

INDIA

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ARIAS SOCIETY (ARIASS)

PROPOSED WORLD BANK AIDED 'ASSAM PROJECT FOR AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION' (APART)

(SECTOR: AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH, AGRO-INDUSTRY, MARKETING, AND TRADE, CROPS, GENERAL AGRICULTURE, FISHING AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION; THEMES-RURAL MARKETS, RURAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, TRADE FACILITATION AND MARKET ACCESS)

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

(Project ID: P155617- INDIA)

No. ARIASS/APART/GPN/36/2016/4

Dated 29th February, 2016

No.

The Government of Assam (GoA) through the Government of India (GoI) has applied for financing an amount of US\$200 million equivalent from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Project for Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (APART), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds for payments towards goods, works, non-consulting services and consulting services to be procured under this project. This project will have counterpart funding by the GoA/GoI amounting to US\$50 million and the total Project Cost would be US\$250.00 million.

The proposed Project aims to 'increase value-added and improve resilience in the production and processing of selected agriculture commodities, focusing on small farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts'. The project *inter alia* would give thrust on enhancing agglomeration of producers to improve economies of scale in producing, processing and marketing. The project will support agriculture and livestock productivity through essential technology transfer in production and improved post-harvest and market operations, and explore and pilot possible financing modalities to support entrepreneurship and agri-business. APART will leverage the natural resource advantages of State of Assam as well as improve the investment climate and in particular, focus will be on processed food, food safety, agribusiness, logistics and infrastructure, MSME finance, and insurance. Project beneficiaries will include farmers and entrepreneurs especially in the MSME segment. Others beneficiaries would include farmer producer organizations, sector management companies, and other value chain participants¹. The Project consists of the following components: Component A: Support to Agri Enterprise Development; Component B: Farm - Market Infrastructure Development and Component C: Market-led Production and Resilience Enhancement and Component D: Project Management, Monitoring, and Learning.

The Goods, Works & non-consulting services to be procured under the project are being worked out, but likely to include the following: Essential infrastructure such as upgradation and modernization of selected publicly owned agricultural wholesale markets, renovation of District Industrial Centres and warehouses along with feeder roads; common service platforms; renewable energy sources; improved sorting, grading and packing facilities; supply chain infrastructure to prevent wastage and value erosion; etc. **The consulting services to be procured under the project are being worked out, but likely to include the following assignments:** Conducting Environmental (EA) and Social Assessment (SA) and preparation of EA & SA framework for managing related potential adversities; Preparation of Agribusiness and Marketing Strategy Supplements (AMSS) and handholding its implementation support; Setting up of Assam Investment Promotion Board (AIPB) and Agri-Business Promotion Facility (ABPF); Conducting Information and Education Campaign (IEC) on Food Safety aspects; Conducting project baseline and Monitoring & Evaluation including annual follow-up studies; Setting up of an ICT based Economic and Market Information and Intelligence System (EMIS); Development of electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt program; Organizing producer organizations and establishing Common Service Centres (CSCs); Setting up commodity testing laboratories; Setting up of common service platforms for postharvest facilities in collaboration with private sector; etc. While none of the procurements pertaining to Goods, Works & non-consulting services are likely to be done through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure, certain consulting services may likely to be done through International Sourcing.

Procurement will be conducted as per the World Bank's "Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers" (January 2011 revised July 2014, including versions updated thereafter) and the provisions stipulated in the Legal Agreement for the project, and is open to all the eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines. Consulting services will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011 revised July 2014, including versions updated thereafter)" together with the provisions stipulated in the Legal Agreement for the project.

Specific Procurement Notices (SPN) for the contracts under ICB process, along with consultancy assignments under International Sourcing, will be announced as they become available, *inter alia* in the [UN Development Business](#), the [dgMarket](#), and also at www.arias.in. Prequalification under the Project is not envisaged.

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¹ For more information please refer to the "Combined Project Information Documents/ Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet concept stage" published at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/docsearch/projects/P155617>