

# World Bank financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

## Operational Project Implementation Unit (OPIU): Directorate of Sericulture

(Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22)

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### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

for hiring consulting agency for a study on "Entrepreneurship Model of Plantation through Vegetative Nurseries" under APART  
for the World Bank aided Project Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

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 Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The Project Development Objective (PDO) is "to add value and improve resilience of selected agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts of Assam". The Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society now intends to apply a portion of the loan for hiring a consulting agency for a study on "Entrepreneurship Model of Plantation through Vegetative Nurseries".
2. The key indicators of the project would be (1) Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services (number) of which female(%) (2) Increase in quality as measured by price premium of commodities sold by beneficiaries in the selected value chains (%) (3) Share of agricultural commodities sold through new agricultural marketing channels (%) and (4) Farmers adopting improved agricultural technologies (number).
3. 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.
4. Directorate of Sericulture is the implementing agency for Sericulture related activities under the Sub Component – C.1 of the project.
5. Among the specialty commodities, silk (eri and muga) is being focused in APART. However, silk industry in Assam suffers considerable losses due to very limited expansion strategy for muga host plantation with improved variety for better leaf yield and quality and lower gestation period. Largely available muga host plants in nature and in cultivated gardens are of mixed characteristics due to open pollination. On the other hand there is lack of technologies/practices for producing export quality products.
6. Briefly the scope of the assignment includes, understanding possibility to explore the vegetative propagation technique to establish vegetative nurseries and large scale supply of saplings of muga host plants, the technology available with Central Silk Board (Director, Central Muga Eri Research & Training Institute, Ladoigarh Jorhat-785007, Assam) is to be focused for developing an entrepreneurship model for plantation through vegetative nurseries.
7. Director of Sericulture, Government of Assam now invite eligible consultancy firms/agencies to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) for study on "Entrepreneurship Model of Plantation through Vegetative Nurseries". Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to provide the above mentioned services as per the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed assignment available on the project website ([www.arias.in/procurements.html](http://www.arias.in/procurements.html)).
8. **The interested consultancy firms shall furnish the following duly certified information:**
  - a. Name, address, phone, fax number, e-mail address along with a note on the ownership, organizational structure & core business area;
  - b. Document (s) to demonstrate that the firm is in the business for the last five (5) years.
  - c. Details of **three** similar assignments executed in the last five years (2017-18, 2016-17,2015-16,2014-15,2013-14) to support the short-listing criteria accompanied by completion or acceptance certificate(s), including experience, if any, of having worked with public sector agencies in India.
  - d. Certificate from the statutory auditors/ Chartered Accountant certifying the total turnover during each of the last **three** financial years (i.e. 2017-18,2016-17,2015-16);
  - e. In-house available expertise with domain knowledge and experience in similar assignments.
9. **The short-listing criteria include :**The agency/firm should
  - a. be in business of consulting for at least last five (5) years;
  - b. have Average Annual Financial Turnover of minimum **Rs. 50.00 lakhs** in the last 5 financial years(2017-18, 2016-17,2015-16,2014-15,2013-14) ;
  - c. have proven experience of successful completion of at least three similar assignments.
  - d. have a multidisciplinary in-house technical team and expert staff available with them
10. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultants' Qualification based Selection (**CQS**) method set out in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers; Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting & Consulting Services, July 2016", available at [www.worldbank.org](http://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 Expression of Interest
11. Interested Consultancy Firms/ Agencies must deliver their EOIs in written form in English language to the address given below on or before **28.01. 2019** in hard copy as well as a soft copy. Further information can be obtained at the address of the OPIU given below from 11.00 am to 04.00 pm (IST) on all working days.

Director of Sericulture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22