REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Thailand
Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project
Loan No./ Credit No./ Grant No.: IDA-D6220

Assignment Title: Agriculture Expert - Balochistan, Pakistan
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): TH-RIMES-266607-CS-INDV

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) has received/has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include individual consultant - Agriculture Expert - Balochistan, Pakistan who is responsible for support CARE Component 1 through the assessment of weather/climate information needs and requirements of the agriculture sector in Balochistan Province. The Sectoral Expert shall provide technical inputs for customizing SESAME for Balochistan Agriculture Department and its various stakeholders/users, to contribute to climate-informed planning and decision-making in agriculture.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) now invites eligible individual consulting ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide a CV demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: Master's degree or equivalent qualification in agriculture science/engineering/management or related fields, at least five (5) years of experience in climate services for agriculture, at least four (4) years of experience working with agriculture sector in Pakistan for assessing the demand and providing sectoral input in the design and operationalization of decision support tools, knowledge of climate services for food and agriculture sectors, climate risk and resource management particularly in crop subsector, experience with agriculture DSS, demonstrated experience working with government agencies, especially in agriculture sector, excellent analytical, writing and communication skills ,proficiency in spoken and written English and Urdu languages, can work independently and collaboratively with stakeholders and colleagues to achieve goals, delivers outputs for which one has responsibility within prescribed time, cost and quality standards, and operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 17:00 Bangkok Standard Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by July 11, 2022.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)
Attn: Dusadee Moya, Operation Manager
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TERMS OF REFERENCE
Agriculture Expert – Balochistan, Pakistan

1. About RIMES

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution that is owned and managed by its 48 Member and Collaborating States for building capacities in the generation and application of user-relevant multi-hazard early warning information. RIMES was established on 30 April 2009 through the signing by collaborating countries of the RIMES regional cooperation agreement. RIMES was registered with the United Nations under Article 102 of the UN Charter on 1 July 2009. RIMES operates from its regional early warning center, located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand.

RIMES' purpose is to provide early warning services according to differing needs and demands of its Member States, for enhanced preparedness and response to, and mitigation of, natural hazards. Its specific objectives are:
   a) Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of core regional observing and monitoring networks to ensure data availability for early warning;
   b) Provide earthquake and tsunami services within the framework of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO);
   c) Support National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for providing localized hydro-meteorological risk information within the framework of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and
   d) Enhance warning response capacities at all levels (national to community) within each national early warning framework.

RIMES provides a portfolio of options for Member States to avail from, or contribute to, any of these objectives.

2. Background

Socio-economic impacts of climate-related hazards in South Asian countries continue to threaten the countries' economic growth, particularly in key sectors such as agriculture, water, and infrastructure. During the 16th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2010, these countries collectively resolved to strengthen climate resilience. The Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project aims to contribute to translating this policy into actions through enhanced regional cooperation and knowledge on climate resilience and adaptation, and development of standards and guidelines to facilitate climate-resilient planning and investments.

The Project's Development Objective is to create an enabling environment for climate-resilient policies and investments across South Asia, with the following indicators:
   o Increased access to regional climate data and analytics for climate-informed decision-making;
   o National-level decision-making and planning that are better climate risk-informed;

- Regional climate resilience guidelines incorporated into national standards;
- Sectoral investments supported to include climate risks and resilient design; and
- Institutional capacities strengthened to undertake climate-informed policies and planning.

The project has three components, for implementation over 5 years:
1) Promoting evidence-based climate-smart decision-making, to enhance access to data required for risk-informed planning and investments;
2) Enabling climate-resilient policies and standards for development, to enhance transformation of policies and capacities for climate resilience and adaptation across South Asia; and
3) Project management and implementation support.

Component 1 is being implemented by RIMES. This component involves the creation of a regional resilience data and analytics service (RDAS) platform and decision-support systems (DSSs) for selected sectors of agriculture, water, road transport, planning and finance, and disaster risk management in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Component 1 also includes capacity development of users of these systems and their products. The RDAS is a cloud-based open-access platform for acquiring, storing, managing, processing, analyzing, visualizing, and reporting data, for use in screening climate risks to inform investments. The DSSs are sector-specific systems, linked to the RDAS, and for assisting users in sectoral planning and decision-making.

The country-specific activities planned for Pakistan are as follows:
- Develop DSS for Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPDSI), incorporating climate indicators in the planning process to track climate-resilient projects;
- Develop DSS for Ministry of Finance, to serve as a dynamic fiscal risk assessment tool for climate hazards;
- Improve the existing DSS for Sindh Irrigation Department to include drought risk management, among others;
- Customize Specialized Expert System for Agro-meteorological Early Warning for Climate Resilient Agriculture (SESAME) for Punjab and Balochistan Governments

3. Objective

The Agriculture Expert – Balochistan, Pakistan shall support CARE Component 1 through the assessment of weather/climate information needs and requirements of agriculture sector in Balochistan Province. The Sectoral Expert shall provide technical inputs for customizing SESAME for Balochistan Agriculture Department and its various stakeholders/users, to contribute to climate-informed planning and decision-making in agriculture.

4. Scope of Work
User Needs Assessment
- Conduct a desk review to map stakeholders in food and agriculture and related fields (e.g. water resources/irrigaton, etc.), identify and assess existing DSSs/portals, and identify gaps/requirements
- Validate stakeholders mapped in the desk review during the interviews/discussions/meetings with stakeholders and revise the list of stakeholders, as necessary
- Design a user needs assessment approach and methodology and develop the assessment materials such as survey, interview and focus group discussion (FGD) questionnaires/guides
- Lead the user needs assessments for agriculture sector through, but not limited to, surveys, consultation meetings, interviews, FGDs and/or decision-simulation workshops to identify the sector's weather/climate information needs and requirements, decision-making contexts, data availability and accessibility and technical capacity among others
- Summarize and report on the outcomes of the assessments in a validation workshop with stakeholders in the agriculture and related sectors

DSS Development
- ○ Initiate discussions and generate support, from Balochistan Government, for SESAME customization/localization for the Province, for responding to stakeholders' information requirements
- ○ Identify specific parameters and data (sources) to be integrated as well as decision points and contexts to be supported by the system
- ○ Provide recommendations and technical inputs on the design, content and analytics of SESAME, and other system features as required by stakeholders, to ensure application of SESAME-generated information/products in planning and decision-making in agriculture sector

5. Reporting Requirements

The Agriculture Expert – Balochistan will work with the Climate Applications Specialist and DSS Lead. S/he will work under the direct supervision of the Climate Application Specialist and Project Director, who will monitor the quality of the following deliverables:
- Desk review report within 30 days of contract signing
- User needs assessment materials within 60 days of contract signing
- Report on assessment outcomes within 135 days of contract signing
- Final report summarizing the recommendations and technical inputs on DSS design and development within 165 days of contract signing

6. Qualifications
- ○ Master's degree or equivalent qualification in agriculture science/engineering/management or related fields
- ○ At least five (5) years of experience in climate services for agriculture
- ○ At least four (4) years of experience working with agriculture sector in Pakistan for assessing the demand and providing sectoral input in the design and operationalization of decision support tools
- ○ Knowledge of climate services for food and agriculture sectors, climate risk and resource management particularly in crop subsector
- ○ Experience with agriculture DSS
- ○ Demonstrated experience working with government agencies, especially in agriculture sector
- ○ Excellent analytical, writing and communication skills
- ○ Proficiency in spoken and written English and Urdu languages
- ○ Can work independently and collaboratively with stakeholders and colleagues to achieve goals
- ○ Delivers outputs for which one has responsibility within prescribed time, cost and quality standards
- ○ Operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules

7. Contract Duration
The contract will cover 60 working days, spread over 6 months.

8. Application Process
Interested candidates must submit their application letter and resume to
rimesprocurement@rimes.int before midnight of July 11, 2022 (Bangkok time).

RIMES promotes diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Well-qualified applicants particularly females are encouraged to apply.