



Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

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Call for expression of interest to provide Mid-term Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning review for the Climate-Smart Agropreneurship Education for Jobs and Sustainability

1.0 Background

AgrBIZZ is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project. The consortium brings together universities from Ghana, Cameroon, Denmark, and Finland, with RUFORUM serving as a strategic regional network partner. Member institutions are: Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK, Finland) as coordinator; University of Copenhagen (UCPH, Denmark); University of Cape Coast (UCC, Ghana); University for Development Studies (UDS, Ghana); University of Buea (UB, Cameroon); and University of Bamenda (UBa, Cameroon).

The project addresses a real and persistent gap: Agribusiness graduates across Sub-Saharan Africa are leaving university without the entrepreneurial skills or practical competencies that employers and the sector requires. AgrBIZZ responds by supporting Ghanaian and Cameroonian higher education institutions revise their curricula, capacitate their academic staff in Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and climate-smart agribusiness, and build direct partnerships with industry.

2.0 Project Overview

AgrBIZZ is structured around five work packages:

Work Package	Lead	Expected Outcomes
WP1: Project Management	HAMK / RUFORUM	Consortium governance, quality plan, mid-term review, and final evaluation
WP2: Curricula Development	UCC	Competence-based curricula revised and accredited at partner HEIs in Ghana and Cameroon
WP3: Teacher Capacity Building	HAMK / UCC	40+ academic staff trained in PBL, climate-smart agriculture, and entrepreneurship
WP4: PBL Ecosystem	UDS	Industry partnerships established; 180 students engaged in real-world industry challenges
WP5: Impact and Dissemination	UB and RUFORUM	Communications, publications, RUFORUM PBL network, and sustainability planning

3.0 Purpose of the Mid-Term Review

The EU Erasmus+ program requires independent quality monitoring throughout the project lifecycle. AgrBIZZ has planned a Mid-Term Review (MTR) as a project milestone (MS2). RUFORUM will commission the review on behalf of the consortium, contracting an independent evaluator through a competitive process.

The MTR has three purposes:

- **Learning and improvement:** assess what has worked so far and give practical guidance for the remaining implementation period.
- **Accountability:** verify whether activities have been completed as planned and resources used appropriately.
- **Sustainability:** examine whether the structures and approaches being built are likely to survive beyond the project period.

At a practical level, the evaluator will be expected to assess all five work packages, evaluate how well the consortium is collaborating, examine the integration of gender and human rights principles, and provide clear recommendations that the team can act on.

4.0 Scope of the Evaluation

The MTR will cover all project activities from inception to the point of review. Evaluation questions are organized around the OECD/DAC criteria:

Relevance

Is the project design still well matched to the needs of partner HEIs, students, and industry in Ghana and Cameroon? Has it kept pace with changes in context since inception?

Effectiveness

Are activities being delivered as planned? What outputs have been produced across the five work packages, and do they contribute to the project goals? How well are consortium partners fulfilling their roles?

Efficiency

Are financial and technical resources being used appropriately? Are the management structures (Project Advisory Board, Project Youth Advisory Board, Project Management Team, and Core Teams) adding value?

Gender, HRBA, and Cross-Cutting Themes

Has gender equality been built into activities, not just added on? Are representation targets being met? Are climate-smart principles genuinely embedded in curricula and training?

Sustainability

Are partner institutions developing real ownership of the project's results? Are industry and societal partnerships being formalized in ways that will outlast the project?

5.0 Methodology

Consultants are expected to propose a methodology that combines qualitative and quantitative approaches, allows for wide stakeholder consultation, and applies gender- and HRBA-sensitive data collection. Triangulation across multiple sources is expected.

Likely data collection methods include desk review of project documents, key informant interviews with consortium members and HEI management, focus group discussions with students and industry partners, online surveys, and field visits to partner institutions in Ghana and Cameroon where feasible. Consultants are free to propose innovative approaches and must justify their methodological choices in the inception report.

6.0 Deliverables

Deliverable	Description
Inception Report	Sets out the evaluator's understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology, evaluation matrix, and work plan. Must be approved by RUFORUM and the consortium before data collection begins.
Draft MTR Report	Full report covering findings, analysis, and recommendations structured around OECD/DAC criteria. Includes an executive summary and a PowerPoint presentation for the consortium.
Final Report	Revised report incorporating consortium feedback, plus an abridged version (max 8 pages) for wider stakeholder use.

7.0 Required Expertise

The review requires multiple skill sets. RUFORUM will select based on demonstrated experience, relevant qualifications, and affordability within the available project budget.

- At least 10 years of experience in higher education management, policy, or implementation, with a focus on agriculture or related fields in Africa;

- Demonstrated expertise in multi-country programme evaluation in the agriculture, agribusiness, or higher education sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- At least 10 years of experience working with international donors on regional programme design, monitoring, and evaluation;
- Proven mixed-methods evaluation experience, covering both quantitative and qualitative data collection;
- Familiarity with Erasmus+ CBHE requirements, OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, and participatory evaluation approaches;
- Understanding of gender mainstreaming, human rights-based approaches, and climate-smart agriculture principles;
- At least two verifiable references from comparable evaluation assignments.

8.0 Management Arrangements

The selected evaluator will report to the RUFORUM Secretariat, which serves as the primary point of contact and coordinates access to consortium partners, documents, and stakeholders. HAMK and RUFORUM are jointly responsible for operational coordination of consortium engagement. The evaluator must engage all AgrBIZZ partners throughout the process and agree in advance on the schedule for activities and field visits.

9.0 Indicative Timeline

Activity / Deliverable	Indicative Timeline
Application deadline	As specified in the call for applications
Clarification meeting (virtual)	Prior to submission deadline; details communicated to registered applicants
Contracting and inception meeting	Within 2 weeks of selection
Desk review and inception report	Weeks 1 to 3
Inception report approved	Weeks 3 to 4
Data collection (KIIs, FGDs, surveys, field visits)	Weeks 4 to 8
Data analysis and report writing	Weeks 8 to 10
Draft report submitted	Week 10
Consortium review	Weeks 10 to 12
Validation workshop	Weeks 12 to 13
Final report submitted	Week 13 to 14

Clarification Meeting: A virtual pre-bid meeting will be held before the submission deadline to address questions about the scope and application process. All interested applicants are encouraged to register in advance by writing to secretariat@ruforum.org. The meeting date and access details will be sent to registered parties once confirmed.

10.0 Payment

Payment will be made by the RUFORUM Secretariat on behalf of the AgrBIZZ consortium, structured in tranches tied to the submission and approval of agreed deliverables. Details are available in the project provision for the mid-term review subcontracting activity (WP1, Task 1.7).

11.0 How to Apply

All applications must be submitted electronically to the RUFORUM Secretariat at secretariat@ruforum.org by the deadline specified in the call. Late submissions will not be considered.

Applications must include:

- A technical proposal covering the proposed methodology, work plan, and team qualifications;
- A financial proposal for consideration within the project budget;
- CVs of the lead evaluator(s) and key team members;
- At least two verifiable references from comparable evaluation assignments.
- **Deadline for submissions: 5 June 2026**

ANNEX: Key AgrBIZZ Output Indicators for the MTR

The following output indicators from the AgrBIZZ Quality and M&E Framework are the primary benchmarks against which the evaluator should assess progress. The MTR should also look at the quality of processes: the extent to which participatory action research is being applied, whether MEL tools are in active use, and how well gender and HRBA considerations have been integrated across activities.

Work Package	Key Indicator	Target
WP2	Curricula revised / accredited using competency profiles	80% of HEIs in GH and CM
WP3	Academic staff (min. 30% female) trained and reporting improved skills	40+ staff; 80% improved

Work Package	Key Indicator	Target
WP4	Industry / societal partnerships established (min. 5 per HEI)	Min. 20 total
WP4	Students and mentors in industry challenges (min. 30% female)	180 students; 20 mentors
WP5	Publications and articles produced	Min. 10
WP5	Conference participations	Min. 8 events; 2 to 3 conferences
WP4 and WP5	Webinars with industry and stakeholders	3 webinars; 180 participants