



EUROPEAN UNION



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONSULTANCY ON PROJECT END-LINE EVALUATION (2021-2025)

THE CASSAVA TRANSFORMATION PROJECT
CERATH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION | LIBERIA



Implemented by



Center for Enterprise Learning

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Rationale

The Cassava Transformation Project (CASTRAP) is the Liberia national component of the European Union (EU)-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP). The project cost is €5.625 million (€4.5 million EU funding). WACOMP aims to support selected value chains at the national and regional levels to promote structural transformation and better access to regional and international markets while taking into account social and environmental concerns. The principal objective of the programme is to strengthen the competitiveness of West African countries and enhance their integration into the regional and international trading system. The WACOMP consists of one regional component and sixteen national components in West Africa.

1.2 Project objectives

In Liberia, the project aims to enhance the competitiveness and regional integration of Liberia's cassava sector through a value chain approach focused on sustained production, value addition, entrepreneurship, and sustainable markets.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- I. Strengthened the efficiency of actors engaged in the cassava value chain to improve access to inputs and markets;
- II. Enhanced production, processing, and commercialization of the cassava value chain;
- III. Cassava value chain enhanced to be financially sustainable and commercially viable;
- IV. Policies, programs, and incentives to stimulate the commercialization of the cassava sector advocated for and implemented.

1.3 Activities implemented, outputs, and expected outcomes

The project contributes to the overall goal of enhancing the competitiveness and regional integration of Liberia's cassava sector through a value chain approach focused on sustained production, value addition, entrepreneurship and sustainable markets. During the project implementation period, key activities of the project include a baseline survey and the mapping of key actors and resources essential for the project's implementation. This is to create a database of "who, what, why, and where" of the resources available and also enhance the development of the county-based strategy approach adopted by the project. Furthermore, the project facilitated the strengthening and consolidation of farmer groups and value chain actors into functional cooperatives, licensed under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) of Liberia. The project conducted a market opportunity scoping and quantification, which was followed by sessions to enhance the knowledge of cooperatives and financial institutions on the opportunities and business cases within the value chain. Additionally, capacity and technology transfer programs aimed at enhancing cassava production and initiating small-scale community-based processing (value addition) were rolled out. Also, business-to-business (B2B) meetings and trade fairs were organized to enhance local consumption of value-added cassava, as well as stimulate partnerships. Another key activity was the technical support and financial allocation to Liberia's National Standards Laboratory (NSL) towards strengthening of the country's Quality Infrastructure (QI).

The following important outputs have been realized from these activities:

- The formation, development, and consolidation of at least 10 farmer cooperatives. Each intervention county have at least two cooperatives.
- The project reached an estimated 1,746 cassava farmers including 1086 women, 665 youths, and 17 persons with disabilities.
- The project directly empowered 34 businesses along the value chain, particularly processors with a local consumption and export orientation.
- The project has supported NSL to develop the national quality infrastructure (NQI) attain ISO certification.
- The project facilitated the development of the national agricultural financing framework.

1.4 Project implementing party

The European Union-funded Cassava Transformation project is executed through a consortium consisting of CERATH Development Organization (CDO), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), Conservation Alliance Liberia (CAL), and the Center for Enterprise Learning (CEL).

2. THE EVALUATION

2.1 Purpose of Evaluation

The purpose of this end-line evaluation is to assess the achievements of the Cassava Transformation Project (CASTRAP) since its inception in April 2021. The evaluation will focus on all accomplishments realized in line with the project work packages and chosen approaches.

Specifically, the evaluation will cover the following: (i) outcomes and impact of project deliverables on beneficiaries' lives; (ii) limitations to the full realization of intended project results, and (iii) effectiveness of instituted sustainability measures. Additionally, the evaluation would document (iv) lessons drawn from the project to inform the design and rollout of other interventions.

The endline evaluation will complement a baseline study and a midterm evaluation undertaken earlier. The data (from the evaluation) will be used to establish endline values against the baseline and midterm values for each of the project's outcome and output indicators.

2.2 Scope of the Evaluation

The endline evaluation is expected to be conducted within the scope of the following:

- Timing
- Geographic coverage
- Stakeholder coverage
- Substantive scope

2.2.1 Timing

The endline evaluation will cover CASTRAP work carried out over the four-year implementation. (April 2021–October 2025).

2.2.2 Geographic coverage

The evaluation will be conducted across the project's five counties.

- Sinoe County: Kpanyan, Sanquin, and Greenville districts.
- Grand Kru County: Barclayville, Webabo, Trehn, and Jloh districts
- Maryland County: Harper, Pleebo, and Karluway districts
- River Gee County: Gbeapo, Webbo, and Potuto districts
- Grand Gedeh County: Tchien, and Callava districts

2.2.3 Stakeholder coverage

The assignment will include interviews with key institutions and beneficiaries engaged during the project delivery. The stakeholders include relevant government institutions and cassava value chain actors across the project counties. At the national level, the Liberia Standards Authority (LiSA) and the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) are key institutions of interest. At the county level, the county authorities, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), among others, are of interest.

2.2.4 Substantive scope

The evaluation will review, collect, and analyze the project's deliverables in terms of progress achieved against the desired outcomes and outputs.

2.3 Evaluation Criteria and key questions

The endline evaluation will analyse the project's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. This evaluation will assess the following criteria and will set out to answer the questions detailed under each criterion:

a. Relevance and coherence

The Relevance criterion assesses the extent to which enhanced competitiveness and regional integration of the cassava value chain promoted job creation and increased income for the target beneficiaries in the project intervention area.

It also concerns the appropriateness of the project design to the problems addressed. This criterion is to be assessed at two levels: when the project was designed and upon project completion.

This coherence criterion describes and assesses the compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in the target area and the sector. This criterion includes complementarity, harmonization and coordination with others and the extent to which the intervention has added value and avoided duplication of effort.

Key questions:

- Was the project relevant to the achievements of the government's policy, plan, and strategy, as well as other relevant regional and global priorities in terms of enhanced competitiveness of Liberia's agribusiness sector?
- Was the project relevant to the felt needs of the beneficiaries?
- How well did the project complement and fit with other ongoing programmes and projects in the country?

- Has the project worked with other ongoing projects, activities, or interventions, particularly interventions with the same source of funding (as the project)?
- Did the project collaborate, coordinate, and engage with relevant stakeholders, partners, and institutions within the sector and area of operation?
- Was the project design and its implementation approach valid and realistic?
- Were any lessons learned (from previous projects) considered in the design and implementation of the project?

b. Efficiency

The efficiency criterion assesses the cost-effectiveness of the project. This refers to the extent to which the costs of the project can be justified by its results and impact. The efficiency criterion concerns how well the various activities transformed the available resources into the intended results in terms of quantity, quality, and timeliness.

Key Questions:

- What is the level of achievement of the project's outputs as stipulated in the logframe, in terms of quantity, quality, and timeliness?
- How do the actual outputs realised compare with the intended results as stated in the Objectively Verifiable Indicators of the project Logical Framework Matrix? Relevant constraints and bottlenecks should be identified, solutions put in place should be evaluated, and appropriate adaptations defined.
- Has the project produced value-for-money, taking into account the specific context of the areas of implementation (planned use of the items purchased, use of material and non-material resources to reach the project goal, cost-effectiveness, etc.)?
- What is the level of efficiency in the project implementation, the roles of all the stakeholders, and the day-to-day management, including the following:
 - o Management of the budget.
 - o Management of personnel and human resources.
 - o Relations and synergies within the project with all stakeholders and other partners in development.

c. Effectiveness and stakeholder involvement

The effectiveness criterion concerns how far the project's results or potential benefits were realised (do they achieve the project purpose?). The Consultant should assess the project's effectiveness and analyse the programme implementation with particular emphasis on:

- Degree of participation of beneficiaries
- Degree of ownership by beneficiaries
- Commitment of project stakeholders (CARI, MOA, CDA, NSL and county authorities etc.,) in the implementation of the project.

Key Questions:

- To what extent were the main direct beneficiaries reached?

- To what extent did the project achieve its expected results according to the Logframe Matrix in the context of 2.2 (scope of evaluation)?
- What is the perception of project results and achievements by beneficiaries, local authorities, and other stakeholders?
- What is the degree of participation in and ownership of the action by beneficiaries?

Crosscutting issues

The evaluation shall address the following cross-cutting issues: gender, youth, people with disabilities (PWD), and climate

Key question:

- To what extent did CASTRAP mainstream gender, youth, disability inclusion, and climate resilience across its activities?
- Were monitoring and evaluation systems gender-disaggregated and inclusive of marginalized groups?
- Did the project actively address social norms or barriers limiting participation of women, youth, and PWDs?
- Did interventions contribute to a more climate-resilient cassava sector in Liberia?

2.4 Evaluation Methodology

The Consultant should propose appropriate mixed methods, including quantitative and qualitative, for data collection and analysis. The CASTRAP team will review and approve these methodologies and proposed work plans during the initial meetings with the consultant.

The assessment design should consider the following:

- Desk review of key documents; such as, the logical framework (logframe), baseline report, midterm evaluation, research studies and progress reports. The outcome of the desk review should be documented in an inception report.
- Qualitative assessment methods (in-depth individual interviews, focus group discussions, observations and document review)
- Quantitative assessment methods (i.e. survey format/questionnaire)
- Collaborative approach (engaging key project stakeholders) where necessary is encouraged.

It is worth noting that the evaluation methods should be in line with the European Union's methods for evaluating its external assistance. The "Guidelines for Project and Programme Evaluations" developed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) should be considered throughout the entire evaluation process; see [here](#).

3. INDICATIVE TIMELINES AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Activities/deliverables	Timelines
Commencement of Contract & Inception Phase (Desk review)	1 October 2025
Delivery of Inception Report	3 October 2025
Conclude Field Study	14 October 2025
Delivery of Draft Report	22 October 2025
Stakeholder debriefing meeting	27 October 2025
Delivery of Final Report	31 October 2025

4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

4.1 Responsibilities of the Consultant

The Consultant will be responsible for delivering a number of tasks, most notably producing a final report and presenting the key results and findings to the CASTRAP team. The report will subsequently be shared with the EU Delegation in Liberia.

Besides that, the minimum outputs to be delivered by the Consultant are:

- Detailed design of the evaluation plan, including the identification and definition of appropriate methods in the frame of an Inception Report.
- Evaluation of the project considering the evaluation criteria (under point 2 above), as well as the evaluation of project processes.
- Analysis, interpretation, documentation, and presentation of the evaluation results in a Draft Report.
- Incorporation of feedback into the Draft Report and provision of recommendations to improve future projects and scale successful interventions.

The Inception Report should contain no more than 10 pages, and the Final Report no more than 35 pages, excluding annexes. The Final Report will be scrutinised in light of the following questions:

- Are the Terms of Reference fulfilled and reflected within the report?
- Does the report contain a clear and comprehensive summary?
- Are the findings of the evaluation report methodologically substantiated and transparently argued according to scientific standards?
- Are the recommendations of the report clearly described and in a manner that can contribute to the implementation of future projects? Do they follow logical argumentation?
- Are the methods of the evaluation clearly explained within the report?
- Have all relevant stakeholders (not only the target groups) been included in the evaluation process?

- Have all relevant documents been included in the evaluation process?
- Are cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality, covered in the report?
- Does the report analyse and comment on the Logical Framework?
- Is the final report structured comprehensively and coherently?
- Is the report free of errors and spelling mistakes and can hence be disseminated as required?

4.2 QUALIFICATION, EXPERIENCE, AND SKILLS

4.2.1 Functional Competencies:

- Familiar with EU's procedures
- Demonstrated experience, especially with the EU system for M&E and results-based management
- Ability to research, conduct interviews, and generate high-level reports
- Proficiency with office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.)

4.2.2 Core Competencies

- Ability to produce high-quality outputs in a timely manner while understanding and anticipating evolving client needs
- Strong organisational skills
- Ability to work independently
- Sound judgement, strategic thinking, and the ability to manage competing priorities
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability

4.2.3 Required skills and experiences

- **Education:** Advanced University degree with M&E of relevant specialization
- **Experience:** A minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in carrying out project evaluation work
- **Language:** Excellent written and spoken English

5. APPLICATION INSTRUCTION

Please send your CV, cover letter and technical proposal (including budget with explanatory notes) to: procurement@cerathdev.org.

Format of technical proposal

Bidders are to submit a proposal of 15 pages maximum, excluding cover page and table of contents. The font and font size to be used are Times New Roman 11. The proposal must include the following;

- Cover page
- Information on bidding organization or consortium
- Past experiences with relevant contact details of clients.
- Implementing team profiles
- Methodology for evaluation
- Work plan with timelines
- CVs of the team (as an Annex)

NB: The Call is open to both individual and consortium of evaluators.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of proposal, budget and associated documents is 22 September 2025.

The subject line for the submission should be “***Name of organization/Consultant – CASTRAP End-line Evaluation Consultancy***”. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.