

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUALCONSULTANT SELECTION)

Thailand

Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project

Loan No./ Credit No./ Grant No.: IDA-D6220

Assignment Title: Individual Consultant – Agriculture Expert - Nepal

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): TH-RIMES-283553-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 - Nepal who is responsible for the assessment of weather/climate information needs and requirements of the agriculture sector in Nepal. The Sectoral Expert shall provide technical inputs for enhancing AMIS and localize its functionalities to local/provincial level, as may be necessary, to contribute to climate-informed planning and decision-making in the sector.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the primary procurement stage for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest or can be found at the following website: www.rimes.int and https://www.rimes.int/?q=procurement_notices or via the address given below.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)
2nd Floor, Outreach Building,
Asian Institute of Technology Campus,
Klong Nung, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Thailand

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) now invites eligible individual consultant (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide 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 Nepal for assessing user demands and providing sectoral inputs in the design and operationalization of decision support systems/tools; knowledge of climate services for food and agriculture sectors, climate risks and resources management particularly in crop subsector; experience with agriculture DSS such as AMIS, etc.; demonstrated experience working with government agencies, especially in agriculture sector; excellent analytical, writing and communication skills; proficiency in spoken and written English and Nepali; can work independently and collaboratively with stakeholders and colleagues to achieve goals; delivers outputs within prescribed time 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.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations and to be specifically set out in the Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI).

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

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by July 28, 2022.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

Attn: Dusadee Padungkul, Head, Operation Support Department

2nd Floor, Outreach Building, Asian Institute of Technology Campus,

Klong Nung, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand

Tel: +66 (0) 2 516 5900

Fax: +66 (0) 2 516 5902

E-mail: rimesprocurement@rimes.int



Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System

2nd Fl. Outreach Bldg., AIT Campus, Klong Nung, Klong Luang, Pathumthai 12120, Thailand
Tel/Fax: +662 524 5902 Email: rimes@rimes.int Website: <http://www.rimes.int>

TERMS OF REFERENCE Agriculture Expert – Nepal

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:

- Increased access to regional climate data and analytics for climate-informed decision-making;
- 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 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 to be used to assist users in sectoral planning and decision-making.

The country-specific activities planned for Nepal are as follows:

- Development of DSS for enhancing public financial management for MoF;
- Enhancement of DHM Portal, through the development and integration of Flood Impact DSS for Babai river basin, and weather forecast verification and bias correction;
- Upgrading of the existing Agriculture Management Information System (AMIS) for MoALD;
- Development of DSS for resilient rural/local roads network for DoR/DoLI
- Development of multi-hazard DSS for NDRRMA

3. Objective

The Agriculture Expert – Nepal shall support CARE Component 1 through the assessment of weather/climate information needs and requirements of the agriculture sector in Nepal. The Sectoral Expert shall provide technical inputs for enhancing *AMIS* and localize its functionalities to local/provincial level, as may be necessary, to contribute to climate-informed planning and decision-making in the sector.

4. Scope of Work

User Needs Assessment

- Validate stakeholders mapped in the desk review during the interviews/discussions/meetings with stakeholders and revise the list and pertinent details of stakeholders, as necessary
- Lead the user needs assessment activities with relevant stakeholders in the federal and provincial levels, using the user needs assessment approach, methodology, and materials already developed, through surveys, consultation meetings, interviews, FGDs and/or decision-simulation workshops to identify the differential weather/climate information needs (i.e. relevant to decision contexts in crop growth management, fertilizer/pests and diseases management, harvest and post-harvest management, etc.) of various stakeholders in the agriculture sector; the assessment shall also take into context stakeholders' current capacities and gaps in accessing, understanding and utilizing climate information of various timescales
- Summarize and report the outcomes of the user needs assessment, also taking into consideration outcomes from the completed desk review, and the technical review to be completed by RIMES Technical Team

DSS Enhancement

- Initiate discussions and generate support for AMIS enhancement from the ministry/agency maintaining the system, for system customization and where necessary, localization to relevant areas, for responding to stakeholders' information requirements
- Based on the assessments undertaken, identify decision points and contexts to be supported by, and parameters and data (sources) to be integrated to, the system

- Provide recommendations and technical inputs on improving the design, content and analytics, and localization if necessary, of AMIS to ensure its application in planning and decision-making of stakeholders in the agriculture sector
- Other relevant work for the enhancement of AMIS as assigned by the Climate Application Specialist and/or Project Director

5. Reporting Requirements

The Agriculture Expert - Nepal will work with the Climate Applications Specialist and the DSS Lead. S/he will work under the direct supervision of the Climate Application Specialist and/or Project Director, who will monitor the quality of the following deliverables:

- Conduct user needs assessment based on approved materials within 50 days from contract signing
- Report on assessment outcomes within 75 days from contract signing
- Final report summarizing the recommendations and technical inputs on DSS design and development within 105 days from 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 Nepal for assessing user demands and providing sectoral inputs in the design and operationalization of decision support systems/tools
- Knowledge of climate services for food and agriculture sectors, climate risks and resources management particularly in crop subsector
- Experience with agriculture DSS such as AMIS, etc.
- Demonstrated experience working with government agencies, especially in agriculture sector
- Excellent analytical, writing and communication skills
- Proficiency in spoken and written English and Nepali
- Can work independently and collaboratively with stakeholders and colleagues to achieve goals
- Delivers outputs within prescribed time and quality standards
- Operates in compliance with organizational regulations and rules

7. Contract Duration

The contract will cover 40 working days spread over 3.5 months.