

World Bank financed
Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART)

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society
(An Autonomous Body of the Government of Assam)
Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Hiring of Technical Consulting Services for

Setting Up & Managing the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) of Assam Millets Mission (AMM) under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) for a period of two years

RFP No. ARIAS-13030/5/2022-APART

Dated Guwahati the 13th Oct, 2022

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)”, which is currently under implementation. Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society is the apex coordinating and monitoring agency for the Project. ARIAS Society now intends to utilize a part of this loan to hire an agency for “Technical consultancy services for setting up & managing the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) of Assam Millets Mission (AMM) under APART” initially for a period of two years. The Consulting Agency would provide technical support and handholding services to the implementing agencies of Govt of Assam i.e. Directorate of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Department of Elementary Education (SarbaSikshaAbhiyan) both at State and District level for smooth conduct of the activities under the Assam Millets Mission (AMM).
2. The U.N. General Assembly recently adopted a resolution, sponsored by India and supported by more than 70 countries, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets. The resolution is intended to increase public awareness on the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough conditions marked by climate change. The Govt of Assam in a bid to observe 2023 as the year of millets has set up the Assam Millets Mission (AMM) for a period of seven years. Setting up of Assam Millets Mission was approved by the State Cabinet in May 2023. The activities in first two years of the Mission will be funded under APART. A part of the activities in the third year will also be funded under APART. From third year onwards the funding support to the Mission will be from State Govt as well as Govt of India schemes.
3. Indicative activities to be taken up under AMM in the first two years include:
 - a. **Market and nutrition supportive production:** Technology demonstrations, Minikits distribution, Seed production & distribution, Farm machinery (need based), cropping system demos with pulses & other crops.
 - b. **Post-harvest & value addition side aspects:** Post-harvest demonstrations on drying & quality preservation, Small Storage Bins (SSBs), Nutritious millet products development fund.
 - c. **Market linkages:** Buyer Seller Meets, Product exhibitions
 - d. **Ensuring better nutrition, healthy & disease free Assam through millets:** i) Distribution of millets based products in rural areas-Awareness creation, Supply of millet based products in rural areas ii) Millets in mid-day meal scheme (through education Deptt- SSA)-Awareness creation, Supply and distribution in schools iii) Millets nutrition in expecting & lactating women and children (in collaboration with POSHAN Abhiyan, Deptt of Social Welfare)-Nutrition camps for women & children (urban and rural areas), Supply to POSHAN Abhiyan (Social Welfare Department)
 - e. **Administration, operations, training & capacity building:** Governing Body of the Mission at State level, PMU at State level, Millets Mission Cell at Directorate level, Setting up of District level Millets Cell, Exposure visits & Trainings, Millets (& pulses) business conclaves, Millets Knowledge Bank (MKB)
4. The State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society now invites eligible consultancy firms/ agencies to submit their Request for proposals (RFPs) for Hiring of Technical Consulting Services for “Setting Up & Managing the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) of Assam Millets Mission (AMM) under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) for a period of two years. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services as indicated in the RFP for the proposed assignment, which may be seen at the website of ARIAS Society viz (<http://www.arias.in/procurements.html>).
5. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers; Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting & Consulting Services, July 2016”, available at www.worldbank.org. Attention of the interested agencies is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the said Regulations

relating to the Conflict of Interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture (JV) or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. However, nature of association i.e. whether JV or Sub-Consultant, must be clearly mentioned in the Proposal.

6. Interested Consultancy Firms/ Agencies must submit their RFPs in written form in **English** language to the address given below on or before **2.00 pm of 15th November, 2022** in **hard copy as well as a soft copy**. Further information can be obtained at the address of the SPD given below from 11.00 am to 04.00 pm (IST) on all working days.

The State Project Director, ARIAS Society, Agriculture complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam)Tel: 0361-2332004; website: www.arias.in; email: spd@arias.in