



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2018

TO: USAID/Ghana, Mission Director, Sharon Cromer

FROM: Regional Inspector General/Pretoria, John Vernon /s/

SUBJECT: Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Savannah Agricultural Research Institute in Ghana Under Agreement 641-A18-FY14-IL#03, January 14, 2015, to December 31, 2016 (Report No. 4-641-18-072-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID Resources Managed by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (CSIR-SARI). CSIR-SARI contracted with Ghana Audit Services (GAS), Accra, Ghana to conduct the audit. The contract required GAS the audit firm to perform the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

The audit firm states that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS), except that the audit firm did not have external quality control review programs that fully satisfied the requirements set forth in GAGAS. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on CSIR-SARI's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were to: (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement as of December 31, 2016, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate the recipient's internal control structure related to USAID-funded programs; (3) determine whether the recipient complied, in all material respects, with agreement terms and applicable laws and regulations related to USAID funded programs; (4) conduct an audit on indirect cost rate; and (5) determine whether the recipient has taken adequate corrective actions on recommendations in prior audit reports.

¹ We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

To answer the audit objectives, GAS (1) audited the fund accountability statement for the award including the budgeted amounts by category and major items and the revenues received from USAID for the period covered by the audit and the costs reported by CSIR-SARI as incurred from January 14, 2015, to December 31, 2016; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to CSIR-SARI's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the fund accountability statement; (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material effect on the fund accountability statement; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) determined that the review of the implementation status of the prior period recommendations was not applicable since there was no prior audit. CSIR-SARI spent \$1,392,540 in USAID funds during the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the fund accountability statement presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited except for \$197,177 in total questioned costs (\$29,330 ineligible and \$167,847 unsupported); three significant deficiencies in internal control; and two instances of material noncompliance - one instance included in the report on compliance and one instance identified on cost-sharing contributions.

During our desk review, we noted several minor issues which the audit firm will need to address in future audit reports. We presented these issues in a memorandum to the controller, dated March 22, 2018.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that USAID/Ghana:

Recommendation 1. Determine the allowability of \$197,177 in questioned costs (\$29,330 ineligible and \$167,847 unsupported) on pages 15, 20 to 21, and 25 of the audit report and recover any amount that is unallowable.

Recommendation 2. Verify that Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Savannah Agricultural Research Institute corrects the three significant deficiencies in internal control detailed on pages 20 to 22 of the audit report.

Recommendation 3. Verify that Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Savannah Agricultural Research Institute corrects the two instances of material noncompliance detailed on pages 25 and 30 of the audit report.

Recommendation 4. Determine the allowability of \$589,645 in unsupported questioned cost sharing contributions identified on pages 28 and 30 of the audit report and take any corrective action deemed necessary under ADS 303.3.10.

We ask that you provide your written notification of actions planned or taken to reach management decision. We appreciate the assistance extended during the engagement.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential").