

INDIA
World Bank financed
Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society
(An Autonomous Body of the Government of Assam)
REVISED REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

HIRING OF CONSULTANCY FIRMS FOR SURVEY, FEASIBILITY STUDY, DESIGN AND LAYOUT, DPR PREPARATION FOR MODERNIZATION AND UPGRADATION OF RURAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETS AND WAREHOUSES UNDER APART
(Reference No. of Procurement Plan: IN-ARIAS-8972-CS-QCBS)

Re-REOI No. ARIASS/APART/318/2018/44-A

Dated Guwahati the 6th April, 2018

- The Government of Assam (GoA) through the Government of India has received a loan of US\$ 200 million from the World Bank (WB) (Loan No. 8780-IN) for implementation of the Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART). The ARIAS Society now intends to apply a portion of the loan for hiring Consultancy Firm(s) for “Survey, Feasibility Study, Design and Layout, DPR Preparation for Modernization and Upgradation of Rural Agricultural Markets and Warehouses”.
- The development objective of APART is to “add value and improve resilience of selected agriculture value chains focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in the targeted districts of Assam”. The activities of APART are grouped into four major components: (i) Component A: Enabling Agri Enterprise Development (ii) Component B: Facilitating Agro Cluster Development (iii) Component C: Fostering Market-led Production and Resilience Enhancement (iv) Component D: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning. More details about the project may be seen at the following url- <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/272411504404065792/pdf/INDIA-ASSAM-PAD-08142017.pdf> An important sub-component of APART is to support the supply chain through upgrading the infrastructure for agricultural trade. One of the major activities under this sub-sector is modernizing and upgrading of selected markets [10 Wholesale Markets managed by Regulated Market Committees (RMCs), under the Assam State Marketing Board (ASAMB)]; and about 65 Rural Periodic Markets (Rural Haats) under the Panchayat & Rural Development Commissionerate (P&RD) and 33 Warehouses units of the Assam State Warehousing Corporation (ASWC). The **Tentative/provisional** packaging plan (*To be finalized at the RFP stage*) for the assignment(s) are as per the table below:

| Package No | District (<i>undivided as of 1st April, 2016</i>) | RMC Market | Rural Haats (Market) | | | Warehouse Units | Dist. Sub-Total | Package Total |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | Agri & Horti | Agri & Horti | Fish | Pig with Agri & Horti | | | |
| MW-1 | Kamrup | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 22 |
| | Nalbari | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | |
| MW-2 | Goalpara | - | 4 | - | - | 2 | 6 | 22 |
| | Dhubri | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 6 | |
| | Barpeta | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 7 | |
| | Kokrajhar | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | 3 | |
| MW-3 | Sivasagar | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | 22 |
| | Golaghat | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | |
| | Karbi Anglong | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | |
| | Jorhat | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | |
| | Cachar | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 4 | |
| MW-4 | Darrang | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 19 |
| | Lakhimpur | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| MW-5 | Nagaon | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 9 | 14 | 23 |
| | Morigaon | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | |
| | Sonitpur | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 5 | |
| Total | | 10 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 33 | 108 | 108 |

- Broadly, the scope of consulting services (“the Services”) includes (i) Identification of users need and assessment of market trading aspects and assessment of market trading conditions; (ii) Preparation of feasibility report and detailed design of markets (both RMCs & Rural Haats); (iii) Preparation of feasibility report and detailed design of Warehouses. More details may be seen in the **Draft** Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed assignment, through the website of ARIAS Society, viz. <http://www.arias.in/procurements.html>. The final ToR will be included in the Request for Proposal (RFP), document.

4. The State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest (*separately for each package, if they want submit EoIs for multiple packages*) in providing the Services. Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and experience to perform the Services.
5. **The shortlisting criteria are:-** The firm should -
 - a) have been in business for atleast last five (**05**) years (i.e. 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15 , 2013-14 & 2012-13) ;
 - b) have proven experience of successfully completed at least **2** similar assignments in the last **5** years (i.e. 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15 , 2013-14 & 2012-13);
 - c) have an average annual turnover of **Rs. 5.00 crore** in the last **3** financial years (i.e. 2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15);
 - d) have technical and managerial capability to undertake the assignment.

Note: *The Consultancy firms are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) separately for each package and in case any firm wants to apply for more than one package, than they must demonstrate that they have the combined capacity to handle multiple packages. The SPD however, may shortlist separate firms for each package.*
6. **The lists of documents to be submitted along with EOI are** (*Expression of Interest shall not be more than total 60 pages*):
 - a) Name, address, e-mail, telephone along with a note on the Ownership and organizational structure & core business area of the consulting firm;
 - b) Document (s) to demonstrate that the firm is in the business for the last **5** years (i.e. 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15 , 2013-14 & 2012-13);
 - c) Document (s) relating to details of Similar Assignments executed during the last **5** years (i.e. 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15 , 2013-14 & 2012-13) supported by completion or acceptance certificate(s);
 - d) Certificate from the statutory auditors/Chartered Accountant stating the year wise annual turnover during each of the last **3** financial years (i.e. 2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15);
 - e) A short write-up on technical and managerial capability of the firm (*key personnel would not be evaluated at this stage and hence CVs shall not be submitted at EOI stage*).
7. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method pursuant to the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers; Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting & Consulting Services, July 2016", available at www.worldbank.org. Attention of the interested agencies is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the said Regulations relating to the Conflict of Interest.
8. Consultancy firms may associate with other firms [*excluding not-for-profit organizations such as NGOs, universities, etc., unless they operate as commercial entities, are legally & financially autonomous and operate under commercial law*] in the form of a joint venture (JV) or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. However, nature of association i.e. whether JV or Sub-Consultant, must be clearly mentioned in the Expression of Interest.
9. Interested Consultancy Firms/ Agencies must deliver their EOIs in **English** language to the address given below on or before **10th May'2018** in **hard copy as well as a soft copy (by email and in a CD)**. Further information can be obtained at the address given below from 11.00 am to 04.00 pm (IST) on all working days.
10. *This revised REOI is issued against cancellation of earlier REOI no. ARIASS/APART/MW/177/2017/29-A dated 21st January'2017.*

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