

**Clarification on EOI-RFP document in connection with the proposed consultancy service for carrying out a study on
“Development of Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan and State Agriculture Plan for Mizoram”**

Pre-Bid Queries

S. No.	Page number and reference of RFP	Particulars	Query	Response
1.	Page 23 Form Tech-1: Letter of Proposal Submission	We are hereby submitting our Proposal, which includes Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal sealed under a separate envelope, signed RFP and requisite EMD.	As per the letter of proposal the bidder is required to submit the technical, financial, signed RFP and requisite EMD. But there is no provision of submission of EMD available in the published RFP. Therefore, we request the Authority to clarify the amount and mode of submission of EMD for smooth bid submission.	Submission of EMD is not mandatory.
2.	Page 3, Clause No. 6, Point No. 3 of Letter of Invitation	Details of similar assignment(s) undertaken by the Consultant along with the experience certificate(s) from client(s) clearly indicating the scope of the services rendered by the Consultant in support of having completed the assignment(s) or Work Order(s) along with Self Certificate(s) of Completion (Certified by Statutory Auditor) of the assignment(s). (Section 7, Eligibility Criteria Form 4)	Similar assignments undertaken by the bidder would be supported with necessary documentation clearly indicating the scope of the services rendered by the Consultant in support of having completed the assignment(s) or Work Order(s) along with Self Certificate(s) of Completion. We believe that such a submission would be sufficient to justify the bidder’s experience. Hence, we request the Authority to omit the requirement for certification by Statutory Auditor.	We regret we cannot comply to this request.
3.	Page 16, Clause No. 14.6	After the opening of Financial Proposals, the following selection method shall be applied to determine the Consultant who will be declared winner and be eligible for the Award of the Contract. Method of Selection –Combined Quality cum Cost Based System (CQCCBS) The consultants shall be notified that they have successfully satisfied the qualifying criteria laid down in the Proof of Eligibility, indicating the date and time	The nature of work as per the Terms of Reference is highly strategic in nature and thereby should be entrusted to the bidder with high technical expertise of undertaking such works. We request the Authority to kindly consider the technical proposal weightage of 80% with financial proposals weightage of 20% under CQCCBS.	We regret we cannot incorporate this suggestion.

		<p>set for the presentation.</p> <p>Selection of consultant shall be made on the basis of Combined Quality Cum Cost Based System (CQCCBS). Under CQCCBS, the technical proposals will be allotted weightage of 70% while financial proposals will be allotted weightage of 30%.</p>		
4.	Page 9, Clause 9.3 B	<p>(B) Proof of Eligibility-Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Financial Turnover of the Consultant must be equal to or more than Indian Rupees 20 (twenty) Lakhs per annum during the last 3 (three) years. <p>The annual Turnover from Consultancy services must be equal to or more than Indian Rupees 10 (ten) Lakh per annum in the last 3 (three) years.</p>	<p>The scope of work under the RFP provides an opportunity to the bidder to develop a roadmap for the agriculture sector for the state of Mizoram, which is a highly prestigious assignment. Thus, financial stability of the bidder is of paramount importance, hence we request the Authority to amend the requirement as –</p> <p>(B) Proof of Eligibility-Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Financial Turnover of the Consultant must be equal to or more than Indian Rupees 100 (hundred) Crores per annum during the last 3 (three) years. The annual Turnover from Consultancy services must be equal to or more than Indian Rupees 50 (fifty) Crores per annum in the last 3 (three) years. <p>Z</p>	We regret we cannot incorporate this suggestion.
5.	Page 9, Clause 9.3 C	<p>(C) Proof of Eligibility-Key Professionals Qualifications & Experience:</p> <p>6. Additional specialist: Besides the above team members, bidders are allowed to include one more person in the proposed team with proper justification of designation and desired experience. Inclusion of any practicing agribusiness entrepreneur, private equity investor, private banker, microfinance player etc. will be encouraged.</p>	<p>We understand that the domain expertise needed for the Additional Specialist is available at a firm level and therefore requires a JV. Please clarify if an individual fulfilling the mentioned domain expertise suffice.</p>	Individual expert with Domain expertise may be taken as Additional specialist.
			<p>We request you to kindly clarify on the requisite qualification of the Additional Specialist if any.</p>	Additional specialist should adequately justify the designation and experience as per the scope of work.

6.	Page 21, Clause No. 17	Once shortlisted on the basis of Proof of eligibility, shortlisted Consultants have to submit 10 (ten) numbers of Technical Proposals in hard copy format. It will be intimated to the shortlisted Consultant in due course of time.	We understand that the proof of eligibility would be submitted along with technical proposal as defined in clause 13, page 15 of the published RFP. Please clarify if this understanding is correct.	Proof of eligibility should be submitted along with one copy of the technical proposal at the initial stage.
7.	Page 21, Clause No. 19	<p>Procedure for Detailed Evaluation of Technical Qualifications: Criteria, sub-criteria and point system for evaluation to be followed under this procedure is as under:</p> <p>(i) Specific experience of the Consultant relevant to the assignment: 10 marks out of 100</p> <p>(ii) Experience in carrying out studies or surveys in North Eastern India: 7½ marks out of 100</p> <p>(iii) Experience in carrying out studies and surveys for Government of India / State Government Ministries or Departments: 7½ marks out of 100</p>	<p>We request the Authority to clarify the maximum number of projects to be showcased over and above the minimum threshold as per eligibility criteria for scoring full marks. This will ensure that the bidder submits the most relevant credentials and therefore a quality proposal.</p> <p>We would request to provide break-up for the marks allocation.</p> <p>We would request to provide break-up for the marks allocation. Also, the geography could be expanded upon to include North Eastern India and Similar Geography.</p> <p>We would request to provide break-up for the marks allocation.</p>	<p>The maximum eligible number of relevant assignments can be shown as per the EOI-RFP (refer page no. 9), which falls within the stipulated time period.</p> <p>Marks allocation is as per the number of relevant assignments completed within the stipulated time period.</p>
8.	Page 43 Point no. 6 of Terms of Reference, Part 1, Objectives and Scope of Work	<p>Locations of the Work include the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the districts/cities of Mizoram; and <p>Other locations of the country relevant to the performance of the Assignment / Job</p>	As per Point No. 6 of the Terms of Reference, the clause includes other locations of the country relevant to the assignment. We seek clarity on the tentative number of such locations and the basis for their selection, if any, as this will enable us to factor in commercials for better project delivery. Hence, we request the Authority to kindly clarify.	Other locations of the country indicates taking inferences/citing successful cases from similar geographical areas of the country.

9.	<p>Page 18</p> <p>17. Right to Termination</p>	<p>17.1 The Employer may terminate the above RFP process at any time before the Award of Contract and without assigning any reason.</p> <p>17.2 The Employer makes no commitment, express or implied, that the entire bid process will result in a business transaction with any of the Consultants.</p>	<p>We request the Authority to kindly add the following in addition to the existing clause on Right to Termination – The Consultant may terminate this Agreement, or any particular Services, immediately upon written notice to the Employer if the Consultant reasonably determines that it can no longer provide the Services in accordance with applicable law or professional obligations.</p>	<p>This clause relates only to EOI cum RFP.</p> <p>Termination clause is present in the Agreement which will be executed with the selected Consultant.</p>
10.	<p>New Clause</p>	<p>We request the Authority to kindly consider the below mentioned clause on limitation of liability -</p> <p><i>Employer (and any others for whom Services are provided) shall not recover from the Consultants, in contract or tort, under statute or otherwise, any amount with respect to loss of profit, data or goodwill, or any other consequential, incidental, indirect, punitive or special damages in connection with claims arising out of this Agreement or otherwise relating to the Services, whether or not the likelihood of such loss or damage was contemplated. Employer (and any others for whom Services are provided) shall not recover from the Consultants, in contract or tort, including indemnification obligation under this contract, under statute or otherwise, aggregate damages in excess of the fees actually paid for the Services that directly caused the loss in</i></p>		<p>We regret we cannot comply to this request.</p>

		<i>connection with claims arising out of this Agreement or otherwise relating to the Services.</i>		
11.	New Clause	<p>We request the Authority to include the following clause on Mutual Confidentiality</p> <p><i>Except as otherwise permitted by this Agreement, neither of the parties may disclose to third parties the contents of this Agreement or any information provided by or on behalf of the other that ought reasonably to be treated as confidential and/or proprietary. Parties may, however, disclose such confidential information to the extent that it: (a) is or becomes public other than through a breach of this Agreement, (b) is subsequently received by the receiving party from a third party who, to the receiving party's knowledge, owes no obligation of confidentiality to the disclosing party with respect to that information, (c) was known to the receiving party at the time of disclosure or is thereafter created independently, (d) is disclosed as necessary to enforce the receiving party's rights under this Agreement, or (e) must be disclosed under applicable law, legal process or professional regulations. These obligations shall be valid for a period of 3 years from the date of termination of this Agreement.</i></p>		We regret we cannot comply to this request.

12.	New Clause	<p>We request the Authority to include the following clause on Reports and Materials</p> <p><i>Any information, advice, recommendations or other content of any reports, presentations or other communications the Consultant provides under this Agreement (“Reports”), other than information provided by the Employer, are for Employer 's internal use only (consistent with the purpose of the particular Services) including Employer 's board of directors, its audit committee, or its statutory auditors and not for disclosure externally outside Employer’s organization.</i></p> <p><i>The Consultant may use data, software, designs, utilities, tools, models, systems and other methodologies and know-how (“Materials”) that it owns in performing the Services. Notwithstanding the delivery of any Reports, the Consultant retains all intellectual property rights in the Materials (including any improvements or knowledge developed while performing the Services), and in any working papers that the Consultant compiles and retains in connection with the Services (but not information provided by Employer reflected in them).</i></p>		We regret we cannot comply to this request.
13	Section 2 Information to Consultants Part II Data Sheet (Specific to the Assignment) (Pg no. 20)	<p>Clause No. 12 Paragraph No. of ITC Part I: 9.4 (a) The estimated number of months required for the Assignment / Job is: 8 months from the date of contract.</p> <p>The Deliverables and Stages of Deliverables are given below:</p>	<p>Based on the breakup of the submission of deliverables given in the clause, we understand that the contract period of the assignment is 18 months. However, the estimated number of months required for the Assignment / Job is given as 8 months from the date of contract in the first para.</p> <p>Requesting to please confirm the exact contract period of the assignment.</p>	<p>The assignment period is 12 months. 8 (eight months) as indicated is a typo error.</p> <p>Monitoring report is to be submitted after 6 months of completion of the study.</p>

		<p>Inception Report: Within 1 (one) month of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Mid Term Report: Within 6 (six) months of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Draft Final Report: Within 10 (ten) months of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Final Report: Within 12 (twelve) months of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Monitoring Report: Within 6 (six) months of the date of circulation of the final report.</p> <p>There will be a presentation after submission of the reports at each stage as mentioned above. At each stage, the report has to be accepted by the Internal Committee constituted for the study.</p>	<p>We further requesting to clarify the estimated person month efforts required for the assignment.</p>	<p>As per scope of work (to be decided by the Consultant to execute the work).</p>
14	<p>Section 2 Information to Consultants Part II Data Sheet (Specific to the Assignment) (Pg. no. 19)</p>	<p>Clause No. 8 Paragraph No. of ITC Part I: 3.2</p> <p>Qualification / Eligibility Criteria of each member of the Association of Consultants: Each member must possess the following qualifications: (a) Experience in carrying out studies of similar nature during the last three years: one study of value not less than Rs. 5 lakhs, or 2 studies of value not less than Rs. 2.5 lakhs each.</p>	<p>Given the scale and technicality of the assignment, we understand that the bidders should have strong financial and technical capacity to deliver the project in a timebound manner through deployment of qualified and experienced professionals.</p> <p>In this context, we request to reassess the eligibility criteria and modify as below: (a) Experience in carrying out studies of a similar nature during the last three years: one study of value not less than Rs.50 lakhs, or 2 studies of value not less than Rs. 2.00 Crore each.</p>	<p>We regret we cannot incorporate this suggestion.</p>

15	Section-2, Part-1, Point no. 9.5, Page No. 12&13	<p>Agriculture Specialist: Adequate experience of having worked in NER in agribusiness related domain along with demonstrated experience of being a part of strategic planning in the region</p> <p>Social Science specialist: Adequate experience in social sector planning, implementation, convergence models etc.</p> <p>Agri Finance specialist: Adequate experience in agri sector financing, lending, micro-finance models etc.</p> <p>Rural Entrepreneurship Specialist: Adequate experience in projects/activities directly related to rural entrepreneurship development including Cooperatives /FPOs/SHGs etc.</p> <p>Besides the above team members, bidders are allowed to include one more person in the proposed team with proper justification of designation and desired experience. Inclusion of any practicing agribusiness entrepreneur, private equity investor, private banker, microfinance player etc. will be encouraged.</p>	<p>Agriculture Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the desired experience and expertise are outlined, could you please specify the total years of experience required for this position? <p>Social Science Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to the Agriculture Specialist, could you clarify the total years of experience expected for this role? <p>Agri Finance Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would appreciate it if you could provide details on the required total years of experience for this position. <p>Rural Entrepreneurship Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please specify the total years of experience needed for this specialist. <p>Additional Team Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the additional team member allowed with proper justification, is there a minimum number of years of experience required? If so, please provide the details. <p>Providing this information will enable us to ensure that our proposed team meets the necessary qualifications and aligns with your expectations.</p>	The experience and expertise of the specialist should adequately justify the scope of work for execution of assignment effectively.
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16	<p>Terms of Reference Part I, point no.5. Payments to the Consultant, page no. - 43</p>	<p>Monitoring Report & presentation: On the status of implementation of the recommendations suggested in the study report. The report should be prepared in consultation & follow-up with the related stakeholders/implementing agencies of the state or region. The report should be submitted & presented before the Internal Committee within six months of the date of circulation of the final report- 5% of the total cost of services.</p>	<p>Performance-Based Payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that 5% of the total cost of services is tied to the submission and presentation of the monitoring report. Could you confirm if this payment is contingent solely on the timely submission and presentation, or are there additional criteria for release of this payment? <p>Submission and Presentation Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RFP mentions that the report should be submitted and presented before the Internal Committee within six months of the date of circulation of the final report. Could you clarify whether the six-month period starts from the date of the final report's acceptance or from the date of its circulation? Are there any specific formats or requirements for the presentation to the Internal Committee? <p>Consultation and Follow-Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the report is prepared in consultation and follow-up with the related stakeholders/implementing agencies, could you provide a list of these stakeholders/agencies or specify the type of stakeholders/agencies we should engage with? What is the expected frequency and mode of consultation and follow-up (e.g., meetings, interviews, surveys)? 	<p>As per EOI-RFP.</p> <p>Six months period will start from the date of circulation of the final report to the stakeholders.</p> <p>As per requirement of the Internal Committee of the study.</p> <p>Will be provided in due course of time.</p> <p>Subject to physical meeting with all stakeholders within 3 months and submission of Action taken report within 6 months.</p>
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17	Section 2, Part II , Clause 4, Page no.19	Last Date & Time and address for submission of Proposal/Bid: Date: August 30, 2024 Time: 1500 hours-i.e. 3.00 pm	<p>We have noted that Section 2, Part II, Clause 4 of the RFP mentions that the last date and time for submission of proposals is August 30, 2024, at 1500 hours (3:00 PM) as stated on page 19 of the document. However, we have also observed that NEDFi's website</p> <p><u>https://www.nedfi.com/notice-inviting-eoi-cum-rfp-for-consultancy-services-to-carry-out-study-on-development-of-comprehensive-district-agriculture-plan-and-state-agriculture-plan-for-the-state-of-mizoram/</u></p> <p>indicates a submission deadline of July 30, 2024. Could you please clarify the correct submission deadline? To assist in your review, we are attaching a screenshot of the relevant section from NEDFi's website.</p>	The correction of date has already been made (Refer NEDFi website).
18	Section 2 Information to Consultants Clause No. 7, Paragraph No. of ITC Part I: 2.7 (Pg no. 19)	No office space will be provided by the Employer to the selected Consultants at any location	<p>We request you to include the following eligibility criteria:</p> <p>The bidder should have an office establishment in any of the northeastern states (submit proof – trade license/incorporation certificate/GST registration certificate etc.)</p>	We regret we cannot comply to this request.
19	Pg. no. 27	Project Budget	We request you to kindly provide a tentative budget for the assignment.	We regret we cannot comply to this request.
20	9.5 (e) Page No. 12 & 5 (C) Page No. 3	<p>(Page-12): Agriculture/Horticulture Specialist: Post graduation degree in Agriculture Discipline</p> <p>(Page-3): Agriculture/Horticulture Specialist: A Post-graduate qualification in Agriculture discipline</p>	<p>Page 3 and Page 12 gives different educational requirement for the same post of Agriculture/Horticulture Specialist which could be a typing error.</p> <p>Additionally, we suggest to also include post-Graduate in agribusiness management as required qualification against this post.</p> <p>Given the scope of work, you may consider our submission to have postgraduate in agribusiness also as the required qualification considering the scope of</p>	<p>It is a typo error. Please read as Agriculture/Horticulture specialist: Post Graduate qualification in Agriculture/Horticulture discipline.</p> <p>Post Graduate in Agri Business will be considered.</p>

			work requires business acumen along with technical understanding of the sector	
21	Section 2 Information to consultants Part II Data Sheet II, Clause No. 12, Page 20	<p>The estimated number of months required for the Assignment / Job is: 12 months from the date of contract.</p> <p>The Deliverables and Stages of Deliverables are given below:</p> <p>Inception Report: Within 1 (one) month of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Mid Term Report: Within 6 (six) months of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Draft Final Report: Within 10 (ten) months of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Final Report: Within 12 (twelve) months of the Date of signing of Contract.</p> <p>Monitoring Report: Within 6 (six) months of the date of circulation of the final report.</p> <p>There will be a presentation after submission of the reports at each stage as mentioned above. At each stage, the report has to be accepted by the Internal Committee constituted for the study.</p>	We would request you to kindly clarify the timeline for approving the deliverables shared by the consultant for each stage of the assignment /job.	As per EOI-RFP.
22	Clause No. 19, Section 2 Information to Consultants Part II Data Sheet	<p>(b) Experience of working in the region (20%)</p> <p>Sub-Criteria for evaluation of each of the key professionals</p>	We respectfully suggest relaxing the criteria for evaluating key professionals based on experience of working in the Northeastern Region (NER). We believe that professionals with experience in other regions of the country can offer valuable insights and an outside perspective, which would be highly beneficial for the project.	As per EOI-RFP.