



ARIAS SOCIETY

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society

(An Autonomous Body of the Govt. of Assam)

**Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the World Bank financed
Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)**

Agriculture complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India)

Tel: +91 361-2332004; email: spd@arias.in; website: www.arias.in

Project: Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS

[Through Quality and Cost Based Selection “QCBS” method]

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP No. : ARIAS-13015/4/2022-APART-ARIAS/I/108681/2023

[Procurement Plan Reference: IN-ARIAS-317968-CS-QCBS]

Hiring of Consulting Services for:

**Study on “as-is” assessment, strengthening and
streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds
Corporation Limited (ASCL)**

Client: ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit,

Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road,

Guwahati-781022; (Assam, India);

Tel: 0361-2332004; email: spd@arias.in

Country: India

Issued on: 18th January, 2023

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PART I

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

Name of Assignment: **Hiring of Consulting Services for: Study on “as-is” assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)**

RFP Reference No.: **ARIAS-13015/4/2022-APART-ARIAS Dated Guwahati the 18th January, 2023**
Issue No: I/108681/2023

Loan No. IBRD loan No. **8780-IN**, Project ID.: **P155617**;

Country: **India**

1. The Government of Assam through the Government of India (hereinafter called ‘Borrower’) has received financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in the form of a “loan” (hereinafter called “loan”) towards the cost of **APART. The ARIAS Society**, an implementing agency of the Client intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued. Payments by the Bank will be made only at the request of the ARIAS Society and upon approval by the Bank, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement. The financing agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the loan account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of the Bank, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than the Client shall derive any rights from the financing agreement or have any claims to the proceeds of the loan.
2. The Client now invites proposals to provide the following consulting services (hereinafter called “Services”): **Hiring of Consulting Services for: Study on “as-is” assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)**. More details on the Services are provided in the Terms of Reference (Section 7).
3. A firm will be selected under **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** procedures and in a **Full Technical Proposal (FTP)** format as described in this RFP, in accordance with the policies of the Bank detailed in the Bank’s “Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016 (“ Procurement Regulations”) which can be found at the following website: www.worldbank.org/procure.
4. The RFP includes the following documents:

Section 1 - Letter of Invitation	Section 2 - Instructions to Consultants and Data Sheet
Section 3 - Technical Proposal (FTP)- Standard Forms	Section 4 - Financial Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 5 -Eligible Countries	Section 6 – Bank’s Policy – Corrupt and Fraudulent Practices
Section 7 - Terms of Reference	Section 8 - Forms of Contract (Lump-Sum)

5. Details on the proposal’s submission date, time and address are provided in ITC 17.7 and ITC 17.9.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Akash Deep, IAS)
State Project Director, ARIAS Society,

Section 2. Instructions to Consultants and Data Sheet

Instructions to Consultants

A. General Provisions

1. **Definitions**
- (a) "Affiliate(s)" means an individual or an entity that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Consultant.
 - (b) "Applicable Law" means the laws and any other instruments having the force of law in the Client's country, or in such other country as may be specified in the **Data Sheet**, as they may be issued and in force from time to time.
 - (c) "Bank" means the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or the International Development Association (IDA).
 - (d) "Borrower" means the Government, Government agency or other entity that signs the [loan/financing/grant¹] agreement with the Bank.
 - (e) "Client" means the implementing agency that signs the Contract for the Services with the selected Consultant.
 - (f) "Consultant" means a legally-established professional consulting firm or an entity that may provide or provides the Services to the Client under the Contract.
 - (g) "Contract" means a legally binding written agreement signed between the Client and the Consultant and includes all the attached documents listed in its Clause 1 (the General Conditions of Contract (GCC), the Special Conditions of Contract (SCC), and the Appendices).
 - (h) "Data Sheet" means an integral part of the Instructions to Consultants (ITC) Section 2 that is used to reflect specific country and assignment conditions to supplement, but not to over-write, the provisions of the ITC.
 - (i) "Day" means a calendar day, unless otherwise specified as "Business Day". A Business Day is any day that is an official working day of the Borrower. It excludes the Borrower's official public holidays.
 - (j) "Experts" means, collectively, Key Experts, Non-Key Experts, or any other personnel of the Consultant, Sub-consultant or Joint Venture member(s).
 - (k) "Government" means the government of the Client's country.
 - (l) "in writing" means communicated in written form (e.g. by mail, e-mail, fax, including, if specified in the Data Sheet, distributed or received through the electronic-procurement system used by the Client) with proof of receipt;
 - (m) "Joint Venture (JV)" means an association with or without a legal personality distinct from that of its members, of more than one Consultant where one member has the authority to conduct all business for and on behalf of any and all the members of the JV, and where the members of the JV are jointly and severally liable to the Client for the performance of the Contract.
 - (n) "Key Expert(s)" means an individual professional whose skills, qualifications, knowledge and experience are critical to the performance of the Services under the Contract and whose CV is taken into account in the technical evaluation of the Consultant's proposal.
 - (o) "ITC" (this Section 2 of the RFP) means the Instructions to Consultants that provides the Consultants with all information needed to prepare their Proposals.
 - (p) "Non-Key Expert(s)" means an individual professional provided by the Consultant or its Sub-consultant and who is assigned to perform the Services or any part thereof under the Contract and whose CVs are not evaluated individually.
 - (q) "Proposal" means the Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal of the Consultant.
 - (r) "RFP" means the Request for Proposals to be prepared by the Client for the selection of

¹["loan agreement" term is used for IBRD loans; "financing agreement" is used for IDA credits; and "grant agreement" is used for Recipient-Executed Trust Funds administered by IBRD or IDA]

Consultants, based on the SPD - RFP.

- (s) "SPD - RFP" means the Standard Procurement Document -Request for Proposals, which must be used by the Client as the basis for the preparation of the RFP.
- (t) "Services" means the work to be performed by the Consultant pursuant to the Contract.
- (u) "Sub-consultant" means an entity to whom the Consultant intends to subcontract any part of the Services while the Consultant remains responsible to the Client during the whole performance of the Contract.
- (v) "Terms of Reference (TORs)" (this Section 7 of the RFP) means the Terms of Reference that explains the objectives, scope of work, activities, and tasks to be performed, respective responsibilities of the Client and the Consultant, and expected results and deliverables of the assignment.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Client named in the **Data Sheet** intends to select a Consultant from those listed in the Request for Proposals (RFP), in accordance with the method of selection specified in the **Data Sheet**.

2.2 The Consultants are invited to submit a Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal, or a Technical Proposal only, as specified in the **Data Sheet**, for consulting services required for the assignment named in the **Data Sheet**. The Proposal will be the basis for negotiating and ultimately signing the Contract with the selected Consultant.

2.3 The Consultants should familiarize themselves with the local conditions and take them into account in preparing their Proposals, including attending a pre-proposal conference if one is specified in the **Data Sheet**. Attending any such pre-proposal conference is optional and is at the Consultants' expense.

2.4 The Client will timely provide, at no cost to the Consultants, the inputs, relevant project data, and reports required for the preparation of the Consultant's Proposal as specified in the **Data Sheet**.

3. Conflict of Interest

3.1 The Consultant is required to provide professional, objective, and impartial advice, at all times holding the Client's interests paramount, strictly avoiding conflicts with other assignments or its own corporate interests, and acting without any consideration for future work.

3.2 The Consultant has an obligation to disclose to the Client any situation of actual or potential conflict that impacts its capacity to serve the best interest of its Client. Failure to disclose such situations may lead to the disqualification of the Consultant or the termination of its Contract and/or sanctions by the Bank.

3.2.1 Without limitation on the generality of the foregoing, and unless stated otherwise in the **Data Sheet** the Consultant shall not be hired under the circumstances set forth below:

a. Conflicting Activities

(i) Conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or non-consulting services: a firm that has been engaged by the Client to provide goods, works, or non-consulting services for a project, or any of its Affiliates, shall be disqualified from providing consulting services resulting from or directly related to those goods, works, or non-consulting services. Conversely, a firm hired to provide consulting services for the preparation or implementation of a project, or any of its Affiliates, shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods or works or non-consulting services resulting from or directly related to the consulting services for such preparation or implementation.

b. Conflicting Assignments

(ii) Conflict among consulting assignments: a Consultant (including its Experts and Sub-consultants) or any of its Affiliates shall not be hired for any assignment that, by its nature, may be in conflict with another assignment of the Consultant for the same or for another Client.

c. Conflicting Relationships

(iii) Relationship with the Client's staff: a Consultant (including its Experts and Sub-consultants) that has a close business or family relationship with a professional staff of the Borrower (or of the Client, or of implementing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the Bank's financing) who are directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the Terms of

Reference for the assignment, (ii) the selection process for the Contract, or (iii) the supervision of the Contract, may not be awarded a Contract, unless the conflict stemming from this relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the selection process and the execution of the Contract.

4. Unfair Competitive Advantage

4.1 Fairness and transparency in the selection process require that the Consultants or their Affiliates competing for a specific assignment do not derive a competitive advantage from having provided consulting services related to the assignment in question. To that end, the Client shall indicate in the **Data Sheet** and make available to all Consultants together with this RFP all information that would in that respect give such Consultant any unfair competitive advantage over competing Consultants.

5. Fraud and Corruption

5.1 The Bank requires compliance with the Bank's Anti-Corruption Guidelines and its prevailing sanctions policies and procedures as set forth in the WBG's Sanctions Framework, as set forth in Section 6.

5.2 In further pursuance of this policy, Consultants shall permit and shall cause their agents (where declared or not), subcontractors, sub-consultants, service providers, suppliers, and their personnel, to permit the Bank to inspect all accounts, records and other documents relating to any shortlisting process, Proposal submission, and contract performance (in the case of award), and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Bank.

6. Eligibility

6.1 The Bank permits consultants (individuals and firms, including Joint Ventures and their individual members) from all countries to offer consulting services for Bank-financed projects.

6.2 Furthermore, it is the Consultant's responsibility to ensure that its Experts, joint venture members, Sub-consultants, agents (declared or not), sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers and/or their employees meet the eligibility requirements as established by the Bank in the Applicable Procurement Regulations.

6.3 As an exception to the foregoing ITC 6.1 and ITC 6.2 above:

a. Sanctions

6.3.1 A Consultant that has been sanctioned by the Bank, pursuant to the Bank's Anti-Corruption Guidelines and in accordance with its prevailing sanctions policies and procedures as set forth in the WBG's Sanctions Framework as described in Section VI, Fraud and Corruption, paragraph 2.2 d., shall be ineligible to be shortlisted for, submit proposals for, or be awarded a Bank-financed contract or benefit from a Bank-financed contract, financially or otherwise, during such period of time as the Bank shall have determined. The list of debarred firms and individuals is available at the electronic address specified **in the Data Sheet**.

b. Prohibitions

6.3.2 Firms and individuals of a country or goods manufactured in a country may be ineligible if so indicated in Section 5 (Eligible Countries) and:

- (a) as a matter of law or official regulations, the Borrower's country prohibits commercial relations with that country, provided that the Bank is satisfied that such exclusion does not preclude effective competition for the provision of Services required; or
- (b) by an act of compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Borrower's Country prohibits any import of goods from that country or any payments to any country, person, or entity in that country.

c. Restrictions for State-Owned Enterprises

6.3.3 State-owned enterprises or institutions in the Borrower's country may be eligible to compete and be awarded a contract only if they can establish, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, that they: (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under commercial law, and (iii) are not under supervision of the Client.

d. Restrictions for Public Employees

6.3.4 Government officials and civil servants of the Borrower's country are not eligible to be included as Experts, individuals, or members of a team of Experts in the Consultant's Proposal unless:

- (i) the services of the government official or civil servant are of a unique and exceptional nature, or their participation is critical to project implementation; and
- (ii) their hiring would not create a conflict of interest, including any conflict with

employment or other laws, regulations, or policies of the Borrower.

e. Borrower Debarment

6.3.5 A firm that is under a sanction of debarment by the Borrower from being awarded a contract is eligible to participate in this procurement, unless the Bank, at the Borrower's request, is satisfied that the debarment; (a) relates to fraud or corruption, and (b) followed a judicial or administrative proceeding that afforded the firm adequate due process.

B. Preparation of Proposals

7. General Considerations

7.1 In preparing the Proposal, the Consultant is expected to examine the RFP in detail. Material deficiencies in providing the information requested in the RFP may result in rejection of the Proposal.

8. Cost of Preparation of Proposal

8.1 The Consultant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Proposal, and the Client shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the selection process. The Client is not bound to accept any proposal, and reserves the right to annul the selection process at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Consultant.

9. Language

9.1 The Proposal, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Proposal exchanged between the Consultant and the Client, shall be written in the language(s) specified in the **Data Sheet**.

10. Documents Comprising the Proposal

10.1 The Proposal shall comprise the documents and forms listed in the **Data Sheet**.

10.2 If specified in the **Data Sheet**, the Consultant shall include a statement of an undertaking of the Consultant to observe, in competing for and executing a contract, the Client country's laws against fraud and corruption (including bribery).

10.3 The Consultant shall furnish information on commissions, gratuities, and fees, if any, paid or to be paid to agents or any other party relating to this Proposal and, if awarded, Contract execution, as requested in the Financial Proposal submission form (Section 4).

11. Only One Proposal

11.1 The Consultant (including the individual members of any Joint Venture) shall submit only one Proposal, either in its own name or as part of a Joint Venture in another Proposal. If a Consultant, including any Joint Venture member, submits or participates in more than one proposal, all such proposals shall be disqualified and rejected. This does not, however, preclude Sub-consultant, or the Consultant's staff from participating as Key Experts and Non-Key Experts in more than one Proposal when circumstances justify and if stated in the **Data Sheet**.

12. Proposal Validity

12.1 **The Data Sheet** indicates the period during which the Consultant's Proposal must remain valid after the Proposal submission deadline.

12.2 During this period, the Consultant shall maintain its original Proposal without any change, including the availability of the Key Experts, the proposed rates and the total price.

12.3 If it is established that any Key Expert nominated in the Consultant's Proposal was not available at the time of Proposal submission or was included in the Proposal without his/her confirmation, such Proposal shall be disqualified and rejected for further evaluation, and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with ITC 5.

a. Extension of Validity Period

12.4 The Client will make its best effort to complete the negotiations and award the contract within the proposal's validity period. However, should the need arise, the Client may request, in writing, all Consultants who submitted Proposals prior to the submission deadline to extend the Proposals' validity.

12.5 If the Consultant agrees to extend the validity of its Proposal, it shall be done without any change in the original Proposal and with the confirmation of the availability of the Key Experts, except as provided in ITC 12.7.

12.6 The Consultant has the right to refuse to extend the validity of its Proposal in which case such Proposal will not be further evaluated.

b. Substitution of Key Experts at Validity Extension

12.7 If any of the Key Experts become unavailable for the extended validity period, the Consultant shall seek to substitute him with another Key Expert. The Consultant shall provide a written adequate justification and evidence satisfactory to the Client together with the substitution request. In such case, a substitute Key Expert shall have equal or better qualifications and experience than those of the originally proposed Key Expert. The technical

evaluation score, however, will remain to be based on the evaluation of the CV of the original Key Expert.

12.8 If the Consultant fails to provide a substitute Key Expert with equal or better qualifications, or if the provided reasons for the replacement or justification are unacceptable to the Client, such Proposal will be rejected with the prior Bank's no objection.

c. Sub-Contracting

12.9 The Consultant shall not subcontract the whole of the Services.

13. Clarification and Amendment of RFP

13.1 The Consultant may request a clarification of any part of the RFP during the period indicated in the **Data Sheet** before the Proposals' submission deadline. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing, or by standard electronic means, to the Client's address indicated in the **Data Sheet**. The Client will respond in writing, or by standard electronic means, and will send written copies of the response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying its source) to all Consultants. Should the Client deem it necessary to amend the RFP as a result of a clarification, it shall do so following the procedure described below:

13.1.1 At any time before the proposal submission deadline, the Client may amend the RFP by issuing an amendment in writing or by standard electronic means. The amendment shall be sent to all Consultants and will be binding on them. The Consultants shall acknowledge receipt of all amendments in writing.

13.1.2 If the amendment is substantial, the Client may extend the proposal submission deadline to give the Consultants reasonable time to take an amendment into account in their Proposals.

13.2 The Consultant may submit a modified Proposal or a modification to any part of it at any time prior to the proposal submission deadline. No modifications to the Technical or Financial Proposal shall be accepted after the deadline.

14. Preparation of Proposals Specific Considerations

14.1 While preparing the Proposal, the Consultant must give particular attention to the following:

14.1.1 If a Consultant considers that it may enhance its expertise for the assignment by associating with other consultants in the form of a Joint Venture or as Sub-consultants, it may do so.

14.1.2 The Client may indicate in the **Data Sheet** the estimated Key Experts' time input (expressed in person-month) or the Client's estimated total cost of the assignment, but not both. This estimate is indicative and the Proposal shall be based on the Consultant's own estimates for the same.

14.1.3 If stated in the **Data Sheet**, the Consultant shall include in its Proposal at least the same time input (in the same unit as indicated in the **Data Sheet**) of Key Experts, failing which the Financial Proposal will be adjusted for the purpose of comparison of proposals and decision for award in accordance with the procedure in the **Data Sheet**.

14.1.4 For assignments under the Fixed-Budget selection method, the estimated Key Experts' time input is not disclosed. Total available budget, with an indication whether it is inclusive or exclusive of taxes, is given in the **Data Sheet**, and the Financial Proposal shall not exceed this budget.

15. Technical Proposal Format and Content

15.1 The Technical Proposal shall be prepared using the Standard Forms provided in Section 3 of the RFP and shall comprise the documents listed in the **Data Sheet**. The Technical Proposal shall not include any financial information. A Technical Proposal containing material financial information shall be declared non-responsive.

15.1.1 Consultant shall not propose alternative Key Experts. Only one CV shall be submitted for each Key Expert position. Failure to comply with this requirement will make the Proposal non-responsive.

15.2 Depending on the nature of the assignment, the Consultant is required to submit a Full Technical Proposal (FTP), or a Simplified Technical Proposal (STP) as indicated in the **Data Sheet** and using the Standard Forms provided in Section 3 of the RFP.

16. Financial

16.1 The Financial Proposal shall be prepared using the Standard Forms provided in Section 4 of the RFP. It shall list all costs associated with the assignment, including (a)

Proposal	remuneration for Key Experts and Non-Key Experts, (b) reimbursable expenses indicated in the Data Sheet .
a. Price Adjustment	16.2 For assignments with a duration exceeding 18 months, a price adjustment provision for foreign and/or local inflation for remuneration rates applies if so stated in the Data Sheet .
b. Taxes	16.3 The Consultant and its Sub-consultants and Experts are responsible for meeting all tax liabilities arising out of the Contract unless stated otherwise in the Data Sheet . Information on taxes in the Client's country is provided in the Data Sheet .
c. Currency of Proposal	16.4 The Consultant may express the price for its Services in the currency or currencies as stated in the Data Sheet . If indicated in the Data Sheet , the portion of the price representing local cost shall be stated in the national currency.
d. Currency of Payment	16.5 Payment under the Contract shall be made in the currency or currencies in which the payment is requested in the Proposal.

C. Submission, Opening and Evaluation

17. Submission, Sealing, and Marking of Proposals	<p>17.1 The Consultant shall submit a signed and complete Proposal comprising the documents and forms in accordance with ITC 10 (Documents Comprising Proposal). Consultants shall mark as "CONFIDENTIAL" information in their Proposals which is confidential to their business. This may include proprietary information, trade secrets or commercial or financially sensitive information. The submission can be done by mail or by hand. If specified in the Data Sheet, the Consultant has the option of submitting its Proposals electronically.</p> <p>17.2 An authorized representative of the Consultant shall sign the original submission letters in the required format for both the Technical Proposal and, if applicable, the Financial Proposal and shall initial all pages of both. The authorization shall be in the form of a written power of attorney attached to the Technical Proposal.</p> <p>17.2.1 A Proposal submitted by a Joint Venture shall be signed by all members so as to be legally binding on all members, or by an authorized representative who has a written power of attorney signed by each member's authorized representative.</p> <p>17.3 Any modifications, revisions, interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the person signing the Proposal.</p> <p>17.4 The signed Proposal shall be marked "ORIGINAL", and its copies marked "COPY" as appropriate. The number of copies is indicated in the Data Sheet. All copies shall be made from the signed original. If there are discrepancies between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.</p> <p>17.5 The original and all the copies of the Technical Proposal shall be placed inside a sealed envelope clearly marked "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL", "[Name of the Assignment]", [reference number], [name and address of the Consultant], and with a warning "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL [INSERT THE DATE AND THE TIME OF THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE]."</p> <p>17.6 Similarly, the original Financial Proposal (if required for the applicable selection method) and its copies shall be placed inside of a separate sealed envelope clearly marked "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" "[Name of the Assignment]", [reference number], [name and address of the Consultant], and with a warning "DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL."</p> <p>17.7 The sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed into one outer envelope and sealed. This outer envelope shall be addressed to the Client and bear the submission address, RFP reference number, the name of the assignment, the Consultant's name and the address, and shall be clearly marked "Do Not Open Before [insert the time and date of the submission deadline indicated in the Data Sheet]".</p> <p>17.8 If the envelopes and packages with the Proposal are not sealed and marked as required, the Client will assume no responsibility for the misplacement, loss, or premature opening of the Proposal.</p> <p>17.9 The Proposal or its modifications must be sent to the address indicated in the Data Sheet and received by the Client no later than the deadline indicated in the Data Sheet, or any extension to this deadline. Any Proposal or its modification received by the Client after the deadline shall be declared late and rejected, and promptly returned unopened.</p>
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- 18. Confidentiality**
- 18.1 From the time the Proposals are opened to the time the Contract is awarded, the Consultant should not contact the Client on any matter related to its Technical and/or Financial Proposal. Information relating to the evaluation of Proposals and award recommendations shall not be disclosed to the Consultants who submitted the Proposals or to any other party not officially concerned with the process, until the Notification of Intention to Award the Contract. Exceptions to this ITC are where the Client notifies Consultants of the results of the evaluation of the Technical Proposals.
- 18.2 Any attempt by Consultants or anyone on behalf of the Consultant to influence improperly the Client in the evaluation of the Proposals or Contract award decisions may result in the rejection of its Proposal, and may be subject to the application of prevailing Bank's sanctions procedures.
- 18.3 Notwithstanding the above provisions, from the time of the Proposals' opening to the time of Contract award publication, if a Consultant wishes to contact the Client or the Bank on any matter related to the selection process, it shall do so only in writing.
- 19. Opening of Technical Proposals**
- 19.1 The Client's evaluation committee shall conduct the opening of the Technical Proposals in the presence of the Consultants' authorized representatives who choose to attend (in person, or online if this option is offered in the **Data Sheet**). The opening date, time and the address are stated in the **Data Sheet**. The envelopes with the Financial Proposal shall remain sealed and shall be securely stored with a reputable public auditor or independent authority until they are opened in accordance with ITC 23.
- 19.2 At the opening of the Technical Proposals the following shall be read out: (i) the name and the country of the Consultant or, in case of a Joint Venture, the name of the Joint Venture, the name of the lead member and the names and the countries of all members; (ii) the presence or absence of a duly sealed envelope with the Financial Proposal; (iii) any modifications to the Proposal submitted prior to proposal submission deadline; and (iv) any other information deemed appropriate or as indicated in the **Data Sheet**.
- 20. Proposals Evaluation**
- 20.1 Subject to provision of ITC 15.1, the evaluators of the Technical Proposals shall have no access to the Financial Proposals until the technical evaluation is concluded and the Bank issues its "no objection", if applicable.
- 20.2 The Consultant is not permitted to alter or modify its Proposal in any way after the proposal submission deadline except as permitted under ITC 12.7. While evaluating the Proposals, the Client will conduct the evaluation solely on the basis of the submitted Technical and Financial Proposals.
- 21. Evaluation of Technical Proposals**
- 21.1 The Client's evaluation committee shall evaluate the Technical Proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference and the RFP, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and point system specified in the **Data Sheet**. Each responsive Proposal will be given a technical score. A Proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it does not respond to important aspects of the RFP or if it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in the **Data Sheet**.
- 22. Financial Proposals for QBS**
- 22.1 Following the ranking of the Technical Proposals, when the selection is based on quality only (QBS), the top-ranked Consultant is invited to negotiate the Contract.
- 22.2 If Financial Proposals were invited together with the Technical Proposals, only the Financial Proposal of the technically top-ranked Consultant is opened by the Client's evaluation committee. All other Financial Proposals are returned unopened after the Contract negotiations are successfully concluded and the Contract is signed.
- 23. Public Opening of Financial Proposals (for QCBS, FBS, and LCS methods)**
- 23.1 After the technical evaluation is completed and the Bank has issued its no objection (if applicable), the Client shall notify those Consultants whose Proposals were considered non-responsive to the RFP and TOR or did not meet the minimum qualifying technical score, advising them the following:
- (i) their Proposal was not responsive to the RFP and TOR or did not meet the minimum qualifying technical score;
 - (ii) provide information relating to the Consultant's overall technical score, as well as scores obtained for each criterion and sub-criterion;
 - (iii) their Financial Proposals will be returned unopened after completing the selection process and Contract signing; and

- (iv) notify them of the date, time and location of the public opening of the Financial Proposals and invite them to attend.

23.2 The Client shall simultaneously notify in writing those Consultants whose Proposals were considered responsive to the RFP and TOR, and that have achieved the minimum qualifying technical score, advising them the following:

- (i) their Proposal was responsive to the RFP and TOR and met the minimum qualifying technical score;
- (ii) provide information relating to the Consultant's overall technical score, as well as scores obtained for each criterion and sub-criterion;
- (iii) their Financial Proposal will be opened at the public opening of Financial Proposals; and
- (iv) notify them of the date, time and location of the public opening and invite them for the opening of the Financial Proposals.

23.3 The opening date should allow the Consultants sufficient time to make arrangements for attending the opening and shall be no less than seven (7) Business Days from the date of notification of the results of the technical evaluation, described in ITC 23.1 and 23.2.

23.4 The Consultant's attendance at the opening of the Financial Proposals (in person, or online if such option is indicated in the **Data Sheet**) is optional and is at the Consultant's choice.

23.5 The Financial Proposals shall be opened publicly by the Client's evaluation committee in the presence of the representatives of the Consultants and anyone else who chooses to attend. Any interested party who wishes to attend this public opening should contact the client as indicated in the **Data Sheet**. Alternatively, a notice of the public opening of Financial Proposals may be published on the Client's website, if available. At the opening, the names of the Consultants, and the overall technical scores, including the break-down by criterion, shall be read aloud. The Financial Proposals will then be inspected to confirm that they have remained sealed and unopened. These Financial Proposals shall be then opened, and the total prices read aloud and recorded. Copies of the record shall be sent to all Consultants who submitted Proposals and to the Bank.

24. Correction of Errors 24.1 Activities and items described in the Technical Proposal but not priced in the Financial Proposal, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items, and no corrections are made to the Financial Proposal.

a. Time-Based Contracts 24.1.1 If a Time-Based contract form is included in the RFP, the Client's evaluation committee will (a) correct any computational or arithmetical errors, and (b) adjust the prices if they fail to reflect all inputs included for the respective activities or items included in the Technical Proposal. In case of discrepancy between (i) a partial amount (sub-total) and the total amount, or (ii) between the amount derived by multiplication of unit price with quantity and the total price, or (iii) between words and figures, the former will prevail. In case of discrepancy between the Technical and Financial Proposals in indicating quantities of input, the Technical Proposal prevails and the Client's evaluation committee shall correct the quantification indicated in the Financial Proposal so as to make it consistent with that indicated in the Technical Proposal, apply the relevant unit price included in the Financial Proposal to the corrected quantity, and correct the total Proposal cost.

b. Lump-Sum Contracts 24.1.2 If a Lump-Sum contract form is included in the RFP, the Consultant is deemed to have included all prices in the Financial Proposal, so neither arithmetical corrections nor price adjustments shall be made. The total price, net of taxes understood as per ITC 25, specified in the Financial Proposal (Form FIN-1) shall be considered as the offered price. Where there is a discrepancy between the amount in words and the amount figures, the amount in words shall prevail.

25. Taxes 25.1 The Client's evaluation of the Consultant's Financial Proposal shall exclude taxes and duties in the Client's country in accordance with the instructions in the **Data Sheet**.

26. Conversion to Single 26.1 For the evaluation purposes, prices shall be converted to a single currency using the selling rates of exchange, source and date indicated in the **Data Sheet**.

Currency

27. Combined Quality and Cost Evaluation

- a. Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)** 27.1 In the case of QCBS, the total score is calculated by weighting the technical and financial scores and adding them as per the formula and instructions in the **Data Sheet**. The Consultant with the Most Advantageous Proposal, which is the Proposal that achieves the highest combined technical and financial scores, will be invited for negotiations.
- b. Fixed-Budget Selection (FBS)** 27.2 In the case of FBS, those Proposals that exceed the budget indicated in ITC 14.1.4 of the **Data Sheet** shall be rejected.
- 27.3 The Client will select the Consultant with the Most Advantageous Proposal, which is the highest-ranked Technical Proposal that does not exceed the budget indicated in the RFP, and invite such Consultant to negotiate the Contract.
- c. Least-Cost Selection** 27.4 In the case of Least-Cost Selection (LCS), the Client will select the Consultant with the Most Advantageous Proposal, which is the Proposal with the lowest evaluated total price among those Proposals that achieved the minimum qualifying technical score, and invite such a Consultant to negotiate the Contract.

D. Negotiations and Award

- 28. Negotiations** 28.1 The negotiations will be held at the date and address indicated in the Data Sheet with the Consultant's representative(s) who must have written power of attorney to negotiate and sign a Contract on behalf of the Consultant.
- 28.2 The Client shall prepare minutes of negotiations that are signed by the Client and the Consultant's authorized representative.
- a. Availability of Key Experts** 28.3 The invited Consultant shall confirm the availability of all Key Experts included in the Proposal as a pre-requisite to the negotiations, or, if applicable, a replacement in accordance with ITC 12. Failure to confirm the Key Experts' availability may result in the rejection of the Consultant's Proposal and the Client proceeding to negotiate the Contract with the next-ranked Consultant.
- 28.4 Notwithstanding the above, the substitution of Key Experts at the negotiations may be considered if due solely to circumstances outside the reasonable control of and not foreseeable by the Consultant, including but not limited to death or medical incapacity. In such case, the Consultant shall offer a substitute Key Expert within the period of time specified in the letter of invitation to negotiate the Contract, who shall have equivalent or better qualifications and experience than the original candidate.
- b. Technical Negotiations** 28.5 The negotiations include discussions of the Terms of Reference (TORs), the proposed methodology, the Client's inputs, the special conditions of the Contract, and finalizing the "Description of Services" part of the Contract. These discussions shall not substantially alter the original scope of services under the TOR or the terms of the contract, lest the quality of the final product, its price, or the relevance of the initial evaluation be affected.
- c. Financial Negotiations** 28.6 The negotiations include the clarification of the Consultant's tax liability in the Client's country and how it should be reflected in the Contract.
- 28.7 If the selection method included cost as a factor in the evaluation, the total price stated in the Financial Proposal for a Lump-Sum contract shall not be negotiated.
- 28.8 In the case of a Time-Based contract, unit rates negotiations shall not take place, except when the offered Key Experts and Non-Key Experts' remuneration rates are much higher than the typically charged rates by consultants in similar contracts. In such case, the Client may ask for clarifications and, if the fees are very high, ask to change the rates after consultation with the Bank. The format for (i) providing information on remuneration rates in the case of Quality Based Selection; and (ii) clarifying remuneration rates' structure under ITC 28.8 above, is provided in Appendix A to the Financial Form FIN-3: Financial Negotiations – Breakdown of Remuneration Rates.
- 29. Conclusion of Negotiations** 29.1 The negotiations are concluded with a review of the finalized draft Contract, which then shall be initialed by the Client and the Consultant's authorized representative.

29.2 If the negotiations fail, the Client shall inform the Consultant in writing of all pending issues and disagreements and provide a final opportunity to the Consultant to respond. If disagreement persists, the Client shall terminate the negotiations informing the Consultant of the reasons for doing so. After having obtained the Bank's no objection, the Client will invite the next-ranked Consultant to negotiate a Contract. Once the Client commences negotiations with the next-ranked Consultant, the Client shall not reopen the earlier negotiations.

30. Award of Contract

30.1 After completing the negotiations, the Client shall obtain the Bank's no objection to the negotiated draft Contract, if applicable; sign the Contract; publish the award information as per the instructions in the Data Sheet; and promptly notify the other Consultants.

30.2 The Consultant is expected to commence the assignment on the date and at the location specified in the **Data Sheet**.

31. Procurement Related Complaint

31.1 The procedures for making a Procurement-related Complaint are as specified in the **Data Sheet**.

Section 2. Instructions to Consultants

E. Data Sheet

ITC Reference	A. General
2.1	Name of the Client: Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society Method of selection: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) as per the Applicable Regulations: Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated 1st July 2016 available on www.worldbank.org
2.2	Financial Proposal to be submitted together with Technical Proposal: Yes The name of the assignment is: Study on “as-is” assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)
2.3	A pre-proposal conference will be held: Yes (<i>Consultants may also send queries by email and the same will be answered by email</i>) and will also be uploaded in the website of ARIAS Society without disclosing the identity of the answers and questions. Date & time of pre-proposal conference: 1st February 2023, at 11:00 am Address: ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India); Telephone: 0361-2332125; email: spd@arias.in Contact person/conference coordinator: State Project Director, ARIAS Society
2.4	The Client will provide the following inputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and Project Implementation Plan (PIP), Environment Management Framework (EMF), Social Management Framework (SMF), Indigenous Peoples Development Framework (IPF) and other relevant available documents b. Facilitate access to relevant available project data and report that is required to fulfill the tasks outlined in the ToR c. Ensuring where appropriate, cooperation of concerned line departments for smooth conduct of the assignment
6.3.1	A list of debarred firms and individuals is available at the Bank’s external website: www.worldbank.org/debarr
B. Preparation of Proposals	
9.1	This RFP has been issued in the English language . Proposals shall be submitted in English language . All correspondence exchange shall be in English language .
10.1	The Proposal shall comprise the following: For FULL TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (FTP) : 1st Inner Envelope with the Technical Proposal: (1) Power of Attorney to sign the Proposal (2) TECH-1 (3) TECH-2 (4) TECH-3 (5) TECH-4 (6) TECH-5 (7) TECH-6 AND 2nd Inner Envelope with the Financial Proposal : (1) FIN-1 (2) FIN-2 (3) FIN-3 (4) FIN-4
10.2	Statement of Undertaking is required: Yes
11.1	Participation of Sub-consultants, Key Experts and Non-Key Experts in more than one Proposal is

	permissible : Yes
12.1	Proposals must remain valid for 120 calendar days after the proposal submission deadline i.e., until: 20th June 2023.
13.1	Clarifications may be requested no later than: 1st February 2023. The contact information for requesting clarifications is: ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India); Tel: 0361-2332125; email: spd@arias.in
14.1.2	The total estimated time input of the Key Experts' would be for a period 19 months. (Ref. to the Terms of Reference at Section 7 of the RFP). However, this estimate is indicative only and the Proposal by the consultants shall be based on the Consultant's own estimates for the individual experts/staff to be engaged under the assignment.
14.1.3	Not Applicable
14.1.4 and 27.2	Not Applicable
15.2	The format of the Technical Proposal to be submitted is: FULL Technical Proposal (FTP) Submission of the Technical Proposal in a wrong format may lead to the Proposal being deemed non-responsive to the RFP requirements.
16.1	<i>Reimbursable expenses may be given as follows:</i> (1) <i>a per diem allowance, including hotel, for experts for every day of absence from the home office for the purposes of the Services;</i> (2) <i>cost of travel by the most appropriate means of transport and the most direct practicable route;</i> (3) <i>cost of office accommodation, including overheads and back-stop support;</i> (4) <i>communications costs;</i> (5) <i>cost of purchase or rent or freight of any equipment required to be provided by the Consultants;</i> (6) <i>cost of reports production (including printing) and delivering to the Client;</i> (7) <i>other allowances where applicable and provisional or fixed sums (if any)]</i>
16.2	A price adjustment provision applies to remuneration rates: No.
16.3	Information on the Consultant's tax obligations in the Client's country should be checked with tax experts.
16.4	The Financial Proposal shall be stated in local currency: In Indian Rupee only.
C. Submission, Opening and Evaluation	
17.1	The Consultants shall NOT have the option of submitting their Proposals electronically.
17.4	The Consultant must submit: (a) Technical Proposal: one (1) original and 2 copies; and soft copy in a Pen drive. (b) Financial Proposal: one (1) original.
17.7 and 17.9	The Proposals must be submitted no later than: Date: 20th February 2023 ; Time: 2.00 PM (IST) The Proposal submission address is: ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India); Tel: 0361-2332125; email: spd@arias.in
19.1	An online option of the opening of the Technical Proposals is offered: No The opening shall take place at: "same as the Proposal submission address" Date: 20th February 2023 ; Time: 2.30 PM (IST)
19.2	In addition, the following information will be read aloud at the opening of the Technical

Proposals: name of the firm along with their sub-consultant(s), if any.																																											
21.1 [for FTP]	<p>Consultant's technical proposal shall be evaluated in two parts. Part A (as mentioned below) shall be the mandatory criteria that the consultants must meet. Technical Proposals of Consultants who do not meet the criteria in Part A, shall not be further evaluated and the proposal shall be rejected.</p> <p>Technical Proposal of Consultants, who meet the criteria in Part A, shall be evaluated further using the scoring scheme contained in Part B below.</p> <p>Part A: Mandatory Criteria:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Criteria</th> <th>Documents Required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Document (s) to demonstrate that the firm is in the business for the last three (3) years;</td> <td>Certificate of Registration, Audited Balance Sheet, Certificate from a Chartered Accountant, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Agency/service provider should have executed projects/assignments (Minimum 3 nos) related to study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes in the last 5 Years.</td> <td>Completion or acceptance certificate(s), including experience, if any, of having worked in similar assignment.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Minimum annual turnover of Rs. 3 Crore in last 3 years (i.e. 2018-2019, 2019-2020 & 2020-21)</td> <td>Certificate from the statutory auditors/ Chartered Accountant certifying the total turnover during each of the last 3 financial years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20& 2020-21)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Part B: Evaluation Criteria:</p> <p>Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of the Full Technical Proposal:</p> <p>(i) Specific experience of the Consultant (as a firm) relevant to the Assignment : [10] (The relevant assignment includes Organization's experience in study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes).</p> <p>(ii) Adequacy and quality of the proposed methodology, and work plan in responding to the Terms of Reference (TOR): [40]</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>a)</td> <td>Technical approach and methodology</td> <td>[20 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b)</td> <td>Work plan</td> <td>[15 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c)</td> <td>Organization & Staffing</td> <td>[5 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total points for criterion (ii)</td> <td>[40]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>{Notes to Consultant: the Client will assess whether the proposed methodology is clear, responds to the TORs, work plan is realistic and implementable; overall team composition is balanced and has an appropriate skills mix; and the work plan has right input of Experts.</i></p> <p>(iii) Key Experts' qualifications and competence for the Assignment: [50] (consultants to refer Section 7 for details on competence required) <i>{Notes to Consultant: each position number corresponds to the same for the Key Experts in Form TECH-6 to be prepared by the Consultant}</i></p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>1)</td> <td>Position K-1: Team Leader & Seed Systems Specialist (1)</td> <td>[10 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2)</td> <td>Position K-2: Seed Business and Supply Chain Specialist (1)</td> <td>[10 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3)</td> <td>Position K-3: Agronomist (1)</td> <td>[10 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4)</td> <td>Position K-4: Crop Modellers (1)</td> <td>[10 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5)</td> <td>Position K-5: Process Re-engineering expert (1)</td> <td>[10 points]</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total points for criterion (iii)</td> <td>[50 points]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The number of points to be assigned to each of the above positions shall be determined</p>	S. No.	Criteria	Documents Required	1.	Document (s) to demonstrate that the firm is in the business for the last three (3) years;	Certificate of Registration, Audited Balance Sheet, Certificate from a Chartered Accountant, etc.	2	Agency/service provider should have executed projects/assignments (Minimum 3 nos) related to study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes in the last 5 Years.	Completion or acceptance certificate(s), including experience, if any, of having worked in similar assignment.	3	Minimum annual turnover of Rs. 3 Crore in last 3 years (i.e. 2018-2019, 2019-2020 & 2020-21)	Certificate from the statutory auditors/ Chartered Accountant certifying the total turnover during each of the last 3 financial years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20& 2020-21)	a)	Technical approach and methodology	[20 points]	b)	Work plan	[15 points]	c)	Organization & Staffing	[5 points]	Total points for criterion (ii)		[40]	1)	Position K-1: Team Leader & Seed Systems Specialist (1)	[10 points]	2)	Position K-2: Seed Business and Supply Chain Specialist (1)	[10 points]	3)	Position K-3: Agronomist (1)	[10 points]	4)	Position K-4: Crop Modellers (1)	[10 points]	5)	Position K-5: Process Re-engineering expert (1)	[10 points]	Total points for criterion (iii)		[50 points]
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	<p>considering the following three sub-criteria and relevant percentage weights:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1)</td> <td>General qualifications (general education, training, and experience):</td> <td>[15%]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2)</td> <td>Adequacy for the Assignment (relevant education, training, experience in the sector/similar assignments):</td> <td>[80%]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3)</td> <td>Experience in similar assignment in study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes</td> <td>[5%]</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total weight:</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </table> <p>(iv) Transfer of knowledge (training) program (approach & methodology): [0]</p> <p>(v) Participation by nationals among proposed Key Experts : [0]</p> <p>Total points for the five criteria = 100</p> <p>The minimum technical score (St) required to pass is : 75</p>	1)	General qualifications (general education, training, and experience):	[15%]	2)	Adequacy for the Assignment (relevant education, training, experience in the sector/similar assignments):	[80%]	3)	Experience in similar assignment in study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes	[5%]		Total weight:	100%
1)	General qualifications (general education, training, and experience):	[15%]											
2)	Adequacy for the Assignment (relevant education, training, experience in the sector/similar assignments):	[80%]											
3)	Experience in similar assignment in study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes	[5%]											
	Total weight:	100%											
	Public Opening of Financial Proposals												
22	Quality and Cost Based Selection ("QCBS") method is followed												
23	An online option of the opening of the Financial Proposals is offered: No												
23.5	'N/A'												
25.1	For the purpose of the evaluation, the Client will exclude: (a) all local identifiable indirect taxes e.g. GST levied on the contract's invoices; and (b) all additional local indirect tax on the remuneration of services rendered by non-resident experts in the Client's country. If a Contract is awarded, at Contract negotiations, all such taxes will be discussed, finalized (using the itemized list as a guidance but not limiting to it) and added to the Contract amount as a separate line, also indicating which taxes shall be paid by the Consultant and which taxes are withheld and paid by the Client on behalf of the Consultant.												
26.1	Prices shall be quoted in Indian Rupees only.												
27.1 (Quality and Cost Based Selection)	<p>The lowest evaluated Financial Proposal (Fm) is given the maximum financial score (Sf) of 100.</p> <p>The formula for determining the financial scores (Sf) of all other Proposals is calculated as following:</p> <p>$Sf = 100 \times Fm / F$, in which "Sf" is the financial score, "Fm" is the lowest price, and "F" the price of the proposal under consideration.</p> <p>The weights given to the Technical (T) and Financial (P) Proposals are: T = 70% P = 30%</p> <p>Proposals are ranked according to their combined technical (St) and financial (Sf) scores using the weights (T = the weight given to the Technical Proposal; P = the weight given to the Financial Proposal; T + P = 1) as following: $S = St \times T\% + Sf \times P\%$.</p>												
	D. Negotiations and Award												
28.1	<p>Expected date and address for contract negotiations:</p> <p>Date: 3rd Week of March 2023.</p> <p>Address: ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India); Tel: 0361-2332125; email: spd@arias.in</p>												
30.1	<p>The publication of the contract award information following the completion of the contract negotiations and contract signing will be done as following: the information will be published on www.arias.in</p> <p>The publication will be done within 15 days after the contract signing.</p>												
30.2	Expected date for the commencement of the Services:												

	Date: 4th Week of March 2023 in Assam
31	<p>The procedures for making a Procurement-related Complaint are detailed in the “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (Annex III).” If a Consultant wishes to make a Procurement-related Complaint, the Consultant should submit its complaint following these procedures, in writing (by the quickest means available, that is either by email or fax), to:</p> <p>For the attention: State Project Director, ARIAS Society;</p> <p>Title/position: State Project Director, ARIAS Society</p> <p>Client: ARIAS Society</p> <p>Email address: spd@arias.in</p> <p>In summary, a Procurement-related Complaint may challenge any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the terms of this Request for Proposal; 2. the Client’s decision to exclude a Consultant from the procurement process prior to the award of contract; and 3. the Client’s decision to award the contract

Section 3. Technical Proposal – Standard Forms

{[Notes to Consultant](#) shown in brackets { } throughout Section 3 provide guidance to the Consultant to prepare the Technical Proposal; they should not appear on the Proposals to be submitted.}

CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED FORMS

Required for FTP	FORM	DESCRIPTION	Page Limit*
✓	TECH-1	Technical Proposal Submission Form.	2 pages
✓ applicable	TECH-1 Attachment	If the Proposal is submitted by a joint venture (JV) , attach a letter of intent or a copy of an existing agreement.	
✓ applicable	Power of Attorney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No pre-set format/form. · In the case of a Joint Venture, several are required: a power of attorney for the authorized representative of each JV member, and a power of attorney for the representative of the lead member to represent all JV members 	As required
✓	TECH-2	Consultant's Organization and Experience.	
✓	TECH-2A	A. Consultant's Organization	2 pages
✓	TECH-2B	B. Consultant's Experience	15 pages
✓	TECH-3	Comments or Suggestions on the Terms of Reference and on Counterpart Staff and Facilities to be provided by the Client.	
✓	TECH-3A	A. On the Terms of Reference	2 pages
✓	TECH-3B	B. On the Counterpart Staff and Facilities	2 pages
✓	TECH-4	Description of the Approach, Methodology, and Work Plan for Performing the Assignment	20 pages
✓	TECH-5	Work Schedule and Planning for Deliverables	5 pages
✓	TECH-6	Team Composition, Key Experts Inputs, and attached Curriculum Vitae (CV)	25 pages

*** The page count for Mandatory Criteria as mentioned at ITC clause 21.1 (Data Sheet) is 50 pages. All pages of the original Technical and Financial Proposal shall be initialed by the same authorized representative of the Consultant who signs the Proposal.**

FORM TECH-1

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

{Location, Date}

To:

**The State Project Director
ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit,
Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road,
Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India);**

Dear Sirs:

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the consulting services for **Hiring of Consulting Services for: Study on “as-is” assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)** in accordance with your Request for Proposals(RFP) dated *[Insert Date]* and our Proposal. We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes this Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal sealed in a separate envelope

{If the Consultant is a joint venture, insert the following: We are submitting our Proposal a joint venture with: {Insert a list with full name and the legal address of each member, and indicate the lead member}. We have attached a copy {insert: “of our letter of intent to form a joint venture” or, if a JV is already formed, “of the JV agreement”} signed by every participating member, which details the likely legal structure of and the confirmation of joint and severable liability of the members of the said joint venture.

{OR

If the Consultant’s Proposal includes Sub-consultants, insert the following: We are submitting our Proposal with the following firms as Sub-consultants: {Insert a list with full name and address of each Sub-consultant.}

We hereby declare that:

- (a) All the information and statements made in this Proposal are true and we accept that any misinterpretation or misrepresentation contained in this Proposal may lead to our disqualification by the Client and/or may be sanctioned by the Bank.
- (b) Our Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us for the period of time specified in the Data Sheet, ITC 12.1.
- (c) We have no conflict of interest in accordance with ITC 3.
- (d) We meet the eligibility requirements as stated in ITC 6, and we confirm our understanding of our obligation to abide by the Bank’s policy in regard to Fraud and Corruption as per ITC 5.
- (e) We, along with any of our sub-consultants, subcontractors, suppliers, or service providers for any part of the contract, are not subject to, and not controlled by any entity or individual that is subject to, a temporary suspension or a debarment imposed by the World Bank Group or a debarment imposed by the World Bank Group in accordance with the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions between the World Bank and other development banks. Further, we are not ineligible under the Client’s country laws or official regulations or pursuant to a decision of the United Nations Security Council;
- (f) Except as stated in the Data Sheet, ITC 12.1, we undertake to negotiate a Contract on the basis of the proposed Key Experts. We accept that the substitution of Key Experts for reasons other than those stated in ITC Clause12 and ITC Clause28.4 may lead to the termination of Contract negotiations.

- (g) Our Proposal is binding upon us and subject to any modifications resulting from the Contract negotiations.

We undertake, if our Proposal is accepted and the Contract is signed, to initiate the Services related to the assignment no later than the date indicated in ITC 30.2 of the Data Sheet.

We understand that the Client is not bound to accept any Proposal that the Client receives.

We remain,

Yours sincerely,

Signature (of Consultant's authorized representative) **{In full and initials}**:

Full name: {insert full name of authorized representative}

Title: {insert title/position of authorized representative}

Name of Consultant (company's name or JV's name):

Capacity: {insert the person's capacity to sign for the Consultant}

Address: {insert the authorized representative's address}

Phone/fax: {insert the authorized representative's phone and fax number, if applicable}

Email: {insert the authorized representative's email address}_____

{For a joint venture, either all members shall sign or only the lead member, in which case the power of attorney to sign on behalf of all members shall be attached}

FORM TECH-2

CONSULTANT'S ORGANIZATION AND EXPERIENCE

Form TECH-2: a brief description of the Consultant's organization and an outline of the recent experience of the Consultant that is most relevant to the assignment. In the case of a joint venture, information on similar assignments shall be provided for each partner. For each assignment, the outline should indicate the names of the Consultant's Key Experts and Sub-consultants who participated, the duration of the assignment, the contract amount (total and, if it was done in a form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy, the amount paid to the Consultant), and the Consultant's role/involvement.

A - Consultant's Organization

1. Provide here a brief description of the background and organization of your company, and – in case of a joint venture – of each member for this assignment.
2. Include organizational chart, a list of Board of Directors, and beneficial ownership

B - Consultant's Experience

1. List only previous similar assignments successfully completed.
2. List only those assignments for which the Consultant was legally contracted by the Client as a company or was one of the joint venture members. Assignments completed by the Consultant's individual experts working privately or through other consulting firms cannot be claimed as the relevant experience of the Consultant, or that of the Consultant's partners or sub-consultants, but can be claimed by the Experts themselves in their CVs. The Consultant should be prepared to substantiate the claimed experience by presenting copies of relevant documents and references if so requested by the Client.

Duration (MM/YYYY)	Assignment name/& brief description of main deliverables/outputs	Name of Client & Country of Assignment	Approx. Contract value (in US\$ equivalent or Indian Rupees)/ Amount paid to your firm	Role on the Assignment
{e.g., Jan.2009– Apr.2010}	{e.g., "Improvement quality of.....": designed master plan for rationalization of; }	{e.g., Ministry of, country}	{e.g., US\$1 mill/US\$0.5 mill}	{e.g., Lead partner in a JV A&B&C}
{e.g., Jan-May 2008}	{e.g., "Support to sub-national government....." : drafted secondary level regulations on.....}	{e.g., municipality of....., country}	{e.g., US\$0.2 mil/US\$0.2 mil}	{e.g., sole Consultant}

FORM TECH-3

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, COUNTERPART STAFF, AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

Form TECH-3: comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference that could improve the quality/effectiveness of the assignment; and on requirements for counterpart staff and facilities, which are provided by the Client, including: administrative support, office space, local transportation, equipment, data, etc.

A - On the Terms of Reference

{improvements to the Terms of Reference, if any}

B - On Counterpart Staff and Facilities

{comments on counterpart staff and facilities to be provided by the Client. For example, administrative support, office space, local transportation, equipment, data, background reports, etc., if any}

FORM TECH-4

DESCRIPTION OF APPROACH, METHODOLOGY, AND WORK PLAN IN RESPONDING TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Form TECH-4: a description of the approach, methodology and work plan for performing the assignment, including a detailed description of the proposed methodology and staffing for training, if the Terms of Reference specify training as a specific component of the assignment.

{Suggested structure of your Technical Proposal (in FTP format):

- a) Technical Approach and Methodology
 - b) Work Plan
 - c) Organization and Staffing}
- a) **Technical Approach and Methodology.**{Please explain your understanding of the objectives of the assignment as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TORs), the technical approach, and the methodology you would adopt for implementing the tasks to deliver the expected output(s), and the degree of detail of such output. **Please do not repeat/copy the TORs in here.}**
 - b) **Work Plan.**{Please outline the plan for the implementation of the main activities/tasks of the assignment, their content and duration, phasing and interrelations, milestones (including interim approvals by the Client), and tentative delivery dates of the reports. The proposed work plan should be consistent with the technical approach and methodology, showing your understanding of the TOR and ability to translate them into a feasible working plan. A list of the final documents (including reports) to be delivered as final output(s) should be included here. The work plan should be consistent with the Work Schedule Form.}
 - c) **Organization and Staffing.**{Please describe the structure and composition of your team, including the list of the Key Experts, Non-Key Experts and relevant technical and administrative support staff.}

FORM TECH-5

WORK SCHEDULE AND PLANNING FOR DELIVERABLES

N°	Deliverables ¹ (D-..)	Months												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	n	TOTAL	
D-1	{e.g., Deliverable #1: Report A													
	1) data collection													
	2) drafting													
	3) inception report													
	4) incorporating comments													
	5)													
	6) delivery of final report to Client}													
D-2	{e.g., Deliverable #2:.....}													
n														

- 1 List the deliverables with the breakdown for activities required to produce them and other benchmarks such as the Client’s approvals. For phased assignments, indicate the activities, delivery of reports, and benchmarks separately for each phase.
- 2 **Duration of activities shall be indicated in the form of a bar chart.**
3. Include a legend, if necessary, to help read the chart.

FORM TECH-6

TEAM COMPOSITION, ASSIGNMENT, AND KEY EXPERTS' INPUTS

N°	Name	Expert's input (in person/month) per each Deliverable (listed in TECH-5)										Total time-input (in Months)			
		Position		D-1		D-2		D-3		D-...		Home	Field	Total
KEY EXPERTS															
K-1	{e.g.,Mr.Abbbb}	[Team Leader]	[Home]	[2 month]	[1.0]	[1.0]									
			[Field]	[0.5 m]	[2.5]	[0]									
K-2															
K-3															
											Subtotal				
NON-KEY EXPERTS															
N-1			[Home]												
			[Field]												
N-2															
											Subtotal				
											Total				

- 1 For Key Experts, the input should be indicated individually for the same positions as required under the Data Sheet ITC21.1.
- 2 Months are counted from the start of the assignment/mobilization. One (1) month equals twenty two (22) working (billable) days. One working (billable) day shall be not less than eight (8) working (billable) hours.
- 3 "Home" means work in the office in the expert's country of residence. "Field" work means work carried out in Assam.

Full time input
 Part time input

(Tech. Form-6..... Continued next page)

**FORM TECH-6
(CONTINUED)**

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Position Title and No.	{e.g., K-1, TEAM LEADER}
Name of Expert:	{Insert full name}
Date of Birth:	{day/month/year}
Country of Citizenship/Residence	

Education: {List college/university or other specialized education, giving names of educational institutions, dates attended, degree(s)/diploma(s) obtained}

Trainings in the relevant field:

Employment record relevant to the assignment: {Starting with present position, list in reverse order. Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment, and contact information of previous clients and employing organization(s) who can be contacted for references. Past employment that is not relevant to the assignment does not need to be included.}

Period	Employing organization and your title/position. Contact information for references	Country	Summary of activities performed relevant to the Assignment
[e.g., May 2005-present]	[e.g., Ministry of, advisor/consultant to... For references: Tel...../e-mail.....; Mr. Hbbbbb, deputy minister]		

Membership in Professional Associations and Publications: _____

Language Skills (indicate only languages in which you can work): _____

Adequacy for the Assignment:

Detailed Tasks Assigned on Consultant's Team of Experts:	Reference to Prior Work/Assignments that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Assigned Tasks
{List all deliverables/tasks as in TECH- 5 in which the Expert will be involved	

Expert's contact information: (e-mail....., phone.....)

Certification:

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV correctly describes myself, my qualifications, and my experience, and I am available to undertake the assignment in case of an award. I understand that any misstatement or misrepresentation described herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal by the Client, and/or sanctions by the Bank.

{day/month/year}

Name of Expert	Signature	Date
		{day/month/year}

Name of authorized Representative of the Consultant (the same who signs the Proposal)	Signature	Date

Important Note: CVs not signed by the Respective Experts and by the Authorized Representative of the Consultant (the same person who signs the Technical Proposal) may not be considered for technical evaluation and marking.

Section 4. Financial Proposal - Standard Forms

{Notes to Consultant shown in brackets { } provide guidance to the Consultant to prepare the Financial Proposals; they should not appear on the Financial Proposals to be submitted.}

Financial Proposal Standard Forms shall be used for the preparation of the Financial Proposal according to the instructions provided in Section 2.

- FIN-1 Financial Proposal Submission Form
- FIN-2 Summary of Costs
- FIN-3 Breakdown of Remuneration
- FIN-4 Reimbursable expenses

FORM FIN-1
FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

{Location, Date}

To:

**The State Project Director,
ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit,
Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road,
Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India);**

Dear Sirs:

We, the undersigned, offer to provide the consulting services for [Insert title of assignment] in accordance with your Request for Proposal dated [Insert Date] and our Technical Proposal.

Our attached Financial Proposal is for the amount of {Indicate the corresponding to the amount(s) currency(ies)} {Insert amount(s) in words and figures}, *excluding of all indirect local taxes (GST) in accordance with ITC 25.1 in the Data Sheet. **The estimated amount of local indirect taxes (i.e. GST) is INR {Insert amount in words and figures}*** which shall be confirmed or adjusted, if needed, during negotiations. {Please note that all amounts shall be the same as in Form FIN-2}.

Our Financial Proposal shall be valid and remain binding upon us, subject to the modifications resulting from Contract negotiations, for the period of time specified in the Data Sheet, ITC 12.1.

Commissions and gratuities paid or to be paid by us to an agent or any third party relating to preparation or submission of this Proposal and Contract execution, paid if we are awarded the Contract, are listed below:

Name and Address of Agents	Amount and Currency	Purpose of Commission or Gratuity
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

{If no payments are made or promised, add the following statement: "No commissions or gratuities have been or are to be paid by us to agents or any third party relating to this Proposal and Contract execution."}

We understand you are not bound to accept any Proposal you receive.

We remain,
Yours sincerely,

Signature (of Consultant's authorized representative) {In full and initials}:

Full name: {insert full name of authorized representative}
Title: {insert title/position of authorized representative}
Name of Consultant (company's name or JV's name):
Capacity: {insert the person's capacity to sign for the Consultant}
Address: {insert the authorized representative's address}
Phone/fax: {insert the authorized representative's phone and fax number, if applicable}
Email: {insert the authorized representative's email address}_____

{For a joint venture, either all members shall sign or only the lead member/consultant, in which case the power of attorney to sign on behalf of all members shall be attached}

FORM FIN-2 SUMMARY OF COSTS

Item	Cost
	{Consultant must state the proposed Costs in accordance with Clause 16.4 of the Data Sheet ; delete columns which are not used}
	Indian Rupees
Cost of the Financial Proposal	
Including:	
(1) Remuneration	
(2) Reimbursables	
Total Cost of the Financial Proposal: {Should match the amount in Form FIN-1}	
Indirect Local Tax Estimates - to be discussed and finalized at the negotiations if the Contract is awarded	
(i) GST	
(ii) Any other applicable Taxes etc.	
<u>Total Estimate for Indirect Local Tax:</u>	

Footnote: Payments will be made in the currency(ies) expressed above (Reference to ITC 16.4).

FORM FIN-3 BREAKDOWN OF REMUNERATION

When used for Lump-Sum contract assignment, information to be provided in this Form shall only be used to demonstrate the basis for the calculation of the Contract's ceiling amount; to calculate applicable taxes at contract negotiations; and, if needed, to establish payments to the Consultant for possible additional services requested by the Client. This Form shall not be used as a basis for payments under Lump-Sum contracts

No.	Name	Position (as in TECH-6)	Person-month Remuneration Rate	Time Input in Person/Month	Indian Rupee (INR)
				(from TECH-6)	
Key Experts					
K-1			[Home]		
			[Field]		
K-2			[Home]		
			[Field]		
K-3			[Home]		
			[Field]		
K-4			[Home]		
			[Field]		
Non-Key Experts					
N-1			[Home]		
			[Field]		
N-2			[Home]		
			[Field]		
N-3			[Home]		
			[Field]		
				Total Costs	

FORM FIN-4 BREAKDOWN OF REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

When used for Lump-Sum contract assignment, information to be provided in this Form shall only be used to demonstrate the basis for calculation of the Contract ceiling amount, to calculate applicable taxes at contract negotiations and, if needed, to establish payments to the Consultant for possible additional services requested by the Client. This form shall not be used as a basis for payments under Lump-Sum contracts

N°	Type of Reimbursable Expenses	Unit	Unit Cost	Quantity	Indian Rupee (INR)
___	{e.g., Per diem allowances**}	{Day}		_____	
___	{e.g., International flights}	{Ticket}		_____	
___	{e.g., In/out airport transportation}	{Trip}			
	{e.g., Communication costs between Insert place and Insert place}				
	{ e.g., reproduction of reports}				
	{e.g., Office rent}				
				
	{Training of the Client's personnel - if required in TOR}				
Total Costs					

Legend:

"Per diem allowance" is paid for each night the expert is required by the Contract to be away from his/her usual place of residence. Client can set up a ceiling.

Section 5. Eligible Countries

In reference to ITC6.3.2, for the information of Consultants, at the present time firms, goods and services from the following countries are excluded from this selection:

Under the ITC 6.3.2 (a): None

Under the ITC 6.3.2 (b): None

Section 6. Fraud and Corruption

(This Section 6, Fraud and Corruption shall not be modified)

1. Purpose

1.1 The Bank's Anti-Corruption Guidelines and this annex apply with respect to procurement under Bank Investment Project Financing operations.

2. Requirements

2.1 The Bank requires that Borrowers (including beneficiaries of Bank financing); bidders (applicants/proposers), consultants, contractors and suppliers; any sub-contractors, sub-consultants, service providers or suppliers; any agents (whether declared or not); and any of their personnel, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement process, selection and contract execution of Bank-financed contracts, and refrain from Fraud and Corruption.

2.2 To this end, the Bank:

- a. Defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
 - i. "corrupt practice" is the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - ii. "fraudulent practice" is any act or omission, including misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;
 - iii. "collusive practice" is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - iv. "coercive practice" is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;
 - v. "obstructive practice" is:
 - (a) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering, or concealing of evidence material to the investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede a Bank investigation into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive, or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing, or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation; or
 - (b) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the Bank's inspection and audit rights provided for under paragraph 2.2 e. below.
- b. Rejects a proposal for award if the Bank determines that the firm or individual recommended for award, any of its personnel, or its agents, or its sub-consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, suppliers and/ or their employees, has, directly or indirectly, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question;
- c. In addition to the legal remedies set out in the relevant Legal Agreement, may take other appropriate actions, including declaring misprocurement, if the Bank determines at any time that representatives of the Borrower or of a recipient of any part of the proceeds of the loan engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices during the procurement process, selection and/or execution of the contract in question, without the Borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to the Bank to address such practices when they occur, including by failing to inform the Bank in a timely manner at the time they knew of the practices;
- d. Pursuant to the Bank's Anti- Corruption Guidelines and in accordance with the Bank's prevailing sanctions policies and procedures, may sanction a firm or individual, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, including by publicly declaring such firm or individual ineligible (i) to be awarded or

otherwise benefit from a Bank-financed contract, financially or in any other manner;¹ (ii) to be a nominated² sub-contractor, consultant, manufacturer or supplier, or service provider of an otherwise eligible firm being awarded a Bank-financed contract; and (iii) to receive the proceeds of any loan made by the Bank or otherwise to participate further in the preparation or implementation of any Bank-financed project;

- e. Requires that a clause be included in bidding/request for proposals documents and in contracts financed by a Bank loan, requiring (i) bidders (applicants/proposers), consultants, contractors, and suppliers, and their sub-contractors, sub-consultants, service providers, suppliers, agents personnel, permit the Bank to inspect³ all accounts, records and other documents relating to the procurement process, selection and/or contract execution, and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Bank.

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, a sanctioned party's ineligibility to be awarded a contract shall include, without limitation, (i) applying for pre-qualification, expressing interest in a consultancy, and bidding, either directly or as a nominated sub-contractor, nominated consultant, nominated manufacturer or supplier, or nominated service provider, in respect of such contract, and (ii) entering into an addendum or amendment introducing a material modification to any existing contract.

² A nominated sub-contractor, nominated consultant, nominated manufacturer or supplier, or nominated service provider (different names are used depending on the particular bidding document) is one which has been: (i) included by the bidder in its pre-qualification application or bid because it brings specific and critical experience and know-how that allow the bidder to meet the qualification requirements for the particular bid; or (ii) appointed by the Borrower.

³ Inspections in this context usually are investigative (i.e., forensic) in nature. They involve fact-finding activities undertaken by the Bank or persons appointed by the Bank to address specific matters related to investigations/audits, such as evaluating the veracity of an allegation of possible Fraud and Corruption, through the appropriate mechanisms. Such activity includes but is not limited to: accessing and examining a firm's or individual's financial records and information, and making copies thereof as relevant; accessing and examining any other documents, data and information (whether in hard copy or electronic format) deemed relevant for the investigation/audit, and making copies thereof as relevant; interviewing staff and other relevant individuals; performing physical inspections and site visits; and obtaining third party verification of information.

Section 7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)

For a study on “as-is” assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)

A. BACKGROUND

1. Government of Assam (GoA), through the Government of India has received a loan of US\$200 million from the World Bank (W.B.) for implementation of the **Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)**. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to “**add value and improve resilience of selected agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and to advance Assam’s COVID-19 response**”. The prioritized districts (undivided as of 1st April, 2016) are Nagaon, Sonitpur, Barpeta, Karbi Anglong, Kamrup, Dhubri, Golaghat, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Darrang, Cachar, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Goalpara, Morigaon and Nalbari. The project is adopting a value chain and clusters approach to achieve the targeted objectives. The prioritized value chains are those of **(i)** cereals (rice, maize), **(ii)** pulses (lentil, pea, blackgram), **(iii)** spices and condiments (ginger, turmeric, mustard), **(iv)** fruits (banana, pineapple) & vegetables, **(v)** livestock (pork, milk) & fish and **(vi)** specialty commodities (eri and muga silk).
2. APART would support, value addition in the production and post-harvest segments of selected agricultural value-chains; facilitate agribusiness investments through inclusive business models that provide opportunities to smallholder farmers as well as stimulate the establishment of new small and medium agribusiness enterprises; and support resilience of agricultural production systems in order to better manage increasing production and commercial risks associated with climate change and marketing of agro produce, in the targeted districts. The project would adopt a cluster strategy within the targeted districts to generate economies of scale; promote vertical and horizontal links between local agricultural enterprises; enable diffusion of innovations; leverage network externalities; and channel public support for services and infrastructure. By adopting a cluster approach, the project would enable all the value chain participants to develop competitive and innovative products that meet market demands rapidly and successfully.
3. There are four components of APART. **The first component is Enabling Agri Enterprise Development**, with sub components being **(i)** enhancing state capacity to attract private investments, **(ii)** setting up an Agribusiness Enterprise Development and Promotion Facility (EDPF) **(iii)** Agribusiness Investment Fund (AIF) support **(iv)** establishing sector stewardship councils. **The second component is Facilitating Agro Cluster Development** with subcomponents being- **(i)** support establishment of cluster level Industry Associations (IAs), **(ii)** supply chain support (roads, warehouses, markets). **The third component is Fostering Market Led Production and Resilience Enhancement** with sub components being **(i)** promoting climate resilient technologies and their adoption **(ii)** facilitating market linkages through market intelligence and product aggregation **(iii)** facilitating access to and responsible use of financial services. **The fourth component is project Management, Monitoring and Learning.**
4. The **Key Project Indicators (KPIs)** are:
 - a) Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services (number), of which female (percentage);
 - b) Value add measured by:
 - i) Increase in quality as measured by price premium of commodities sold by beneficiaries in the selected value chains;
 - ii) Share of selected commodities sold through new marketing channels.
 - c) Resilience measured by: Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology (gender disaggregated).
5. Subcomponent C-1 (Promoting climate resilient technologies and their adoption) aims at sustainable increase in production and productivity of the priority value chains, and promote the adoption of climate resilient solutions. This would be achieved by geographically targeted approach for the integrated development of

these value chains and the Project would make key investments in the production clusters of prioritized value chains.

6. As seed is the first and foremost input in agricultural production and in most cases having highest share of monetary outlay in all the inputs. Seed quality largely determines the crop yield and quality. Assam is deficit in quality seeds of most of the crops grown in the State.
7. Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd. (ASCL), was established in 1967 for production of high yielding varieties of seeds to the farmers and other customers at a fair price, especially to meet the requirement of different schemes of Agriculture Department and Govt. relief programs against Disasters and natural calamities. Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL) envisions to **(i)** carry on in the State of Assam the production, processing, drying, distribution and transportation of Agricultural seeds **(ii)** carry on business as seed merchants, to buy, sell, grow, prepare for market, import, export and deal in seeds of all kinds. ASCL is mandated for seed production in its 12 seed farms spread across the State and supply these seeds to farmers through Govt schemes. In many cases, ASCL has to procure the seeds from open market through competitive tendering process and supply to the Govt schemes. Currently, ASCL is not a sustainably profit making entity and is in need of a overhaul and strengthening. In view of the same, the current assignment i.e. a study on “*as-is*” *assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)* is being commissioned under APART.
8. The objectives of ASCL are: **(i)** to carry on in the State of Assam the production, processing, drying, distribution and transportation of Agricultural seeds and **(ii)** to carry on business as seed merchants, to buy, sell, grow, prepare for market, import, export and deal in seeds of all kinds.

B. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY SERVICE

9. The key objective of the assignment is to make a thorough review of the systems and processes of the Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL) and to develop an action plan for streamlining these systems and processes to strengthen ASCL into a vibrant, self-sustaining, profit oriented business entity.

C. SCOPE OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE/ DELIVERABLES

10. **Importance of ASCL in seed value chain in Assam:** Conduct a 360-degree sectoral analysis of Seed sub-sector, capture demand- supply scenario in Assam and also document the key stakeholders in the seed value chain along with their key responsibilities, task specialization etc.
11. **Organizational analysis of ASCL:** Conduct & present an in- depth analysis of existing objectives, need for modification and the overall modus operandi of ASCL.
12. **Operational analysis:** Mapping of key stakeholders and infrastructures of ASCL at different functional levels i.e. Planning & Procurement, Production, Processing & Storage and Marketing & Distribution.
13. **Analysis of Institutional capacity in terms of-**
 - a) *Manpower:* current strength of manpower (administrative/ managerial, technical, skilled and unskilled) at head office and branch (dist) offices and their qualification, experience, special skill sets, service tenure, age, vacancy vs. men in position; skill-gaps, training need assessment vis-à-vis capacity to undertake the assigned jobs, requirement of additional skilled man-power, if any;
 - b) *Regulatory and compliances:* Provisions of the Seed Act, 1966, Seed Control Order, 1983, actual enforcement and implementation, gaps, impediments to implementation, strategies to overcome impediments, resources required, action plan etc
 - c) *Organogram:* Analysis of present organogram, pay structure and suggestions
14. **Benchmarking study** with other state seed corporations to understand & incorporate the best practices at the levels of infrastructure and operations
15. **Overall need gap assessment report** of ASCL at different functional levels: Procurement & Pricing, Production, Processing & Storage and Marketing & Distribution
16. **Strategize and develop action plan to revamp ASCL:** Short term-, medium- and long-term strategic

solutions.

17. To proposed an **HR Policy** for ASCL including aspects like training & capacity building, transfers and posting, promotions, incentives etc.
18. **Propose an institutional & governance structure (including AoA, MoA, financial and accounting aspects)** & mechanism to implement the action plan in a timely manner.
19. **Cost- benefit & impact analysis** of the proposed action plan & propose possible sources of funds.
20. To propose a short term (3 years), medium term (5 years) and long term (10 years) **business plan for ASCL**

D. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT & REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED

21. The duration of the assignment shall be **six months from the date of contract effectiveness**. All the activities pertaining to the assignment need to be completed in all respects within this period.
22. **Inception Report:** The consultant shall submit an Inception Report for the assignment within 30 days from the contract effectiveness. The Inception Report shall cover assignment planning and preparation, detailed methodology to meet the requirements of the TOR including personnel to be mobilized for deployment, scheduling of various activities to be carried out for completion of different stages of the assignment within the stipulated time schedule. Assignment responsibilities and work schedule along with a roadmap for timely completion of various activities, formats for data collection, survey questionnaires, stakeholder consultations, group discussions etc. The consultant shall carry out the modification if required in the inception report based on the client's observations and comments and re-submit the same within the specified timeline.
23. **Mid-term Report:** The Consultant shall submit the mid report for the assignment within 90 days from contract effectiveness. The mid-term report should provide progress of the assignment till half way through preferably covering the deliverables under caption "C" above. Mid-term report should cover the following:
 - a) Importance of ASCL in seed value chain in Assam
 - b) Organizational analysis of ASCL
 - c) Operational analysis
 - d) Analysis of Institutional capacity
24. **Draft Final Report:** The Consultant shall submit the draft final report within 150 days from contract effectiveness, covering all the deliverables and addressing any remaining comments from previous reports. Draft final report, apart from the topics covered in mid-term report (refined & comments, if any, addressed) should cover the following:
 - a) Benchmarking study with other state seed corporations
 - b) Overall need gap assessment report
 - c) Strategy & action plan to revamp ASCL
 - d) Proposed institutional structure & mechanism to implement the action plan
 - e) Cost- benefit & impact analysis of the proposed action plan & possible funding sources
25. **Final Report:** The Consultant shall submit the final report with deliverable completed and addressing all the comments of the Client within 180 days of contract effectiveness. The final report should be comprehensive, include details of all deliverables and all comments of the client addressed satisfactorily. *The final report shall report shall also be shared with the World Bank and other external experts working on seed sector development in Assam. Their comments/ observations also need to be addressed by the Consultant.* The final report should also include a concrete summary of key recommendations for implementation.

Note: *The key recommendations of the study shall be synchronized with the recommendation of other experts mobilized aiming to boost the seed sector development in Assam by ARIAS Society in consultation with other stakeholders like ASCL, ASOCA, DoA, AAU & knowledge partners under APART.*

E. CHART OF DELIVERABLES

26. Following will be the deliverables for the Consultant (*with reference to the activities to be performed*):

Sl	Deliverable	Timeline for contract effectiveness	% Payment
1	Inception Report	30 days	5%
2	Mid Term Report	100 days	15%
3	Draft final Report	150 days	35%
4	Final Report	180 days	45%
	Total		100%

Note: The Client may take around 15-20 business days for accepting the reports or providing comments thereon. On each of the reports, Consultant shall have to make a presentation to the Client at mutually agreed date, time and venue. The observations/ comments of the Client on the reports shall have to be addressed within the given timeline. It may be highlighted that the APART is in its 5th year of implementation and time is an essence for this activity. Any time delays in carrying of activities or submission of reports may adversely affect the performance of the Project.

F. SERVICES/FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

27. The client shall facilitate necessary cooperation of its concerned officials at the Project HQ i.e Operational Project Implementation Units (OPIUs) Agriculture and Horticulture and at Districts i.e. District Agriculture Offices, ADOs etc as well as Assam Agricultural University (AAU).
28. The first point of correspondence from **(i)** Project Coordination Unit (PCU), ARIAS Society will be Agri Advisor/ Market Analyst cum Operations Specialist **(ii)** Assam Agricultural University it will be Head of Department, Genetics & Plant Breeding **(iii)** Directorate of Agriculture it will be DDA-Seeds/ Fertilizers/ Pesticides **(iv)** ASCL, it will be Administrative Officer.

G. CONSULTANT'S INPUTS & RESOURCES REQUIRED

29. The following is the list of **(i)** key experts whose CVs shall be evaluated for the purpose of determining the merit of the proposal and **(ii)** non key experts. However, the Consultant may deploy additional experts to accomplish the assignment successfully within the stipulated time:

Sl*	Position	Qualification & Experience	Indicative Role in assignment
A. Key Experts			
K-1	Team Leader & Seed Systems Specialist (Time input= 3 months)	Post-Graduate in Agriculture/MBA in Agribusiness/ Agribusiness Management /Agricultural Marketing & Cooperation/ Agribusiness Economics or a closely related field from any recognized University/ approved Institution. At least 15 years of professional experience in the seed sector Fluency in Hindi and English, knowledge of local language will be an advantage	1. Overall supervision and guidance of the team for the consultancy assignment work. 2. Shall act as a touch point for all correspondence from the Client. 3. Shall ensure timely submission of all reports 4. Addressing the queries of client (if any), during the assignment 5. Providing inputs on seed production, processing, trade & channel management related aspects.
K-2	Seed Business and Supply Chain Specialist (Time input= 5months)	Post-Graduate/ MBA in Agribusiness/ Agribusiness Management /Agricultural Marketing & Cooperation/ Agribusiness Economics or a closely related field from any recognized University/ approved Institution. At least 10 years of professional experience in seed business, seed supply chain etc.	1. Studying the gaps in the seed supply chain management of ASCL and suggesting ways and means to plug these gaps 2. Studying the procurement and distribution channel of ASCL, identification of gap areas and suggesting remedies for strengthening 3. Studying the logistics including

Sl*	Position	Qualification & Experience	Indicative Role in assignment
			<p>storage systems of seeds being executed by ASCL and identification of loopholes and advising on improvements</p> <p>4. Advising on the alternate sales and marketing channels for ASCL seeds along with modalities of schemes for institutionalization of such alternate channels</p> <p>5. Any other related task as assigned by the Team Leader</p>
K-3	Agronomist (Time input= 4 months)	<p>Post-Graduate in Agriculture, preferably Agronomy</p> <p>At least 10 years of professional experience in seed production, seed agronomy etc.</p> <p>Fluency in Hindi and English, knowledge of local language will be an advantage</p>	<p>1. Agronomist shall be instrumental in guiding the team on seed production including breeder and foundation seeds, seed health, seed agronomy etc</p> <p>2. Providing inputs on key issues of seed value chain like viability problems, expiry, germination & other issues so also certification</p> <p>3. Being instrumental in documentation of regulatory aspects (mainly Seed Act, Seed Control Order, PVPFRA) like awareness, compliance, penalties, redressal etc.</p> <p>4. Any other related task assigned by the Team Leader</p>
K-4	Process Re-engineering expert (Time in put = 6 months)	<p>Post-Graduation in Management, IT, governance or related field.</p> <p>10 years of relevant experience in process studies, business process re-design, government process re-engineering preferably in the field of Agriculture</p> <p>Fluency in Hindi and English, knowledge of local language will be an advantage</p>	<p>5. Conduct As-Is study and gap analysis and prepare the reports.</p> <p>6. Conduct business process re-engineering and provide process and technology intervention recommendations.</p> <p>7. Prepare Functional Requirement Specifications in case technology recommendations are given.</p>
K-5	Agricultural Economist (Time in put = 1 months)	<p>A Post Graduate in Agricultural Economics or a closely related field</p> <p>10 years of professional experience in cost benefit analysis, scenario analysis, impact analysis etc preferably of agricultural projects/ initiatives</p>	<p>1. Detailed cost- benefit & impact analysis of the proposed action plan</p> <p>2. Scenario development on the financial opportunities</p> <p>3. Documenting impact before interventions and projection of potential impact after interventions</p> <p>4. Other economic and financial analysis including cost reduction, profitability enhancement, economic and financial efficiency</p> <p>5. Any other task assigned by the team leader</p>

SI*	Position	Qualification & Experience	Indicative Role in assignment
B. Non Key Experts			
NK -1	Seed Production and Processing Expert (Time input= 4 months)	<p>Post-Graduate in Agriculture preferably in Seed Science & Technology or Genetics and Plant Breeding</p> <p>At least seven years of professional experience in seed production and processing</p> <p>Fluency in Hindi and English, knowledge of local language will be an advantage.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To study the existing status of seed farms of ASCL and suggesting ways for their strengthening and efficient utilization leading to enhanced profit maximization of ASCL 2. To study the existing seed processing infrastructure available with ASCL, its status and suggesting ways and means towards efficient operationalization of the same 3. Taking into consideration the location of the seed farms, potential for kinds of production of seeds of various crops, advising on additional seed processing infrastructure along with location, capacities, operational modalities etc. 4. To suggest on the optimal & strategic business models for effective utilization of the seed farms. 5. Any other related task assigned by the Team Leader

*K= Key Expert; NK= Non Key Expert

PART II

Section 8. Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms

STANDARD FORM OF CONTRACT

Consultant's Services Lump-Sum

CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT'S SERVICES

Lump-Sum

**Project Name: Assam Agribusiness and Rural
Transformation Project (APART)**

Project No.: P155617; IBRD loan No.8780-IN

Contract No.:

**For Hiring of Consultancy Services for
Study on "as-is" assessment, strengthening and streamlining systems
and processes of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL)
between**

**Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services
Society**

**ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit,
Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road,
Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India);
Tel: 0361-2332004; email: spd@arias.in**

and

[Name of the Consultant]

Dated: _____

CONTRACT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

CONTRACT No. *[insert]*

THIS CONTRACT ("Contract") is entered into this *[insert starting date of assignment]*, by and between *[insert Client's name]* ("the Client") having its principal place of business at *[insert Client's address]*, and *[insert Consultant's name]* ("the Consultant") having its principal office located at *[insert Consultant's address¹]*.

WHEREAS, the Client has received financing from the World Bank which is being used for this contract (and accordingly the relevant provisions of Bank's Procurement Regulations and Anti-Corruption Guidelines shall be applicable to this Contract), and the Client wishes to have the Consultant perform the services hereinafter referred to, and

WHEREAS, the Consultant is willing to perform these services,

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES hereby agree as follows:

1. **Services**
 - (i) The Consultant shall perform the services specified in Annex A, "Terms of Reference and Scope of Services," which is made an integral part of this Contract ("the Services").
 - (ii) The Consultant shall provide the personnel listed in Annex B, "Consultant's Personnel," to perform the Services.
 - (iii) The Consultant shall submit to the Client the reports in the form and within the time periods specified in Annex C, "Consultant's Reporting Obligations."
2. **Term**

The Consultant shall perform the Services during the period commencing *[insert starting date]* and continuing through *[insert completion date]*, or any other period as may be subsequently agreed by the parties in writing.
3. **Payment**
 - A. Ceiling

For Services rendered pursuant to Annex A, the Client shall pay the Consultant an amount not to exceed *[insert amount]*. This amount has been established based on the understanding that it includes all of the Consultant's costs and profits as well as any tax obligation that may be imposed on the Consultant.
 - B. Schedule of Payments

The schedule of payments is specified below²:

[insert detailed list of payments specifying amount of each installment, deliverable/output for which the installment is paid and currency]
 - C. Payment Conditions

Payment shall be made in *[specify currency]*, no later than 30 days following submission by the Consultant of invoices in duplicate to the

¹ Avoid use of "P.O. Box" address

² Fill in based on required outputs as described in Annex A (Terms of Reference) and Annex C (Reporting Requirements). Avoid front-loaded payments. Advance payments in contracts with firms require a bank guarantee for the same amount.

Coordinator designated in paragraph 4.

Payments shall be made to Consultant's bank account *[insert banking details. If payment by bank wire is not possible, prior Bank approval to apply cash payments option shall be obtained]*

- 4. Project Administration**
- A. Coordinator.
- The Client designates Mr./Ms. *[insert name and job title]* as Client's Coordinator; the Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination of activities under this Contract, for acceptance and approval of the reports and of other deliverables by the Client and for receiving and approving invoices for the payment.
- B. Reports.
- The reports listed in Annex C, "Consultant's Reporting Obligations," shall be submitted in the course of the assignment, and will constitute the basis for the payments to be made under paragraph 3.
- 5. Performance Standards**
- The Consultant undertakes to perform the Services with the highest standards of professional and ethical competence and integrity. The Consultant shall promptly replace any employees assigned under this Contract that the Client considers unsatisfactory.
- 6. Inspections and Auditing**
- The Consultant shall permit, and shall cause its Sub-Consultants to permit, the Bank and/or persons or auditors appointed by the Bank to inspect and/or audit its accounts and records and other documents relating to the submission of the Proposal to provide the Services and performance of the Contract. Any failure to comply with this obligation may constitute a prohibited practice subject to contract termination and/or the imposition of sanctions by the Bank (including without limitations determination of ineligibility) in accordance with prevailing Bank's sanctions procedures.
- 7. Confidentiality**
- The Consultants shall not, during the term of this Contract and within two years after its expiration, disclose any proprietary or confidential information relating to the Services, this Contract or the Client's business or operations without the prior written consent of the Client.
- 8. Ownership of Material**
- Any studies reports or other material, graphic, software or otherwise, prepared by the Consultant for the Client under the Contract shall belong to and remain the property of the Client. The Consultant may retain a copy of such documents and software³.
- 9. Consultant Not to be Engaged in Certain Activities**
- The Consultant agrees that, during the term of this Contract and after its termination, the Consultants and any entity affiliated with the Consultant, shall be disqualified from providing goods, works or services (other than consulting services that would not give rise to a conflict of interest) resulting from or closely related to the Consulting Services for the preparation or implementation of the Project
- 10. Insurance**
- The Consultant will be responsible for taking out any appropriate insurance

³ Restrictions about the future use of these documents and software, if any, shall be specified at the end of paragraph 8.

coverage.

- 11. Assignment** The Consultant shall not assign this Contract or sub-contract any portion of it without the Client's prior written consent.
- 12. Law Governing Contract and Language** The Contract shall be governed by the laws of *[insert government]*, and the language of the Contract shall be⁴ *[insert language]*
- 13. Dispute Resolution⁵** Any dispute arising out of the Contract, which cannot be amicably settled between the parties, shall be referred to adjudication/arbitration in accordance with the laws of the Client's country.
- 14. Termination** The Client may terminate this Contract with at least ten (10) working days prior written notice to the Consultant after the occurrence of any of the events specified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this Clause:
- (a) If the Consultant does not remedy a failure in the performance of its obligations under the Contract within seven (7) working days after being notified, or within any further period as the Client may have subsequently approved in writing;
 - (b) If the Consultant becomes insolvent or bankrupt;
 - (c) If the Consultant, in the judgment of the Client or the Bank, has engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices (as defined in the prevailing Bank's sanctions procedures) in competing for or in performing the Contract.
 - (d) If the Client, in its sole discretion and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate this Contract.

FOR THE CLIENT

FOR THE CONSULTANT

Signed by _____

Signed by _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

⁴ The law selected by the Client is usually the law of its country. However, the Bank does not object if the Client and the Consultant agree on another law. The language shall be English, French, or Spanish, unless the Contract is entered into with a domestic firm, in which case it can be the local language.

⁵ In case of a Contract entered into with a foreign Consultant, the following provision may be substituted for paragraph 13: "Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Contract or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules as at present in force."

LIST OF ANNEXES

- Annex A: Terms of Reference and Scope of Services
- Annex B: Consultant's Personnel and corresponding unit rates
- Annex C: Consultant's Reporting Obligations