

**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)

For hiring Consultancy Services for "Monitoring and Evaluation of APART"

No. ARIAS/APART/830/2019/67-A

Dated Guwahati the 10th September, 2021

1. The Government of Assam (GoA) through the Government of India has received a loan of US\$ 200 million from the World Bank (WB) for implementation of the APART. The APART's objective is to "add value and improve resilience of selected agriculture value chains focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in the targeted districts of Assam". The ARIAS Society now intends to apply a portion of this loan for "**Hiring of Consulting Services for Monitoring and Evaluation of APART**", including conducting progress monitoring studies alongside mid-term and end of project impact evaluations. APART activities are grouped into four major components: (i) Component A: Support to Agri Enterprise Development (ii) Component B: Facilitate Agro Cluster Development (iii) Component C: Market-led Production and Resilience Enhancement (iv) Component D: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning. The Project is in the third year of operation. A baseline survey has been conducted by the project and report generated.
2. The scope of the consultancy assignment includes the following: a) Regularly monitor & report on the project's physical and financial inputs and outputs; b) Data collection and collation, using independent surveys, and report preparation; c) Monitor & evaluate project processes, institutions and quantify short term output/outcome impacts; d) Carry out comprehensive outcome focused impact evaluations of the project during Mid-Term and Project Completion. This would include a comparative analysis of project areas with non-project areas with the latter acting a control for comparative purposes. e) Provide advisory support from the M&E perspective to the PCU for updating the Project Management Information System (PMIS).
3. The State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society now invites eligible consultancy firms/ agencies to submit their Request for proposals (RFPs) for "**Hiring of Consulting Services for Monitoring and Evaluation of APART**". 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>).
4. 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.
5. Interested Consultancy Firms/ Agencies must submit their Proposals in written form in **English** language to the address given below on or before **2.00 pm of 25th October, 2021 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: 0361-2332125; website: www.arias.in; email: spd@arias.in