

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REoI) (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

[PAKISTAN]

[PUNJAB RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT]

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: **IDA-71640**

Assignment Title: **Hiring Of Local Service Provider (LSP) Under Sub-Component 2.1
(Long Term)**

Reference No.: **PK-OFWM PUNJAB-433881-CS-QCBS**

The Agriculture Department, Government of the Punjab, has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Punjab Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture Transformation (PRIAT) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to enhance equitable access to, and productivity of, agricultural water, and improve incomes of farmers supported by the project. The major components of the project include community-driven improvement of water conveyance and application, promotion of climate smart production, diversification, value addition, & inclusive access to markets, and project management, monitoring, and learning.

The consulting services (“the Services”) mainly include services for implementation of Sub Component 2.1; Improving market integration of producer groups for increased production, diversification & value addition (VA). The contract period for consulting services will be 36 months.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website (www.ofwm.agripunjab.gov.pk).

Directorate General Agriculture (Water Management) Punjab, Lahore/ Project Management Unit (PMU-PRIAT) now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria will be as follows:

- (i) Firm(s)/joint venture(s) name, address, copy of the Registration Certificate with relevant professional bodies of the concerned Government, supported by latest / updated renewal, Country of Operations (if the firm is registered and operating in several countries), Memorandum / Article of Association / Partnership Deed or Joint Venture Agreement (if applicable).
- (ii) The consulting firm should have a minimum of ten (10) years of general experience in water and agriculture sector. The Consultant shall share the list of projects completed along with the project cost and cost of consultancy services, dates of commencement, and completion. Completion certificates from concerned agencies/ departments should be attached with completed projects. In addition, the consultant shall furnish the following information;
 - a. List of at-least two (02) assignments in agriculture/rural development sector covering capacity development of rural communities, especially with farmers or Value chain assessment, or business opportunities and or marketing studies preferably in agriculture / livestock / agro-processing or in similar assignments in related field. In case of previous assignments executed as a JV member, the firm(s) shall indicate the respective share and services rendered under the contract.
 - b. The preference shall be given to the firms with more and better similar assignments in past and any firm(s) meeting the minimum requirement does not mean mandatory shortlisting of firm.
- (iii) The organization and management structure of the firm indicating the technical and specialty groups and professional staff within the firm(s)/ joint venture(s) members should be provided.

- (iv) List of similar works/ assignments currently in progress/ in-hand with total cost of such projects and cost of consultancy services with date of start and expected date of completion. Award letters from concerned agencies/ departments should be attached with completed projects.
- (v) History of litigation (if any) in courts or any arbitration proceedings.
- (vi) Affidavit confirming that: (a) applicant firm(s)/joint venture(s) have never been blacklisted by any government department/ agency/ institution. (If ever blacklisted, then provide the case history and status of the firm regarding this decision). (b) All the information provided by the applicant firm/joint venture are correct.

Applicant firms are requested to provide only relevant and complete information specific to the proposed services and avoid submitting generic promotional literature. Incomplete/ generic information will not be considered. The borrower reserves the right to withdraw this recruitment process at any time and interested firms are responsible for all costs incurred arising out of, or in relation to this request.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2021 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Firms working as PIS&TPV and M&E consultants are not eligible to apply.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from Monday to Friday (9:00 am to 5:00 pm PST). Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form (hard copy) to the address below by **August 13, 2024 (before 1100 hours)**.

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