

INDIA
World Bank Assisted Watershed Management Project - Neeranchal
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources
NPC Building, 5-6 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110003, India
IDA Credit No 55240 IN

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Selection of Consultants for “Forward Linkages and Rural Livelihood Support System”

1. This Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in UNDB online on 26th June 2013.
2. The Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Neeranchal National Watershed Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consulting services for “**Forward Linkages and Rural Livelihood Support System**” for which this REOI is issued. The period of the consultancy shall be five years.
3. The consulting services (“the services”) include “Forward Linkages and Rural Livelihood Support System” for Neeranchal National Watershed Project. Neeranchal aims to increase incomes through enhanced agricultural production and improve sustainability of natural resources through better watershed management among the people living in selected micro-watersheds in nine States, by improving effectiveness and adding value to Govt. of India’s ongoing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) through institutional reform, capacity building, the development and application of best practices, and convergence with other Government projects. Neeranchal is designed to support IWMP in nine (9) States (viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Telangana). The objective of “Forward Linkages and Rural Livelihood Support System” is to carryout applied research and development to support rural livelihoods with the ultimate goal of formulating demonstrative projects and a strategy for increasing total household incomes in the target areas. This shall primarily be achieved by enhancing both agriculture and non-agriculture income by maximizing productivity, technology interventions and other innovative approaches. The specific tasks which the consultant has to carry out are as follows:
 - i) Prepare a Baseline & support applied research.
 - ii) Undertake applied research to generate community-led inclusive growth models as part of watershed development.
 - iii) Identify and pilot innovative tools to ensure better equity between producers and buyers, and benefits flowing to the farmers/groups.
 - iv) Train SHGs in need based skill up gradation in specific identified activities.

- v) Undertake product up-gradation efforts with respect to commodities produced under IGA by the SHGs or any other group.
 - vi) Establish financial linkages to SHGs, User Groups (UGs), CIGs, Area groups, JLGS or other CBOs and facilitate IGAs ensuring sustainability.
 - vii) Develop model IGA plans and assist in extending the same to larger IWMP area.
 - viii) Provide technical inputs and guidelines for state-led training and hand-holding to build sustainable capacities among farmers for entering into new value chains.
 - ix) Suggest and supervise practical studies on how to better augment and integrate livestock, fisheries and fodder development with ATMA, with suitable backstopping from KVKs and other partners from private and NGO sectors.
 - x) Partner with appropriate, private institutions to create a dedicated financial literacy program.
 - xi) Develop and pilot user-friendly ICT tools (e.g., cell phone-based applications) to help farmers to access information to make better annual operating plans for crops and understand the financial impact of these plans.
 - xii) Work with the private sector to review current insurance products for farmers and develop new approaches for delivering these services to farmers.
 - xiii) Design & implementation of the IGA plan through active engagement and involvement of other Project Implementing Partners of the Neeranchal programme.
4. The Project Director, Neeranchal, Department of Land Resources now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.
5. The short-listing criteria for evaluation of EoIs are:
- (i) Past experience of the firm in providing services for establishment of “Forward Linkages and Rural Livelihood Support System” for aided projects of a similar nature including World Bank assisted project and experience in conducting studies in the project area in terms of years of experience, value of assignments handled, number of assignments handled, relevance of past assignments to the present study. (Brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).
 - (ii) Organization Capability of the Firm – Annual turnover during the past three years, Number of Staff working with firm.
6. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers*, January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

7. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. [The “Association” may take the form of a joint venture (with joint and several liability) or of a sub-consultancy]. This should be clearly stated in the submission.
8. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS, Lump sum) method set out in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by Bank Borrowers, January 2011.
9. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 10:00 to 17:00 hours on all working days or at project web site <http://dolr.nic.in>.
10. Expression of interest with the accompanying information must be delivered in the written form to the address below by **12th December 2014**, between 10.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs on working days.

Contact: Project Director,
Project Management Unit, Neeranchal National Watershed Management Project ,
Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India, First Floor, National Productivity Council Building,
5-6 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003, India.
Tel: (+91-11) 24621470, TeleFax: (+91-11) 24621469
E-mail: neeranchal-dolr@nic.in , Website: <http://dolr.nic.in>

Important Note

- *No Proposals (Technical or Financial) are required now. On the basis of information provided by interested consulting firms, the NNWP, DoLR will prepare a shortlist of firms who will be invited to submit detailed proposals.*