

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office			
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Evaluation of Decentralized Procurement of Wheat & Paddy under Minimum Support Price Scheme			
Responses to Queries of Bidders			
S. No.	RFP Clause	Query	Response
Invitation for Proposals			
1	Clause 2.20 Bid Security	WAPCOS is PSU of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India. Being a PSU, it is requested to exempt the Bid Security	Clause 2.20 (Bid Security) is self-explanatory. No changes is contemplated.
2	Clause 2.2 Conditions of Minimum Eligibility Clause 2.2.2 (C) Financial Capacity	Request exemption for DEMO, MSME-registered company from the financial capacity criterion	MSME registered firms are exempted from Bid Security subject to producing MSME certificate (UDYAM registration) for the same. However, the financial capacity criterion is based on the requirement of the project and to attract competent firms capable of delivering high-quality evaluation reports in a time-bound manner. Hence, no changes is contemplated.
3	Clause 2.2 Conditions of Minimum Eligibility	Whether the studies conducted for Government Organizations by the agency where final payment has not been received but all activities including data submission are completed can be considered as completion status for the present assignment.	Only assignments for which completion certificate or any other document that attests such completion of the study will be considered as eligible assignment. No ongoing study will be considered.
4	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Conditions of Eligibility for Key Personnel	Request to reduce the required length of professional experience for the Team Leader from 15 years to 13 years. Request to reduce the required length of professional experience for the Food Grain Specialist from 8 years to 6 years. Request to reduce the required length of professional experience for the Agriculture Specialist from 8 years to 6 years. Also request to change relevant experience in agriculture sector related to wheat and paddy (rice) to agriculture sector only. Request to reduce the required length of professional experience for the Statistician from 8 years to 5 years. Request to reduce the required length of professional experience for the Data Management & Analytics Specialist from 8 years to 3 years.	No changes contemplated
5	Clause 3.1.4.1(a)	Request to change marking for sample size of eligible assignments as follows: Each eligible assignment with survey sample size of: ● 750 - 1000: 1.6 mark ● 1001-1200: 1.8 mark ● 1201 and above: 2 marks	No changes contemplated
6	Clause 3.1.4.1(a)	Request to change marking for value of eligible assignments as follows: ● ₹ 0.4 crore to ₹ 0.8 crore: 1.6 marks ● Above ₹ 0.81 crore to ₹ 1 crore: 1.8 marks ● Above ₹ 1 crore: 2 marks	No changes contemplated
7	Clause 3.1.4.1(a)	Request to change number of eligible assignments from 10 to 5.	No changes contemplated
8	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	Change clause as follows: Assessment and research/evaluation study in the agricultural and allied sector conducted for the Union/State Government, regulatory commission, tribunal, bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector, private entities and trusts/ foundations in India covering a minimum sample size of 750 respondents.	Clause 3.1.5 is self explanatory. No changes contemplated.

9	Clause 3.1.4 Scoring Criteria	Can you provide clarity on how the sub-criteria under technical evaluation will be weighted, particularly regarding the experience of Key Personnel versus the methodology proposed?	Refer to Clause 3.1.4 which is self explanatory.
10	Clause 3.3: Evaluation of Financial Proposals	The total cost specified in the Financial Proposal is considered final and represents the total cost of services. Please clarify whether proposals will be re-evaluated or reconsidered if discrepancies arise in the cost components provided by bidders.	Refer to Clause 3.3 which is self explanatory.
11	Clause 3.3: Evaluation of Financial Proposals	We also request you to provide/Include a procedure to address situations where multiple proposals quote the same total cost (e.g., tie-breaking rules).	The method final selection of the Consultant is based on QCBS scoring method as given in Clause 3.4 (Combined and Final Evaluation). This provides 70% weightage to technical and 30% to financial. The combination of the two decides the final marks of the consultant. Hence, even if there are two proposal have same financial proposal might differ in their technical score.
12	Clause 2.1: Scope of Proposal	Is the JV allowed?	Refer to Clause 2.1 (Scope of Proposal) which is self explanatory.
13	Clause 1.8: Schedule of Selection Process	Kindly extend the deadline by at least 1 week on account of ongoing Christmas & New year holidays and Sankranti / Pongal holidays in the week of 12 to 17th January.	No changes contemplated.
14	Clause 2.1.4 under Scope of Proposal	Kindly clarify if we can hire external individual consultants as experts / team members under the project.	Yes, subject to meeting the minimum criteria of professional and relevant experience as specified in the Clause 2.2 (Conditions of Minimum Eligibility) of RFP.
15	Clause 2.1.5 Key Personnel	Can you please clarify if all the key personnel are required to present in the Client office (physical deployment) throughout the project duration (or) can the key personnel work out of their home office and travel to client office (Delhi) as per requirement?	Refer to Clause 3.10 of Schedule 2 which is self-explanatory.
16	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	For multiple assignments the contract would not specify the sample size of surveys / consultations. In such cases, kindly accept a self-certification.	The firms may submit the self-declaration mentioning the sample size of the survey/consultations.
17	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	Kindly accept projects other the agriculture sector such as rural development, urban development, e-Governance, and consumption. Submitting 10 projects (for maximum marks) only in the agriculture sector would be highly restrictive.	The study relates to the procurement of the agriculture produce (wheat & paddy). So, only assignments related to the agriculture will be considered as eligible.
18	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	Kindly consider assignments over last 10 (ten) financial years. Since 10 assignments are required to score maximum marks with multiple sub-criteria, a 10-year experience would enable us to showcase our best experiences.	No changes contemplated.
19	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	We kindly request consideration for the requirement that Eligible Assignments be completed within the last 5 financial years (2019-20 to 2023-24) to be extended to the last 8 financial years (2016-17 to 2023-24). This extension accounts for the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on project execution during this timeframe. This extension will allow us to include a broader range of relevant assignments, enhancing our ability to demonstrate our extensive experience and capability in this sector.	No changes contemplated.
20	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	We kindly suggest revising the requirement that the Applicant firm must claim credit for an Eligible Assignment with a value of at least Rs. 40 lakhs to 25 lakhs. This extension would allow us to include a broader range of our relevant projects, thereby enabling us to bring our extensive experience to the table and deliver the highest quality results for this project.	No changes contemplated.

21	Clause 3.1.5 Eligible Assignments	<p>Since many empanelled organisations have undertaken studies which are in the agriculture sector but may not be having the value of Rupees 40 lakhs or more. In such cases can there be consideration so that such deserving agencies can apply to participate in the Bidding.</p> <p>Further, whether eligible assignments for which agency has completed the activities in all aspects but final payment awaited could be considered as eligible assignments.</p>	No changes contemplated.
22	Clause 2.1: Scope of Proposal	We would request the client to clarify if lead member firm can propose a consortium with individual members with relevant experience	No, consortium with an individual member is not allowed. Refer to Clause 2.1 (Scope of Proposal) which is self explanatory.
23	Clause 2.1: Scope of Proposal	We would request the client to kindly relax this condition and consider subcontracting by lead firm for some of the proposed personnel positions outlined in the TOR	Refer to Clause 2.1.4 which is self explanatory. Sub-contracting is not allowed by the Applicant.
24	Clause 3.1 Evaluation of Technical Proposal	<p>From this statement, we understand that 10% of the maximum marks of Methodology & Workplan (i.e. 4 marks) will be awarded to those lead members who are partnering with academic institution Please confirm if our understanding is correct</p> <p>Also, we would request you to kindly expand this criterion to individuals who are/were associated with an academic institution</p>	Refer to Clause 3.1.4 which is self-explanatory.
25	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Conditions of Eligibility of Key Personnel	We request that the academic qualification for the Statistician be relaxed to Master's Degree (or equivalent) in Statistics or Economics	No changes contemplated.
26	Clause 2.2.2 (E) Conditions of Eligibility of Key Personnel	We kindly request that the length of professional experience be reduced to 7 years for Data Management and Analytics Specialist which is 8 years	No changes contemplated.
27	Clause 3.1.4 under Evaluation of Technical Proposal	We understand that both completed and ongoing assignments will be eligible for this criteria. Kindly clarify if our understanding is correct.	Only completed assignments will be considered as eligible assignment.
28	Clause 2.26: Substitution of Key Personnel	We request to amend this clause to include: substitution of Key Personnel at may be considered if due solely to circumstances outside the reasonable control of and not foreseeable by the applicant, including but not limited to death or medical incapacity.	No changes contemplated.
Schedule 1: Terms of Reference			
29	Clause 7: Sampling	The methodology for State Selection is well-defined. Can the Authority confirm the extent or parameters of geographic coverage while randomly selecting Districts, blocks and villages or apply the sole criteria based on the procurement quantities?	This will be discussed with the selected firm after the award of the study.
30	Clause 7: Sampling	Suggestions and guidelines on the Sampling Framework for Primary Surveys mentioned in the RFP are highly appreciated. While Weighting of Data Sources, Should the analysis assign specific weights to primary versus secondary data, and is there any guidance on reconciling potential discrepancies between these sources?	This will be discussed with the selected firm after the award of the study.
31	Clause 7: Sampling	Will the respective State Governments & their field staff help us in identifying the farmers for surveying and meeting the targeted sample size?	DMEO will facilitate the data collection process, as and when the data collection is initiated by the selected applicant.
32	Clause 7: Sampling	Is the mentioned sample size only for individual farmer surveys (or) is it including focused group discussions (FGDs)? (i.e., can we achieve the targeted sample size by adding our individual survey respondents & FGD participants?)	The sample size mentioned on page 60 primarily refers to individual beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers and does not account for FGD participants.

33	Clause 7.2 Indicative Sampling for Key Informant Interviews	We understand that the DMEO will support in facilitation of KIIs with key government agencies and departments, as indicated in the TOR Please confirm if our understanding is correct	DMEO will assist in data collection by coordinating with relevant authorities and Ministries/Departments after award of the study.
34	Clause 1: Background, Involvement of Key Stakeholders in the implementation of the DCP scheme	Does the bidder need to consider additional stakeholders, such as those involved in the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Food Security Act (NFSA), international agencies, and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), when assessing the mechanism for decentralized procurement and stakeholder engagement? Needs more clarity, considering the need to review the good practices and technological innovations from within or outside the country to improve the procurement processes	The sample size provided by DMEO is tentative and minimum. The applicants are encouraged to include more relevant stakeholders for Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). However, in no case the no. of stakeholder would be less than what is specified in the RFP.
35	Clause 1: Background, Involvement of Key Stakeholders in the implementation of the DCP scheme	Are there specific benchmarks or performance indicators that the evaluation should measure the mechanism for decentralized procurement and stakeholder engagement against?	The applicants are expected to frame the indicative evaluation matrix.
36	Clause 1: Background, Involvement of Key Stakeholders in the implementation of the DCP scheme	Additionally, what role will the DMEO play in facilitating the assessment of this engagement?	DMEO will endeavour to facilitate data collection by writing to relevant authorities and line/administrative Ministries/Departments once the contract has been awarded. Additionally, DMEO will remain actively involved throughout the evaluation process.
37	Clause 9: Scope of Services	Clause mentions the data confidentiality. Can you specify data-sharing protocols between the Consultant and the Authority, especially for sensitive procurement data?	The consultants are expected to propose the suitable data sharing protocol, which will be finalized with the approval of DMEO.
38	Clause 9: Scope of Services	As per our understanding, the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) runs from September-October and Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) runs from April-March. We request the client to clarify if the reference period under the study would be for RMS 2024-25 and KMS 2024-25 (which are still ongoing).	This will be mutually decided with the selected applicant after the award of the contract.
39	Clause 11: Deliverables and Timelines	We request the client to clarify the expected inception date (or month) of the assignment	Generally, the inception report is expected from the selected applicant after a month of the award of the contract. Exact date (month) depends on the award of the contract.
40	Clause 11: Deliverables and Timelines	We request the client to kindly clarify if the consultants are expected to define their own deliverable milestones for the duration of the assignment.	The applicants are advised to submit detailed deliverable milestone as a part of their proposal (Form 7: Proposed Methodology and Work Plan) in such a manner that the project is completed as per the timeline and deliverables specified in Clause 11 of Schedule 1 of the RFP.
Appendix and Forms			
41	Annexure 5: Payment Schedule	As you aware that most of the field covered up to Mid term report preparation and a huge fund is required for travel, accommodation and on house hold data collection work. Keeping in view of above it is requested that 20 % advance of total value should be released on signing of agreement.	No changes contemplated.