

**F.No. I - 19011/75/2023-DMEO**  
**Government of India NITI Aayog**  
**Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office**

**Dated: 05.12.2023**

**Corrigendum-II**

**Subject: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Central Coordinating Agency (CCA) for Evaluation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) & LPG Subsidy - regarding.**

1. This Corrigendum forms an integral part of the above RFP.

2. Pursuant to the release of the RFP for engagement of a Central Coordinating Agency (CCA) for Evaluation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) & LPG Subsidy issued by DMEO, NITI Aayog on 22.09.2023 and Corrigendum I on 07.11.2023, following are the amendments in the RFP. The deletions in the earlier text of the RFP are indicated as strikethrough and the additions are underlined.

S. No.	Clause Number	Provisions in RFP		
Key Clauses				
1	Clause 1.9 of Payment Schedule of ToR  And  Annex 6 of RFP: Payment Schedule	<b>Key Date No.</b>	<b>Description of Deliverables</b>	<b>Payment</b>
		KD 0	Signing of agreement	10%
		KD 1	Two inception reports for two studies approved by Authority	20%
		KD2	Two mid-term reports for two studies approved by Authority	20%
		KD3	Two draft evaluation reports for two studies	20%
		KD4	Two final evaluation reports for two studies approved by Authority	30%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
		<u>Payment against the deliverables in case of govt-owned academic institution is the lead institution for the study</u>		
<u>Note 1: Advance payment is subject to submission of bank guarantee or indemnity bond etc.</u>				
2	ToR Section 1.13: Miscellaneous	<del>The Consultant shall have/establish an office in Delhi/NCR, for efficient and coordinated performance of its Services. The authorized officials of the Authority may visit the Consultant's Project Office or field locations</del>		

		any time during office hours for inspection and interaction with the Consultant's Personnel. It is not expected of the Consultant to carry out the operations from the Home Office.																
3	Clause 1.8 of RFP	Vide corrigendum I the PDD has been extended to 11.12.2023 (14:00 hrs)																
4	Clause 2.2.4 of the RFP	In case of govt-owned academic institutions in lieu of POA, a letter of authorization duly signed by the competent authority such as Head of the Department, Dean, Registrar, Director etc. will be considered.																
5	Clause 3.1.2 of the RFP	A Proposal shall be rejected if <del>any</del> three Key Personnel are not eligible. In case the Selected Applicant has one or two Key Personnel who is/are not eligible, she/ they would have to be replaced during negotiations, with better candidate (s) who, in the opinion of the Authority, would be eligible as per the Clause 2.2.2 (D)																
6	Clause 6.3 (c) of Agreement	<b>6.3 Mode of Billing and Payment:</b> c) The Authority shall cause the payment due to the Consultant to be made within <del>60 (sixty)</del> 45 (forty-five) days after the receipt by the Authority of duly completed bills with necessary particulars (the "Due Date").																
7	RFP Clause 2.2.2 (A)	The Applicant shall have, over the past <del>5 (five)</del> 8 (eight) years preceding the PDD, undertaken a minimum of 3 (three) Eligible Assignments as specified in Clause 3.1.4.																
8	RFP Clause 2.2.2 (D)	Qualification of other professional personnel: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>S.No</u></th> <th><u>Professional Personnel</u></th> <th><u>Minimum Qualification</u></th> <th><u>Minimum Experience</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Qualitative Research Expert</td> <td>Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</td> <td>Experience in collection and analysis of qualitative data in at least 3 assignments.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Survey team (12 nos.)</td> <td>Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</td> <td>Experience in the collection of primary data from households using CAPI in at least 3 assignments, field verification of data and collection, transcription of qualitative data.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>IT team</td> <td>Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</td> <td>Experience of developing CAPI tools for large surveys in at least 3 assignments and of managing incoming field data.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>S.No</u>	<u>Professional Personnel</u>	<u>Minimum Qualification</u>	<u>Minimum Experience</u>	1.	Qualitative Research Expert	Graduate Degree (or equivalent)	Experience in collection and analysis of qualitative data in at least 3 assignments.	2.	Survey team (12 nos.)	Graduate Degree (or equivalent)	Experience in the collection of primary data from households using CAPI in at least 3 assignments, field verification of data and collection, transcription of qualitative data.	3.	IT team	Graduate Degree (or equivalent)	Experience of developing CAPI tools for large surveys in at least 3 assignments and of managing incoming field data.
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1.	Qualitative Research Expert	Graduate Degree (or equivalent)	Experience in collection and analysis of qualitative data in at least 3 assignments.															
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3.	IT team	Graduate Degree (or equivalent)	Experience of developing CAPI tools for large surveys in at least 3 assignments and of managing incoming field data.															

		4.	<u>Research and analysis team (Comprising of quantitative and qualitative researchers)</u>	<u>Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</u>	<u>Experience in collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in at least 3 assignments.</u>
		5.	<u>Data Quality Management (DQM) team</u>	<u>Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</u>	<u>Experience in handling large data sets (&gt;3000 observations), Household data, quant analysis, etc. from at least 2 assignments.</u>
		6	<u>Anthropometry Expert</u>	<u>Post-Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</u>	<u>Experience of working in at least 2 assignments capturing anthropometric data and analysis of anthropometric data.</u>
		7.	<u>Copy editor</u>	<u>Graduate Degree (or equivalent)</u>	<u>Experience of at least 5 assignments in copy editing reports.</u>
		<p><u>Note: The support personnel will not be marked at the stage of evaluation of proposals. However, agencies may be asked to produce CVs of the personnel at the Letter of Award stage. If at any stage during the assignment, the personnel are found to be underqualified/ineligible, the consultant firm will be required to replace them with suitably qualified personnel after consulting with the Authority.</u></p>			
9	RFP Clause 2.13.4	<p>b) Insurance Surety Bond/ <u>Account Payee Demand Draft/ Fixed Deposit Receipt/ Banker's Cheque /Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee)</u> towards Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, as required under Clause 2.20 <u>no later than two weeks after <del>on or before</del> the Proposal Due Date.</u></p> <p>Kindly note that, the proposal shall be rejected if <u>hard copy of Bid security or Bid Security Declaration</u> is not submitted <u><del>on or before</del> no later than two weeks after the Proposal Due Date. However, the hard copy of Power of Attorney shall be submitted prior to the award of contract.</u></p>			
10	RFP Clause 2.20.1	<p>The Applicant shall furnish as part of its Proposal, a bid security of Rs. 3 lakh in the form of Insurance Surety Bond/ <u>Account Payee Demand Draft/ Fixed Deposit Receipt/ Banker's Cheque/ Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee)</u> issued by one of the Nationalised/ Scheduled Banks in India in favour of PAO, NITI Aayog payable at New Delhi.</p>			
11	RFP Clause 2.21.2	<p>Performance Security may be furnished in the form of Insurance Surety Bond/Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee)/Account Payee</p>			

		Demand Draft/ Fixed Deposit <u>Receipt</u> issued by one of the Nationalized/Scheduled Banks in India.	
12	RFP clause 3.1.3 table	1. <b>Relevant Experience of the Applicant</b>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>i. Sample size of eligible assignments of the applicant (10 marks). The marks will be allocated based on the following:</p> <p>Each eligible assignment with survey sample size of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>3000</del>5000- to <del>6000</del> 5000: 0.7marks</li> <li>• between <del>5000</del>6000- to <del>7000</del> 6500: 0.8 marks</li> <li>• Between <del>6500</del> 7000 to <del>8000</del>: 0.9 marks</li> <li>• above 8000: 1 mark</li> </ul> <p>(iii) Professional fees of Eligible Assignments (10 marks). The marks will be allocated based on the following:</p> <p>Each eligible assignment with professional fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. <del>50 L</del>4cr to Rs. <del>75 L</del> 4.25 Cr: 0.8 Mark</li> <li>• Rs. <del>75 L</del>4.25 Cr to Rs. <del>1</del> 4.5 Cr: 0.9 Mark</li> <li>• Above Rs. <del>1</del> 4.5 Cr: 1 Mark</li> </ul>
13	RFP clause 3.1.3 paragraph below table	<p><del>While awarding marks for the number of Eligible Assignments, the Applicant that has undertaken the highest number of Eligible Assignments shall be entitled to the maximum score for the respective category and all other competing Applicants, shall be entitled to a proportionate score. Please note that the applicant can submit a maximum of 10 eligible assignments for itself.</del></p>	
14	RFP Clause 3.1.4	<p>Assignments in India in respect to evaluation/ impact assessment/ policy assessment/ strategic reviews/ sectoral analysis, of government programmes/ schemes/ policies and projects related to such programmes/scheme/policies involving quantitative research design, methods and analysis of household surveys comprising at least <del>5000</del> 3000 household data points (excluding telephonic interviews), shall be deemed as eligible assignments (the “Eligible Assignments”).</p>	

		<p>Provided that the Eligible Assignments have been completed in the 5 <del>(five)</del> <u>8 (eight)</u> financial years preceding the PDD.</p> <p>Provided that the Applicant firm claiming credit for an Eligible Assignment shall have, prior to PDD, received professional fees of at least <del>Rs 1 Crore</del> <u>Rs 50 lakh</u> for such assignment</p>			
15	Form-6: Particulars of Key Personnel	<p>A. <b><u>Details of Key Personnel</u></b></p> <p><u>In addition to the details asked in Form 6 of the RFP the applicant is requested to provide the following:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="540 636 1390 825"> <tr> <td data-bbox="540 636 597 825"><b>8.</b></td> <td data-bbox="597 636 1105 825"><b><u>Is the KP on the payroll of the applicant for a period of at least 11 months? (required for team leader only)</u></b></td> <td data-bbox="1105 636 1390 825"><b><u>Yes/ No</u></b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>8.</b>	<b><u>Is the KP on the payroll of the applicant for a period of at least 11 months? (required for team leader only)</u></b>	<b><u>Yes/ No</u></b>
<b>8.</b>	<b><u>Is the KP on the payroll of the applicant for a period of at least 11 months? (required for team leader only)</u></b>	<b><u>Yes/ No</u></b>			

3. All the other terms and conditions of the RFP shall remain unaffected.
4. The responses to the queries have been enclosed.

## Response to Queries Received:

S. No.	RFP Clause	Query Received	DMEO Response
<b>1. Invitation for Proposals</b>			
1	1.6. Brief description of the Selection Process	Can you please elaborate on a fixed budget selection. Our understanding of FBS is that if applicant with the highest technical score has a budget equal to or under the fixed budget (INR 4.68 Cr in this case), then they shall be considered for award. Please let us know if our understanding is correct.	Please refer to Clause 1.6, Clause 3.1 and 3.2 of the RFP, which are clear and self-explanatory.
2	1.8 Schedule of Selection Process	We request the authority to clarify the correct proposal due date and time	Refer to Corrigendum I and para 2.3 of Corrigendum II. <b>11.12.2023, 14:00 hours</b>
3	1.8 Schedule of Selection Process	We request the authority to extend the proposal due date by 14 more days	Refer to Corrigendum I and para 2.3 of Corrigendum II. <b>11.12.2023, 14:00 hours</b>
<b>2. Instructions to Applicants</b>			
4	2.1.4.2 Other Professional Personnel	Please specify the education qualifications and experience of 'Other Professional Personnel.	Refer to para 2.8 of Corrigendum II.
5	2.1.4.2 Other Professional Personnel	We request the authority to provide information on said "other professional personnel" regarding required educational qualifications, work experience, etc.	
6	2.1.4.2 Other Professional Personnel	We request the authority to provide the exact number and details (including duration of deployment) of support team members to be seconded to DMEO.	3 technical people from the support team namely, one each from the data quality management team, IT team and Research and analysis team need to be deputed over the entire duration of the project.
7	2.2.2 (B) Financial Capacity	Requesting clarification regarding the specific financial years to which the RFP's turnover requirement refers. The confusion arises from the exclusion of the year 2020-2021 in the last three years. Also, we kindly request a reconsideration of the minimum annual turnover requirement outlined in the RFP. We request you to reduce the turnover from Rs. 15 crore to Rs. 10 crore for each of the financial years FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20, and FY 2021-22. We believe that our organization	No changes contemplated.

		possesses the necessary expertise and experience to excel in this assignment and that this adjustment will enable broader participation while maintaining the project's quality and efficiency. Your flexibility in this matter would be greatly appreciated.	
8	Section 2.2.2 (D) Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel-	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review and consider the following revision for the conditions of Eligibility for key Personnel as, "At least 5 years of relevant experience in projects in Food or Agriculture or Horticulture or Nutrition and should have led at least 2 projects in this domain (with at least one position at senior or mid management level)"	No changes contemplated.
9	Section 2.2.2 (D) Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel-	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review and consider the following revision for the conditions of Eligibility for key Personnel as, "At least 5 years of relevant experience in projects in Food or Agriculture or Horticulture or Nutrition"	No changes contemplated.
10	Section 2.2.2 (D) Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel-	If we refer to the responsibilities of Deputy Coordinator position shared in RFP (Page 17), most tasks pertain to project management and operations management type. Hence, we request that the condition of the At least 5 years of relevant experience in projects in Food and Nutrition should be removed and experience of project management of social research/Evaluation studies can be added. Please confirm the same.	No changes contemplated.
11	2.3.3 Conflict of Interest	We request the authority to kindly remove sub-clauses 2.3.3(a), 2.3.3(b), and 2.3.3(e).	No changes contemplated.
12	Section 2.13.3	Can you confirm that digital signature means scanned signature of the authorized personnel	Both scanned and digital signatures are accepted.
13	2.14.4, Technical Proposal	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following: If an individual Key Personnel makes a false averment regarding his qualification, experience or other particulars, or his commitment	No changes contemplated.

		regarding availability for the Project is not fulfilled at any stage after signing of the Agreement, the award of this Consultancy to the Applicant may be liable to cancellation in such an event.	
14		It is requested to relax the cancellation of award of consultancy project criteria as penalizing the consultancy firm due to personnel interest/issue of any key resource may unjustifiably affect the firm and other resources.	No changes contemplated.
15	2.14.6 Technical Proposal	Can you clarify if the team leader has to be a full time employee or could be a part time employee who has been working with the Consultant for more than 11 months? In case it is the former, we request for a change- i.e. that a part time employee/independent consultant who has been worked in the past with the Consultant for more than a cumulative period of 11 months also be allowed for the team leader position.	Please refer to clause 2.14.6 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.  No changes contemplated.
16	2.16.3 (Sub-clause of 2.16 Submission of Proposal)	The submission portal on GeM does not have separate folders. Instead, needs various documents to be uploaded under separate heads. With separate sections for technical and financial bids. We request the authority to provide clarity on the same.	Submit as per the format accepted on GeM Portal.
17	2.23, Confidentiality	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following: Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, and recommendation for the selection of Applicants shall not be disclosed to any person who is not officially concerned with the process or is not a retained professional adviser advising the Authority in relation to matters arising out of or concerning the Selection Process. The Authority shall treat all information, submitted as part of the Proposal, in confidence and shall require all those who have access to such material to	No changes contemplated.



		<p>reat the same in confidence. The Authority may not divulge any such information unless it is directed to do so by any statutory entity that has the power under law to require its disclosure or is to enforce or assert any right or privilege of the statutory entity and/or the Authority or as may be required by law or in connection with any legal process.</p>	
18	2.26 Substitution of Personnel	<p>We request the authority to remove this clause and the attached % penalty on remuneration of the personnel in case of substitution. This will allow the consultant, the requisite flexibility necessary in delivery of the assignment with high quality and within stipulated time.</p>	No changes contemplated.
19	2.26 Substitution of Personnel	<p>These conditions appear very harsh. While these reasons health and incapacity are considered but there are other reasons (such as resignation, family requirement, other emergencies etc.) unexpected also beyond the reasonable control of the agency. We request clarity and make requests for understanding/amending the requirements for better.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We request to understand that the penalty amount is deduction of total remuneration for the month in which the resource is replaced and of that profile only of which the resource is replaced.</li> <li>2. We request to allow substitution with the approval of the concerned authority only and remove the penalty clause on humanitarian grounds.</li> <li>3. The clause for disqualification or termination of the agreement is doesn't seem justifiable. We would request to streamline process that ensures continuity and maintains hierarchical structure.</li> <li>4. We request that in these cases a fair call is taken by the Department and the firm may be given an opportunity to explain and only then, on valid grounds, the penalty may charged.</li> </ol>	No changes contemplated.

20	2.27 Indemnity	We request the authority to kindly remove this clause	No changes contemplated.
21	2.27 Indemnity	<p>We request 2 things to better understand this clause and request leniency as per market structure.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How and on what parameters the direct loss of damage may be calculated by the authority?</li> <li>2. Is the authority would arrive at a tangible loss due to deficiency in services or it can be intangible also?</li> <li>3. What kind of deficiencies would factor in calculation of the direct loss or damage?</li> </ol> <p>We request that indemnification may be made limited to one time fee paid to the firm or 10% of contract value. To manage the resources already deployed in other projects is time consuming. We would request you to make it for at least 30 days.</p> <p>Further, the penal structure given in this clause is too harsh, may request the authority to relax the penal provisions mentioned in this clause.</p>	<p>This will, inter-alia, include any reputational damage or infringement of terms and conditions laid out in the RFP. The quantum of penalty will be decided based on the extent of damage, if any.</p> <p>No changes contemplated.</p>
22	2.27 Indemnity	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review the indemnity clause for three times value of the contract. We request DMEO to consider indemnity value of amount equivalent to the value of contract. We request DMEO to consider for mutual indemnity clause enabling the consultant/bidder to be indemnified by the client in case of losses arising out of third-party claims or due to any fraud, misinterpretation.	No changes contemplated.
23	2.31 Proprietary Data	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following: Subject to the provisions of Clause 2.23, all documents and other information provided by the Authority shall remain the property of the Authority. Applicants and the Consultant, as the case may be, are to treat all information as strictly confidential. The Authority will not	No changes contemplated.

		return any Proposal, or any information related thereto. The Consultant shall make suitable arrangements for the preservation of data collected during the study, such as filled in schedules, tabulation or working sheets, reports, photographs etc., relating to the Project in electronic form and this shall be shared with the Authority at the time of submission of Final report. All raw data compiled during the consultancy assignment shall be transferred to the authority. No data collected in context of the study may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of or given to any other organization/individual, unless so approved by the Authority.	
<b>3. Criteria for Evaluation</b>			
24	3.1.4 Eligible Assignment	Provided that the Applicant firm claiming credit for an Eligible Assignment shall have, prior to PDD, received professional fees of at least Rs 1 Crore for such assignment. The query is if this amount is for collective three assignments or only one assignment?	Please refer to Clause 3.1.4 of the RFP and para 2.14 of corrigendum II for the complete definition of eligible assignment, which is clear and self-explanatory.  The amount is for each of the three assignments that determine minimum eligibility.
25	3.1.4 Eligible Assignment	Kindly relax the turnover criteria as we are MSME registered	No changes contemplated.
26	3.1.4 Eligible Assignment	Exemption to Start up/MSE in Turnover/experience may please be allowed	No changes contemplated.
27	3.1 Evaluation of Technical Proposals	We request the authority to kindly clarify if the bidder can submit 10 assignments each, under criteria (i) and (iii), or a maximum of 10 assignments in total.	Please refer to clause 3.1.3 of the RFP which is self-explanatory. A maximum of 10 assignments in total can be submitted by the applicant. Additional assignments after 10 will not be graded.
28	3.1.3 Scoring criteria	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review and consider the following revision of the Evaluation criteria of the technical proposal as , “Maximum 10 assignments can be submitted by the applicant. (j) Sample size of eligible assignments of the applicant (10 marks). The marks will be allocated	Please refer to para 2.12 and 2.14 of Corrigendum II.

		based on the following: Each eligible assignment with survey sample size of: • 800-900: 0.8 marks • between 900-1000: 0.9 marks • Between 1000-1200: 1 mark.”	
29	3.1.3 Scoring criteria	We are requesting for a modification of this clause to the following- (j) Sample size of eligible assignments of the applicant (10 marks). The marks will be allocated based on the following: Each eligible assignment with survey sample size of: • 3000-4000: 0.7marks • between 4000-5000: 0.8 marks • Between 5000-6000: 0.9 marks • above 6000: 1 marks	Please refer to para 2.12 and 2.14 of Corrigendum II.
30	3.1.3 Scoring criteria	We request the authority to change the criteria for obtaining the highest marks to, “Above Rs. 250 crores”. The criteria maybe revised as: (ii) Average overall turnover of the applicant <sup>4</sup> (10 marks):  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 15 Cr – Rs. 100 Cr: 5 marks</li> <li>• Rs. 100 Cr to Rs. 250 Cr: 7 Marks</li> <li>• Above Rs. 250 Cr: 10 marks</li> </ul>	No changes contemplated.
31	Professional fees of Eligible	We are requesting for a modification of this clause to the following- Each eligible assignment with professional fees:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 0.75 Lakh to Rs. 1 Cr: 0.8 Mark</li> <li>• Rs. 1 Cr to Rs. 1.25 Cr: 0.9 Mark</li> <li>• Above Rs. 1.25 Cr: 1 Mark</li> </ul>	Please refer to para 2.12 and 2.14 of Corrigendum II.
32	Proposed Methodology and Work Plan	"Marks to be awarded for collaboration /consortium/partnership with academic institutions: 5 marks" Does this mean, the agency is allowed to collaborate with any type of institutions, or any specifications/experience required?	Please refer to clause 3.1.3 and Appendix I Form 7 of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory. <b>Desirable:</b> Universities/academic institutions (hereunder referred to as universities/institutions)

			<p>should be recognized by the University Grant Commission or any State or the Central Government.</p> <p>It is desirable to have association with institutes/universities that have undertaken research or project work in the area of public policy, nutrition, evaluations etc. Therefore, associations may be mindfully formed.</p>
33	3.1.3 Scoring criteria	We request for the following to be removed: Marks to be awarded for collaboration /consortium/partnership with academic institutions: 5 marks	No changes contemplated.
34	3.1.3 Relevant Experience of the Applicant	We kindly request you to reduce the minimum limit of average annual turnover requirement for maximum marks, from Rs. 25 crores to Rs. 15 crores, in order to enhance our competitiveness in the selection process. Your consideration of this adjustment would be greatly appreciated.	No changes contemplated.
35	3.1.3 Experience of Proposed Key Personnel of the Applicant Deputy Coordinator	We request for a reduction in the length of professional experience of the Deputy Coordinator to 8 years.	No changes contemplated.
36	Paragraph below Table on Page 43	We request the authority to reconfirm that marking would be as per criteria laid out in the table on Page 41.	Please refer to clause 3.1.3 of the RFP and para 2.12 and 2.13 of Corrigendum II which is clear and self-explanatory.
37	Section 3.1.4 Eligible Assignments	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review and consider the following revision, "Assignments in India in respect to evaluation/ impact assessment/ policy assessment/ strategic reviews/ sectoral analysis, of government programmes/ schemes/ policies and projects related to such programmes/scheme/policies involving quantitative research design, methods and analysis of household surveys comprising at least 1000 household data points (excluding telephonic interviews), shall be deemed as eligible	Please refer to para 2.14 of Corrigendum II.

		assignments (the “Eligible Assignments”).
38		We request DMEO to kindly review and consider the following revision, “Provided that the Applicant firm claiming credit for an Eligible Assignment shall have, prior to PDD, received professional fees of at least Rs 25 Lakhs for such assignment”. We'd like to highlight that typically evaluation studies do not mandate such high fee as one crore.
39	Evaluation Criteria as per RFP	We propose reducing the assignment fees at INR 20 Lakh and above to encourage wider participation and inclusivity in the bidding process. We believe his adjustment will ensure a broader range of expertise for the assignments.
40	3.1.4 Eligible Assignments	We request for the following changes to the definition of eligible assignments in order to encourage wider participation from high quality applicants: Assignments in India in respect to evaluation/ impact assessment/ policy assessment/ strategic reviews/ sectoral analysis, of government programmes/ schemes/ policies and projects related to such programmes/scheme/policies involving quantitative research design, methods and analysis of household surveys comprising at least 3000 household data points (excluding telephonic interviews), shall be deemed as eligible assignments (the “Eligible Assignments”). Provided that the Applicant firm claiming credit for an Eligible Assignment shall have, prior to PDD, received professional fees of at least Rs 0.75 Lakh for such assignment For the avoidance of doubt, professional fees hereunder refer to value of the contract/ work order/ agreement awarded to the Applicant for providing advisory or consultancy services by its client.

		For the Eligible Assignments, the Applicant shall provide requisite supporting documents such as copies of contracts, agreements etc. The professional fees for the assignment should be clearly mentioned in the supporting documents provided. In the absence of supporting documents with requisite details, the assignment will not be considered as an Eligible Assignment.	
41	3.1.4 Eligible Assignments	Kindly confirm that while the eligible assignments would pertain to evaluation/ impact assessment/ policy assessment/ strategic reviews/ sectoral analysis, of government programmes/ schemes/ policies and projects related to such programmes/scheme/policies, would it also include to evaluation/ impact assessment/ policy assessment/ strategic reviews/ sectoral analysis done on behalf of multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies and others on interventions funded by them but within the social and development sectors	Please refer to para 2.14 of Corrigendum II.
42	3.1.4 Eligible Assignments	We request that projects funded by international donors/multilateral agencies may also be considered in addition to government programmes? Please confirm the same.	Please refer to para 2.14 of Corrigendum II. Please pay attention to the part "and projects pertaining to such schemes/policies/programmes"
43	5.3 Miscellaneous	We request the authority to kindly remove this clause.	No changes contemplated.
44	5.4 Miscellaneous	We request the authority to modify the current clause to the following: All documents and other information supplied by the Authority shall remain the property of the Authority. The Authority will not return any submissions made hereunder. Applicants are required to treat all such documents and information as strictly confidential.	No changes contemplated.
<b>Terms of Reference</b>			

45	1.2 Objectives for the NFSA Evaluation	The objectives only mention IEEE, do we have to use the entire DAC Criteria or go according to the RFP?	<p><b>OECD-DAC criteria are the only guiding principles for conducting the evaluation</b> and is used in the evaluation of LPG subsidies.</p> <p>However, in NFSA evaluation, the relevant objectives are outlined and provide guidance to the applicant as to the scope of the work under the assignment. <b>The idea is to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of a flagship scheme. However, the consultant may look into the other aspects of OECD DAC criteria, if required.</b></p> <p>Therefore, there may be additional objectives that come to the fore in light of scheme developments that the applicant should address in their A&amp;M and will be needed to detail out if selected at the inception stage.</p>
46	Section 1.4.1	As we understand the Freight Subsidy (far-flung areas) Scheme is not an ongoing scheme . As the ToR mentions to assess the return to investment for ‘ongoing schemes’, does the CCA requires to assess the return to investment for Freight Subsidy Scheme (far-flung areas)?	Some of these objectives may be changed at the inception stage, if deemed necessary by DMEO.
47	1.5, Scope of services for Central Coordinating Agency (CCA)	We request the authority to clarify on “Layout of the Overall Evaluation Team” and provide the same if it is missing in the RFP.	The structure is one CCA and 6 Survey Firms.
48		Related to engagement of survey firms for primary data collection.	The structure is one CCA and 6 Survey Firms.
49		Kindly share the timeline as to when the Survey firms would be recruited or onboarded.	After the CCA is hired.
50	1.5.6.1	While CCA can help survey agency identifying errors, missing data points, outliers, etc using set logics and protocols, can survey agency clean the data. Also, in case of in qualitative data, although gap can be identified, identifying the errors in qualitative data already collected by	Please refer to sections 1.5 and 1.16.13 of ToR (Schedule -1) which are clear and self-explanatory.



		survey agency might be challenging for CCA. Can you please clarify the exact task to be undertaken in case of qualitative data during post data collection stage	
51	1.5.8 Support team to be deployed by Central Coordinating Agency	It is mentioned that TL should be on the payroll of the applicant, is it applicable for any other position?	Please refer to section 2.14 (Technical Proposal) under section C - Preparation and Submission of Proposals which is clear and self-explanatory.
52	Section 1.6.1	Can you please confirm whether analysis of State specific schemes/programs on food and nutritional security in addition to NFSA is limited only to finding replicable best practices observed in the field and highlighting state-specific important challenges based on qualitative analysis.	All cases where state-level schemes exist need to be documented, analysed and used in reporting.
53	Point no. 1.6.2.3	Can you please elaborate which other schemes to be covered and what is the exact scope of analysis (e.g. coverage and usage etc.).	The schemes mentioned as a part of the ToR and any other modifications to those schemes are under the scope of the evaluation. The applicant may conduct a detailed literature review to understand the current scheme structure.
54	1.6.4 Sample Size for quantitative household surveys	Since survey firms would be onboarded to collect primary data, we understand that this sample coverage details are for reference purposes only. Therefore, the sentence, 'for the purpose of costing by the Consultant firm' is for calculating necessary level of efforts for monitoring purposes only by Central Coordinating Agency. Please confirm if our understanding is correct. 11. Please confirm if 8350 Households in combined sample size for both NFSA and LPG subsidy related study	8350 is the number of PSUs. The same sample will be covered for both schemes.
55		We understand from above claims that NITI Aayog will bid for survey firms separately. The costing to be done by CCA also includes survey costing. May kindly clarify whether NITI Aayog would have separate budget	The CCA will need to have its own survey personnel so that they can carry out spot checks and back checks of ongoing survey. Also, be a part of some data collection needed at the field level.

		<p>for survey agencies or whether the CCA would have to pay to these survey agencies from its own contract value.</p> <p>Secondly, if the CCA has to pay for this value, CCA may like to partner with a survey agency before hand so as to save on costs.</p>	<p>Survey firms will be separately onboarded by the Authority for collecting primary data.</p>
56	1.6.5 Allocation of samples at State-level:	<p>Village section is based on Census 2011 data. Will NITI provide us with Census</p>	<p>All publicly available data needs to be gathered by the Applicant. DMEO will facilitate the collection of such data by writing to the relevant authorities.</p>
57	Point no. 1.6.7	<p>The sampling unit is at the household level where as migrant definition given in ToR is individual or household member level (Individual member or all household members who stay away from the household/residence in search of employment for a period of 30 days to 6 months during the last 365 days for employment of (adaptation). For listing and primary survey, can you please explain how households can be categorized under 'migrant' category? Also 'shelterless' category might be absent in some rural and urban PSUs. In that case whether that sample category will be adjusted under other category in the same PSU or uncovered samples under shelterless households category will be covered in other PSUs</p>	<p>These are standard definitions. Compensation strategy for sampling would be provided by DMEO, that can be finalized by the CCA in consultation with DMEO.</p>
58	General Query	<p>What kind of databases will be available to the CCA team? Datasets like NSS, NFHS etc will be purchased by CCA or NITI Aayog? We want to understand the structure here. We understand that CCA will have a Survey team (NO. 12). Will there be a Survey agency hired at later stage to do the Quantitative data collection? Whether they will carry our Qualitative work at field? What will be the role of CCA Survey team role in interacting with Survey firm? Also, if data collection is part of Survey firm' role, what is the role of Survey Team CCA in going to various</p>	<p><b>Survey firms will be hired at a later stage.</b></p> <p>Please <b>refer to ToR (Schedule - 1)</b> of the RFP which is clear and self-explanatory.</p>

		districts etc and what kind of qualitative activities are needed to be done by Survey Team CCA? Pls differentiate the role between Survey Team CCA and Survey firm. Understanding for work for Survey Firm - What is the sampling expectation? Can we select states from each zone, or do we have to take all states since these are PAN India Schemes. The database for sampling provided will have which kind of variables? This would need data on socio economic details, gender, disability data etc	
59	1.6.11 Survey team:	<p>The first sentence is not clear. Did you mean the Central Coordination Agency will undertake ToT of Trainers for Survey agency.</p> <p>6. If the above is true, then Please clarify how many Survey firms will be onboarded and what would be the number of Trainers?</p> <p>7. Does Central Coordination Agency need to budget for the ToTs or it will be reimbursed by NITI Aayog on actuals as specifications (Nos, Calendar Days, Venues) are not available at this point of time? Please clarify.</p> <p>8. For the sentence, ‘It will also oversee the trainings undertaken by Survey firms across Zones, States/UTs’’, we assume that Central Coordination Agency will budget for travel and logisØcs for its own resource person for overseeing the trainings and that Survey firms will budget end to end for its own field team independently. Please confirm the same.</p>	<p>Yes. ToT is to be conducted by CCA.</p> <p>6 SFs will be onboarded. CCA to make a fair estimate of the number of trainers that will be needed based on sample size indications provided in the ToR.</p> <p>All costs to be a part of the CCA budget</p> <p>The CCA is expected to oversee all activities of the SFs. Therefore, it is required to make adequate provisions to that effect.</p>
60	1.6.12 Development of CAPI tools for data collection	<p>Will the data collection, Dashboard and CAPI will be hosted within Ipsos or on Govt’s portal? If it is hosted on govt portal, then how do we connect it to API?</p>	<p>Details will be worked out with the selected consultant. The consultant may engage an agency for this purpose.</p>
61		<p>Please confirm if Central Coordinating Agency (CCA) will be budgeting for Server space for storage</p>	<p>Yes</p>

		of survey data also as part of financial proposals.	
62	1.7 Listing of Stakeholders to be Consulted	May kindly provide the list of most backwards districts, so as to plan the survey/study costings better.	About 8350 PSUs are to be covered in the study. May make a fair estimate about the number of backward districts.
63		Please confirm if the orientation session for State level and District Level will be planned and executed by Survey firms independently with Central Coordinating Agency role being limited to monitoring?	CCA is to be actively present and train Survey Firm teams.
64	1.8 Deliverables and Timelines	We understand that mid-term report would summarise the activities leading to onboarding of survey agencies, Orientation of Survey agencies on CAPI software, monitoring report for training completion report and initial field deployment by Survey agency. Please confirm if our understanding is correct?	This may be included as a part of the technical proposal of the applicant.
65	1.13 Miscellaneous	We understand that this is a Lumpsum contract and not a Time-based contract. Also considering that roles of responsibilities of consultant firm would involve extensive travel across the selected states, then it would be more beneficial and cost effective to have some of the members key expert team based in other states. Hence, we request that the sentence, " It is not expected of the Consultant to carry out the operations from the Home Office" should be deleted.	No changes contemplated.
<b>Agreement</b>			
66	Clause 2.9.2, Termination of Agreement,	We request the authority to add the following to the clause: Notwithstanding the preceding, the Consultant may terminate this Agreement, or any particular Services, immediately upon written notice to the Authority if the Consultant reasonably determines that it can no longer provide the Services in accordance with applicable law or professional obligations	No changes contemplated

67	Clause 3.2, Conflict of Interest	We request the authority to remove sub-clauses 3.2.2, 3.2.3(b), 3.2.3(c), 3.2.6, and 3.2.7(e).	No changes contemplated
68		"We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review the conflict-of-interest clause and suggest that it should be applicable only during the term of this agreement. We kindly request the removal of the phrase ' <b>after its termination</b> ' from the clause."	No changes contemplated
69	Section 3.2.3- Prohibition of Conflicting activities	"We hereby request the DMEO to kindly consider modifying this clause to prohibit conflicting activities only during the term of the agreement."	No changes contemplated
70	Clause 3.3, Confidentiality,	We request the authority to substitute the current clause with the following: 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 2 years from the date of termination of this Agreement.	No changes contemplated
71	Clause 3.4, Liability of Consultant,	We request the authority to modify the current clause with the following 3.4.1 The Consultant's liability under this Agreement shall be determined by the provisions hereof.	No changes contemplated

		3.4.2 The Consultant shall, subject to the limitation specified in Clause 3.4.3, be liable to the Authority for any direct loss or damage accrued due to deficiency in Services rendered by it. 3.4.3 The Parties hereto agree that the Consultant, shall not be liable to the Authority: (i) for any indirect or consequential loss or damage; and (ii) except in case of fraud or wilful misconduct on the part of the consultant for any direct loss or damage that exceeds the Agreement Value set forth in Clause 6.1.2 of this Agreement	
72		“We hereby request the DMEO to kindly consider limiting the liability of the consultant to the <b>amount of the contract only</b> ”	No changes contemplated
73	Section 3.6 Accounting, inspection, and auditing	We request the authority to add the following to the clause: Notwithstanding anything contained herein, any audit and/or request for information conducted shall be restricted to the physical files in relation to this Agreement only and shall be subject to Authority agreeing to maintain confidentiality of these documents. No access to the Consultant's systems, network, facilities, or hands on or intrusive testing will be permitted. Any third parties employed by the Authority to conduct such audit or request for information shall not be a competitor of the Consultant and shall agree to confidential obligations with consultant, for the said purpose.	No changes contemplated
74		We hereby request the DMEO to kindly include a provision that requires the consultant's <b>consent</b> for third-party auditing appointed by the client, specifically in cases where there is a potential conflict of interest due to the same line of business.	No changes contemplated
75	Clause 3.9, Documents Prepared by the Consultant to be	We request the authority to substitute the current clause with the following: The Consultant may use data, software, designs, utilities, tools, models, systems and other	No changes contemplated

	Property of the Authority,	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 Authority reflected in them). 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 Authority, are for Authority’s internal use only (consistent with the purpose of the particular Services) including Authority's board of directors, its audit committee, or its statutory auditors and not for disclosure externally outside Authority’s organization.	
76	Clause 3.12, Accuracy of Documents,	We request the authority to modify the current clause with the following: The Consultant shall be responsible for accuracy of the data collected by it directly or procured from other agencies/authorities, the designs, drawings, estimates and all other details prepared by it as part of these services. Subject to the provisions of Clause 3.4, it shall be liable to the Authority against any inaccuracy in its work which might surface during implementation of the Project, if such inaccuracy is the result of any negligence or inadequate due diligence on part of the Consultant or arises out of its failure to conform to good industry practice. The Consultant shall also be responsible for promptly correcting, at its own cost and risk, the drawings including any re-survey /investigations.	No changes contemplated

77	4.5 Working hours, overtime, leave, etc.	Since payment for this assignment is milestone based, this paragraph may be removed as it is relevant for Time based contracts.	No changes contemplated.
78	6.3 Mode of billing and payment	Keeping in mind that this is a short-term assignment, we request that a maximum of 30 days' timeline should be kept for payment of consultants. This will help ease working capital requirements.	No changes contemplated
79	Clause 7.2, Liquidated Damages	We request the authority to substitute the current clause with the following: 7.2.1 Liquidated Damages for error/variation In case any error or variation or plagiarism is detected in the data, data analysis or reports, submitted by the Consultant and such error or variation is the result of negligence or lack of due diligence on the part of the Consultant, the direct damages thereof shall be quantified by the Authority in a reasonable manner and recovered from the Consultant by way of deemed liquidated damages, subject to a maximum of 5% (5 per cent) of the Agreement Value. 7.2.2 Liquidated Damages for delay In case of delay in completion of Services, liquidated damages not exceeding an amount equal to 1% (one per cent) of the Agreement Value per week, subject to a maximum of 5% (five per cent) of the Agreement Value will be imposed and shall be recovered by appropriation from the Performance Security or otherwise. However, in case of delay due to reasons beyond the control of the Consultant, suitable extension of time shall be granted.	No changes contemplated
80	Clause 7.3, Penalty for Deficiency in Services	We request the authority to modify the current clause with the following: In addition to the liquidated damages not amounting to penalty, as specified in Clause 7.2, warning may be issued to the Consultant for minor deficiencies on its part. In the case of significant deficiencies in Services causing adverse effect on the Project or on the reputation of the Authority,	No changes contemplated



		other penal action may be initiated as per policy of the Authority.	
81	Arbitration, Clause 9.4	<p>We request the authority to modify the current clause with the following:</p> <p>9.4.1 Any Dispute which is not resolved amicably by conciliation, as provided in Clause 9.3, shall be finally decided by reference to arbitration by an Arbitral Tribunal appointed in accordance with Clause 9.4.2. Such arbitration shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act,1996. The place of such arbitration shall be the capital of the State where the Authority has its headquarters, and the language of arbitration proceedings shall be English. 9.4.2 There shall be a sole arbitrator whose appointment or an Arbitral Tribunal of three arbitrators, of whom each Party shall select one, and the third arbitrator shall be appointed by the two arbitrators so selected who will be act as a presiding arbitrator, and in the event of disagreement between the two arbitrators, the appointment shall be made in accordance with the Rules. If one party fails to appoint an arbitrator within 30 (thirty) days, or if the two appointed arbitrators fail to agree on the third arbitrator, then the court may appoint any person or institution as arbitrator. In case of an international commercial dispute, the application for appointment of arbitrator has to be made to the Chief Justice of India. In case of other domestic disputes, the application has to be made to the Chief Justice of the High Court within whose jurisdiction the parties are situated 9.4.3 The arbitrators shall make a reasoned award (the "Award"). Any Award made in any arbitration held pursuant to this Clause 9 shall be final and binding on the Parties as from the date it is made, and the Consultant and the Authority agree and undertake to carry out such Award without delay. 9.4.4 The</p>	No changes contemplated

		Consultant and the Authority agree that an Award may be enforced against the Consultant and/or the Authority, as the case may be. 9.4.5 This Agreement and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall remain in full force and effect, pending the Award in any arbitration proceedings hereunder.	
<b>Forms</b>			
82	Form - 1 Point - 12	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly review and reword the declaration as follows: "We further certify that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending either against us or our Associates or against our CEO or any of our designated partners." <b>(Excluded Directors/Managers/employees)</b>	Relaxation has been provided as per footnote 11 to Para 12 of Appendix 1, Form 1. However, the Authority to decide on its admissibility.
83	Form - 1 Point- 13;	We hereby request the DMEO to kindly <b>consider removing</b> the following clause from the declaration: 'I/We hereby irrevocably waive any right or remedy which we may have at any stage at law or howsoever otherwise arising to challenge or question any decision taken by the Authority [and/ or the Government of India] in connection with the selection of the consultant or in connection with the Selection Process itself in respect of the above-mentioned Project.	No changes contemplated
84	Form 8, Form 9, and Form 10	We request the authority to clarify if the information requisite in Forms 8, 9, and 10 needs to be separately submitted in an Excel file format on GeM	No. Submit as part of the Word doc in the technical proposal.
85		We request the authority to provide the said Excel format	Not Required
86	Form 10 on Page 150 and Form 3 on Page 157	Information on the exact number of support personnel under each team, their requisite educational qualifications (if any), and experience requirements (if any) would be essential to provide the requested information in Form 10 on Page 150 and Form 3 on Page 157.	Please refer to para 2.8 of Corrigendum II.
<b>Schedule 3</b>			

87	Schedule Guidance on Conflict Interest,	3 Note of	We request you to kindly remove this clause	No changes contemplated
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