

## Final evaluation of the One Planet Fellowship Programme

### Terms of Reference

#### 1. PURPOSE

Agropolis Fondation, in the framework of the One Planet Fellowship Programme (OPFP) is recruiting a consultant, a team of consultants, or a legal entity (hereafter referred to as “the Evaluator”) to conduct the final evaluation of the ‘One Planet Fellowship Programme’ (hereafter referred to as “the Programme”), funded by the European Union (EU).

The evaluation is set to take place between April and July 2024. Under this contract, the Evaluator (or team of evaluators) is expected to conduct an evaluation of the Programme following the DAC<sup>1</sup> criteria, including specific considerations regarding the impact of the Programme on the career and research projects of the beneficiaries of the programme. To this end, the evaluation will have two main purposes:

- **Accountability.** The evaluation must ascertain the degree to which the Programme has attained the overall and specific objectives established in the Description of the Action and Logical Framework Matrix annexed to the contract with the European Commission.
- **Learning.** The evaluation must also provide relevant insights on the ways in which the Programme has contributed to the improvement (or deterioration) of the Laureates’ career, its role in creating long-term collaborations between European and African scientific institutions and in contributing to the fight against Climate Change for smallholder farmers.

#### 2. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

##### Context:

In the medium- and long-term, African food and nutritional security are going to be especially vulnerable to climate change and in need of research on climate change adaptation. Given the urgency for action and the long-term aspect of this global challenge, it is imperative that African scientists, particularly young ones, and international researchers develop the scientific skills to maximize the crucial future adaptations and mitigations for the African continent. However, early career scientists face challenges in securing resources, training and research positions. This undermines the continent’s ability to deal with agricultural changes resulting from climate change. It is thus of utmost importance to speed up the emergence of the next generation of scientific leaders specializing in agriculture-climate interface.

In order to address these challenges, OPFP was launched as a dedicated initiative to prepare the next generation of African scientists, creating and nurturing leaders to be ready to understand climate change and help societies adapt in due time.

##### Objectives of the OPFP:

The One Planet Fellowship Programme (OPFP) aims at enhancing the capacity of young scientists working on agriculture and climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa by building their leadership, scientific research, networking and mentoring skills. This was done by selecting a group of 120 young scientists in activity supported by a 5-year programme of training (in their scientific discipline, but also in behavioural and soft skills) and mentoring. Fifty beneficiaries of this programme

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<sup>1</sup> Development Assistance Committee - The OECD DAC Network on Development Evaluation (EvalNet) has defined six evaluation criteria – relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability – and two principles for their use. These criteria provide a normative framework used to determine the merit or worth of an intervention (policy, strategy, programme, project or activity). They serve as the basis upon which evaluative judgements are made.

–the “Laureates” – have been offered to join top-notch European laboratories and/or universities in Europe, for a 6-month advanced science training (AST). Laureates were paired with a senior scientist in their host lab in Europe. To do this, partnerships were built with European research and higher education institutions, identifying senior scientists from these organizations willing to serve as mentors to African laureates.

In addition, other accompanying measures were organized, such as learning visits of Laureates in different policy and development institutions in Europe to foster science-policy linkage, exchange visits between African and European mentors to promote institutional cooperation, as well as seminar workshops involving laureates, mentors and junior scientists focusing on helping Africa’s smallholder farmers adapt to a changing climate.

Through these actions, the OPFP seeks to enhance the capacity of high-potential researchers working on agriculture and climate change adaptation and mitigation. At the same time, the Programme intends to build a pipeline of African science leaders at the agriculture–climate interface and create an intergenerational network of African and European scientists equipped to lead research focused on helping Africa’s smallholder farmers adapt to a changing climate.

### **Main activities:**

Two successive Calls for applications were launched in Africa in 2019-2022: 50 candidates were selected to take part in the *One Planet* non-residential, career development programme. While most Laureates are researchers employed in Scientific and/or Public Institutions. They were given the possibility to participate in periodic training courses designed to enhance their scientific research, networking, and mentoring skills.

- **Year 1** was devoted to mentoring and leadership enhancement. High-potential African agricultural researchers whose research focuses on climate change are selected. Referred to as the Laureates, these researchers are paired with more established African researchers who are carefully chosen to match their area of expertise and career goals. These are the One Planet Fellowship Mentors. These Mentor-Mentee pairs commence a year-long mentorship relationship and are supported to build a successful partnership geared toward enhancing the fellow’s career development. The pairs are also supported to implement personal career roadmaps for each fellow, including science skills training and leadership development workshops, and specific plans for his/her climate adaptation research progression. This component is implemented by the co-implementer of the Programme: African Women for Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD).
- **Year 2** was devoted to science skills enhancement and networking. The top performing One Planet Laureates (50 out of 120) are supported to enhance their research skills by participating in a research placement (**Advanced Science training AST**) at a leading European research institution that has a strong emphasis and reputation for climate change science. Here, the Candidates are also carefully paired with outstanding European researchers who serve as supervisors to mutually agreed research projects aimed at strengthening a specific skill for the One Planet Fellow. Around 50 laureates out of 120, were offered the opportunity to do an AST. This provides an opportunity for the fellow to gain exposure to new ideas and methods in his/her field of research, to network with other young scientists in the host institution and establish linkages for future collaboration. While in Europe, laureates participate in science-policy dialogues and attend science seminar-workshop involving other laureates, mentors and junior scientists. Exchange visits between African and European mentors are facilitated. This component is implemented by Agropolis Fondation.
- **Year 3** was devoted to the mentoring by the laureates: The Laureate Candidates select emerging African scientists and emerging European scientists to whom they serve as mentors, creating a mentorship chain of three generations of scientists. This component is implemented by AWARD with a financial contribution of Agropolis Fondation.

Agropolis Fondation is in charge of actions related to the science pillar of the Laureateship, particularly in terms of developing and implementing Advanced Science Training (AST), science-policy linkage via learning visits, providing trainings and facilitating scientific networking and exchange between African and European scientists.

Implementing organization: Agropolis Fondation and African Women on Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

Localisation: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia.

### **3. EVALUATION MODALITIES**

The evaluation shall consist first in an outcome harvesting and analysis of the results of the activities conducted within the framework of the programme implemented by Agropolis Fondation. These include the organization of:

- 50 Advance Science Training
- 2 sessions of events: Study tour and Science week
- A series of webinars
- Participation to scientific events
- Funding of article processing fees
- 2 training modules in African Universities
- Training and coaching on the writing of Policy briefs

The evaluation will result in a Final Evaluation Report aimed at providing Agropolis Fondation with a clear understanding of both the expected and unexpected results of the Programme in all its dimensions (scientific, practical application, researchers career impact, etc.). Secondly, the Final Evaluation Report must identify contributions of the Programme to increase cooperation actions between African and European Institutions in terms of opportunities and projects raised as a consequence of the programme. It shall gather lessons learnt, challenges faced, and best practices and use such insight to generate recommendations that can help Agropolis Fondation as well as the European Commission to design and undertake similar initiatives in the future. The final evaluation must verify the level to which the projects supported or initiated by the programme are tackling climate change in the agricultural sector in Africa and to which point the findings of the research projects can apply to agroecological measures.

The impact in the career and research work of the laureates will be assessed quantitatively and qualitatively. The modalities themselves of the implementation of the AST will also be evaluated in terms of efficiency and impact. For example, the Evaluator must assess if the Programme implementation design enabled and facilitated access to the different Programme activities for women and if adaptive measures were taken to adapt to multiple scenarios.

The full evaluation process is to be completed by July 2024.

### **4. EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

In its proposal, the Evaluator is invited to submit a series of preliminary evaluation questions covering the aspects described in the previous section. The activities implemented by Agropolis Fondation are the focus of the evaluation but the context of the whole programme co-implemented with AWARD must be included. A particular focus will be given to the Advanced Science Training (AST) as it is the main activity implemented by Agropolis Fondation. Once the contract is awarded, these questions will be open to discussion so that Agropolis Fondation can suggest new angles or fields of inquiry according to their first-hand experience acquired during implementation. In other words, the final set of evaluation questions will be decided following a co-creation process involving Agropolis Fondation. And if the Evaluator provides technical inputs and expert knowledge for the formulation of relevant questions that could be responded in the proposed evaluation setting. It is to be noted that the Programme underwent a mid-term review in February 2024 within the framework of a Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) review commissioned by the European Commission - this final evaluation will need to complement its findings.

**Some overarching questions are proposed below, however the bidders are welcome to suggest other approaches:**

**Relevance:** Has the Programme been sensitive and relevant to the political economy and policy contexts in which it unfolded? Did the Programme's problem statement hold true? How were the needs and priorities of target beneficiaries taken into account throughout the Programme life cycle?

**Effectiveness:** To what extent were implementation strategies effective in delivering expected results?

**Efficiency:** Has the Programme used its resources well? How have organizational mandates and thematic priorities within the consortium affected the ability to work comprehensively, i.e. with a wide range of stakeholders in the different political systems at national, regional and continental level?

**Coherence:** How coherent was the overall approach and implementation of the Programme in achieving its stated objectives and outcomes?

**Sustainability:** What is the likelihood of the Programme's results being sustained in the future? Which elements of the Programme are more or less sustainable? How has the Programme been able to address this?

**EU added value:** What has been the added value of the intervention being funded specifically by the EU compared to other donors?

## 5. EVALUATION METHODS

The Programme's results chain was defined in a Logical Framework Matrix during the design phase. This will be the basis for the "accountability" dimension of the Evaluation. To this end, the Programme team has been tracking instances of progress for each of the outcomes and the associated progress markers. The Evaluator shall consider the descriptions of progress as one of the key sources of evidence.

Beyond the indicators expressed in the Logframe, the Evaluator shall consider to identify and substantiate a number of outcomes following the Outcome Harvesting method. Most of the activities will be performed virtually as the laureates come from 14 different countries in Africa and were hosted in 12 European countries.

Data collection methods could combine desk reviews, field visits to the target Countries, interviews and focus groups (including with the Programme team), online surveys.

The final design of the evaluation process, including its methods, will be the result of the co-creation process referred to above.

## 6. DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

- An inception report
  - o Set of evaluation questions co-constructed with the Programme team
  - o Refined methodology
  - o Detailed timeline for the implementation
- A mid-term report on the results achieved, describing the methodology used for the assessment:
  - o An outcome harvest of the most significant results achieved regarding the Advance Science Training, training modules at University level, webinars, events, and other activities implemented in the framework of the One Planet Programme
  - o A record of initiatives and model collaborations between African and European institutions following the AST
  - o A set of brief assessments of the progress made by the laureates in terms of research work and career
  - o Recommendations for further implementation of the Programme in Europe.
- A full evaluation report, also including:
  - o An executive summary (not exceeding 5 pages)
  - o Other innovative forms of communicating evaluation findings are encouraged.

### Deliverable Indicative deadlines

Inception report: 31/04/2024

Mid-term report: 30/06/2024

Final report: 30/08/2024

Presentation of the final evaluation report to Agropolis Fondation and the donor and any other interested parties identified along the evaluation: 10/10/2024

## **7. DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSULTED (PRELIMINARY LIST)**

The following documents will provide the Evaluator with background information and insight into Programme implementation and achievement of the objectives:

- Programme proposal (Description of the Action attached to the contract);
- Results chain (Logical Framework attached to the contract);
- Interim reports submitted to the EU;
- Grant agreements with European Institutions;
- Training content descriptions;
- Research and policy documents produced over the course of the Programme;
- Mid-term evaluation report (ROM review) of the Programme;
- Satisfaction survey results.

## **8. BUDGET**

The maximum total budget available under this contract is around EUR 35 000 including VAT and/or any other taxes. Any travel costs (and related costs) need to be covered within that budget.

The budget will be split in three instalments, to be transferred to the Evaluator after the completion of the afore-mentioned assignments.

## **9. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The Evaluator must fulfil the following criteria:

- Proven track record of conducting project evaluations of capacity development, mentoring and networking interventions especially in the field of research in agriculture, climate change;
- Proven track record of conducting project evaluation using utilization-focused and theory-based methods;
- Prior experience of working for projects implemented in Africa;
- Excellent knowledge of English and French is required;
- The application is complete and submitted in due time in accordance with Article 10 of the present ToR;
- Applicants are invited to submit the application documents detailed below, which as a whole constitute the application package. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

## **10. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

### **Deadline**

Interested bidders are requested to submit a **technical and financial offer** which will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee against the criteria listed in Annex 1. Please find Annex 1 below at the end of the ToR. The application package is to be sent at the latest by **28 April 2024, 23:59 CET** to [opfp@agropolis.fr](mailto:opfp@agropolis.fr); Subject line: "One Planet - Evaluation"

Requests for clarification may be submitted to the email address above until 15 April 2024, 23:59 CET.

### **Technical offer**

The technical offer is composed of:

- Updated CVs of the Evaluator(s);
- Methodological proposal

### **Financial offer**

The financial offer shall be:

- A separate document in the form of a quotation, broken down into a detailed budget, that includes the total amount of the offer, all taxes included.

## **Selection modalities**

Agropolis Fondation shall evaluate the bids. The evaluation committee, led by Agropolis Fondation, will be the first line of contact with the evaluation team lead.

The technical offer will be weighted with 80%; the financial offer will be weighted with 20%. Only candidates scoring at least 75/100 with regard to the criteria set in Annex 1 for their technical offer will have their financial offer considered. Bidders may be invited for an interview during the technical evaluation if deemed necessary by the evaluation committee.

Agropolis Fondation reserves the right to enter into a negotiation with the evaluation committee the candidates on the financial offer proposed by them, before finalizing the selection process. The selection process will be finalized after candidates shortlisted in the second step of the process have been interviewed by and agreement on the offer has been found.

## **11. DATA TREATMENT**

Agropolis Fondation collects and treats your private data in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 i.e. hereby requests personal data only for recruitment purposes, pursuing a legitimate interest in a reasonable way, and will delete them after it is judged no longer necessary to archive. Shortlisted applications will be provided to the European Commission to ensure compliance with EU procurement rules in external action projects. By bidding to this tender, you authorise Agropolis Fondation to treat your personal data accordingly.

**ANNEX 1  
TECHNICAL EVALUATION GRID**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
Experience in evaluations and with relevant evaluation methods	30
Experience in research projects	15
Experience in projects implemented in Africa in the field of agriculture and climate change;	15
Relevant language (English and French)	10
Quality of the methodology's rationale and strategy	30
Overall total score	100

<b>Strengths</b>	
<b>Weaknesses</b>	

**NB: Only candidates with technical average scores of at least 75 points qualify for the financial evaluation**