CORIP 2ND & FINAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
TO ESTABLISH COCOA RURAL SERVICE CENTERS IN GHANA  

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2015

The Cocoa Rehabilitation and Intensification Programme (CORIP 2013-2017), is an effort to promote sustainable productivity, profitability and competitiveness of the Ghanaian cocoa sector through the provision of a package of support services through the established RSCs to cocoa farmers. The established cocoa RSCs are privately run and are expected to be commercially self-financing beyond the programme completion in 2017. The Centres provide farmers with production agronomy training and skills, information, agro-inputs (planting material, fertilizer, agro-chemicals) and technical support services for improved cocoa production as well as community development support services for enhanced livelihoods.

CORIP is primarily funded by the Dutch Government through the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Accra, Ghana and is implemented/co-funded by private cocoa industry companies in partnership with Licensed Buying Companies (LBCs) and farmer organizations (FOs), coordinated by Solidaridad West Africa, with additional technical support and co-funding from the International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), Ghana COCOBOD and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH).

The programme commenced in October 2013 with five international cocoa industry companies partnering with local companies to co-fund the establishment and operation of cocoa Rural Service Centers (RSCs) as a mechanism to assist farmers to access production
support services for crop intensification and rehabilitations. Implementing companies, donors and technical services providers constitute the programme’s implementation consortium.

CORIP is inviting proposals from suitably qualified cocoa companies and/or farmer associations to submit proposals to implement, co-fund and operate new and additional RSC within cocoa production regions in Ghana.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Eligible applicants for CORIP grant must be:

- Cocoa licensed buying companies (LBC) and/or recognized Farmer Organizations (FO) in Ghana teaming up with a private international cocoa company.
- Agro-input company teaming up with a LBC or FO in Ghana.
- Private cocoa companies/FOs ready to co-finance the establishment and operations of the RSCs.
- A Company/FO/LBC must be willing to submit a technical and financial proposal based on a standard template to be provided by CORIP management in request via email: Eric.Agyare@solidaridadnetwork.org

APPLICATION PROCESSES, REVIEWS AND APPROVAL
1. Submit first an expression of interest (EOI) on the organization’s letter head signed by the appropriate senior person in the organization and send to the email below as a scanned document by December 15th, 2014. It would be much appreciated if the EOI states or mentions potential local or International partners it hopes to work with (e.g. farmer organization, LBC or international cocoa company). Reason how RSC in CORIP are implemented, managed and would be sustained by the local private sector partners post initial programme funding.
2. CORIP will send a confirmation email upon receipt of the EOI along with standard application templates (technical, financial and programme governance manual).
3. Applicant(s) will be supported by the CORIP coordination secretariat via email to complete the proposal for submission by January 15, 2015.
4. An external technical committee of cocoa/development experts shall review the proposal and provide the companies with feedback by February 01, 2015 for any reviews or corrections.
5. Final updated proposal shall be submitted to CORIP coordination secretariat within ten (10) working days upon receipt of the committee’s feedback.
6. The Technical Committee shall approve or disapprove the final proposal submitted and the decision accordingly communicated to applicant(s) by March 01, 2015.
7. Grant funds will be disbursed for commencement of RSC establishment after orientation session organized by Solidaridad to successful applicants during the month of March 2015.

Exceptions to application process:
Companies with existing sub-agreements with Solidaridad who desire to increase the number of RSCs being implemented under already approved proposals would state only the expansion and number of proposed new RSC in the EOI. They may not be required to submit a full blown proposal as may be determined the Technical Services Selection Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE
All communications with respect to this call shall be sent to the CORIP Programme Manager, Eric.Agyare@solidaridadnetwork.org