systems, offline data collection and system integration.

6.0 Duration of consultancy

The duration of this engagement will encompass the planning, execution, and post-event reporting phases.

7.0 Expression of interest

Interested and suitably qualified consultants/ organisations should prepare:

- A brief technical proposal clearly outlining their approach for execution of the assignment, qualifications and experience of the consultant.
- A financial proposal for the services to be provided. The should cover the below aspects and should be inclusive of all costs and taxes.
 - System development
 - Data migration
 - Training on system management and use

All Interested consultants should upload their technical and financial proposals to the CABI contractors' work suite platform using the link below.

- For existing contractors who are yet to update their profiles: <https://cabi.worksuite.com/invite/58edd5c5e4e14b44b49c4933f786d18b/>.
- For new contractors, who should first create an account in the system and update their profiles. <https://cabi.worksuite.com/invite/d48e3ba552a6484eb3d2759f4aec5b38/>.
- For any queries/clarification/challenges in uploading the proposal, please write to procurement-africa@cabi.org;
- The deadline for submission of proposals is on or before **30th August 2026**.