

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR

**EVALUATION STUDY OF PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE
SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY**

I-19014/16/2026-DMEQ

July 2026
Government of India

Contents

Invitation for Proposals.....	5
Disclaimer	6
Acronyms	8
Tender Information Summary (TIS).....	10
Checklist of Documents.....	13
1. Introduction and Instructions to Applicants	14
1.1 Background	14
1.2 Scope of Proposal.....	14
1.3 Key Personnel	14
1.4 Conditions of Minimum Eligibility of Applicants	14
1.5 Conflict of Interest.....	15
1.6 Number of Proposals.....	15
1.7 Cost of Proposal	16
1.8 Verification of information.....	16
1.9 Right to reject any or all Proposals	16
1.10 Clarifications.....	16
1.11 Amendment of RFP	17
1.12 Format and signing of Proposal.....	17
1.13 Technical Proposal	18
1.14 Financial Proposal	19
1.15 Submission of Proposal/e-Bid	20
1.16 Bid Security	21
1.17 Performance Security	22
2. Evaluation Process.....	22
2.1 Evaluation of Proposals	22
2.2 Confidentiality.....	23
2.3 Clarification.....	23
3. Appointment of Consultant.....	24
3.1 Negotiations	24
3.2 Substitution of Key Personnel (During the Subsistence of the Agreement)	25
3.3 Indemnity	25
3.4 Award of Consultancy/draft contract and cancellation	25
3.5 Commencement of assignment.....	25
3.6 Proprietary Data.....	26
3.7 Liquidated Damages	26
4. Criteria for Evaluation	27
4.1 Evaluation of Technical Proposals	27
4.2 Eligible Assignments.....	28
4.3 Shortlisting of Applicants	29
4.4 Evaluation of Financial Proposals	29
4.5 Combined and Final Evaluation	29
5. Fraud and Corrupt Practices	29
6. Timeline for Project Execution.....	31
Schedule 1: Terms of Reference.....	37
Schedule 2: Form of Agreement.....	71

1.	General	75
1.1	Definitions and Interpretation.....	75
1.2	Relation between the Parties.....	76
1.3	Rights and obligations	76
1.4	Governing law and jurisdiction	76
1.5	Language.....	76
1.6	Table of contents and headings.....	77
1.7	Notices	77
1.8	Location	77
1.9	Authority of Member-in-charge	77
1.10	Authorised Representatives.....	77
1.11	Taxes and duties	78
1.12	Communications	78
2.	Commencement, Completion and Termination of Agreement.....	78
2.1	Effectiveness of Agreement.....	78
2.2	Commencement of Services	78
2.3	Termination of Agreement for failure to commence Services.....	78
2.4	Expiry of Agreement	78
2.5	Entire Agreement	78
2.6	Modification of Agreement	79
2.7	Force Majeure	79
2.8	Suspension of Agreement.....	80
2.9	Termination of Agreement	80
3.	Obligations of the Consultant.....	81
3.1	General	81
3.2	Conflict of Interest.....	82
3.3	Confidentiality.....	84
3.4	Liability of the Consultant.....	84
3.5	Insurance to be taken out by the Consultant	85
3.6	Accounting, inspection and auditing	85
3.7	Consultant's actions requiring the Authority's prior approval	85
3.8	Reporting obligations	85
3.9	Documents prepared by the Consultant to be property of the Authority	85
3.10	Providing access to Project Office and Personnel	86
3.11	Accuracy of Documents	86
4.	Consultant's Personnel	86
4.1	General	86
4.2	Deployment of Personnel	86
4.3	Approval of Personnel.....	87
4.4	Substitution of Key Personnel	87
4.5	Working hours, overtime, leave, etc.	87
4.6	Team Leader and Project Manager.....	87
5.	Obligations of the Authority.....	88
5.1	Assistance in clearances etc.....	88

5.2 Change in Applicable Law	88
5.3 Payment.....	88
6. Payment to the Consultant.....	88
6.1 Cost estimates and Agreement Value	88
6.2 Currency of payment	88
6.3 Mode of billing and payment.....	88
7. Liquidated Damages and Penalties	89
7.1 Performance Security	89
7.2 Liquidated Damages.....	90
7.3 Penalty for deficiency in Services	90
8. Fairness and Good Faith	90
8.1 Good Faith.....	90
8.2 Operation of the Agreement	90
9. Settlement of Disputes.....	90
9.1 Amicable settlement.....	90
9.2 Dispute resolution	91
9.3 Conciliation.....	91
9.4 Arbitration.....	91
Annex-1: Terms of Reference.....	93
Annex-2: Deployment of Personnel.....	94
Annex-3: Estimate of Personnel Costs.....	95
Annex-4: Cost of Services	96
Annex-5: Payment Schedule.....	108
Annex-6: Bank Guarantee for Performance Security.....	109
Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest.....	112
Appendices	115

F. No I-19014/16/2026-DMEO
Government of India
NITI Aayog
Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

Sansad Marg, New Delhi -110001

Invitation for Proposals

Date: 22/07/2026

Subject: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Evaluation of Production linked incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries-reg.

The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, Government of India, intends to engage a Technical Consultant to support the **Evaluation of Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries** details of which have been provided in the RFP document.

DMEO, NITI Aayog invites proposals for this assignment, from national/international firms/organizations/institutions, which have requisite experience in this field as detailed in the RFP. The salient features of the study, eligibility criteria and instructions on how to bid and other details are available in the RFP document uploaded on the DMEO website (<https://dmeo.gov.in/tenders>) and Government e-Marketplace (<https://gem.gov.in/>). Important information & tentative dates are given in section 1 of the RFP.

Interested applicants are requested to log into Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and submit their RFP response online, on or before 12th August, 2026 (Wednesday), **Time: 17:00 hours**. Applicants can also refer to resources available on GeM (<https://gem.gov.in/support/sellers/?lang=english>) for further queries.

Shri Ashish Diwan

Economic Officer

Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office

(DMEO) Room No-431, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg

New Delhi, 110001

Email: dmeoeval-niti@gov.in

Disclaimer

- i. The information contained in this Request for Proposals document (“RFP”) or subsequently provided to Applicants, whether verbally or in documentary or any other form by or on behalf of the Authority or any of its employees or advisers, is provided to Applicants on the terms and conditions set out in this RFP and such other terms and conditions subject to which such information is provided.
- ii. This RFP is neither an agreement nor an offer by the Authority to the prospective Applicants or any other person. The purpose of this RFP is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their Proposals pursuant to this RFP. This RFP includes statements, which reflect various assumptions and assessments arrived at by the Authority in relation to the Consultancy. Such assumptions, assessments and statements do not purport to contain all the information that each Applicant may require. The assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this RFP, may not be complete, accurate, adequate or correct. Each Applicant should, therefore, conduct its own investigations and analysis and should check the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability and completeness of the assumptions, assessments, statements or information contained in this RFP and obtain independent advice from appropriate sources.
- iii. Information provided in this RFP to the Applicants is on a wide range of matters, some of which depends upon interpretation of law. The information given is not an exhaustive account of statutory requirements and should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law. The Authority accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise for any interpretation or opinion on the law expressed herein.
- iv. Applicants are advised that selection shall be based on their meeting various criteria enumerated in the different clauses of the RFP. Applicants shall be deemed to have understood and agreed that the Authority shall not be required to provide any explanation or justification in respect of any aspect of the selection process or selection.
- v. The Authority, its employees and advisers make no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to any person including any Applicant under any law, statute, rules or regulations or tort, principles of restitution or unjust enrichment or otherwise for any loss, damages, cost or expense which may arise from or be incurred or suffered on account of anything contained in this RFP or otherwise, including the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability or completeness of the RFP and any assessment, assumption, statement or information contained therein or deemed to form part of this RFP or arising in any way in this Selection Process.
- vi. The Authority may in its absolute discretion, but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend or supplement the information, statements, assessment or assumption contained in this RFP.
- vii. The issue of this RFP does not imply that the Authority is bound to select an Applicant or to appoint the Selected Applicant, as the case may be, for the Consultancy and the Authority reserves the right to reject all or any of the

- Proposals without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
- viii. The selection Process and dispute settlement shall be governed by the Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and Other Services, August 2025.
 - ix. Any information contained in the Proposal shall not in any way be construed as binding on the Authority, its agents, successors or assigns, but shall be binding against the Applicant if the Consultancy is subsequently awarded to it.

Acronyms

B.E.	Budget Estimates
CAPI	Computer Aided Personal Interviews
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DMEQ	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GeM	Government e-Marketplace
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGOs	Non-Government Organization
R.E.	Revised Estimates
RFP	Request for Proposal
TIS	Tender Information Summary

Glossary for RFP

Applicant	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.1
Authorized Representative	As defined in RFP Clause 1.12.2(d)
Authority	As defined in RFP Clause 1.1
Bid Security	As defined in RFP Clause 1.16
Conditions of Eligibility	As defined in RFP Clause 1.4
Conflict of Interest	As defined in RFP Clause 1.5
Consultancy Team	As defined in RFP Clause 1.3
Consultant	As defined in RFP Clause 1.1(b)
Eligible Assignments	As defined in RFP Clause 4.2
Financial Proposal	As defined in RFP Clause 1.14
Key Personnel	As defined in RFP Clause 1.3
Lead Member	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.1
Legal entity	As defined in RFP Clause 1.4.2 (A)
LOA	Letter of Award as specified in RFP Clause 3.4
Professional Personnel	As defined in RFP Clause 1.13.6
Proposal	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2
Proposal Due Date or PDD	As defined in Tender Information Summary
Selected Applicant	As defined in RFP Clause 4.5.2
Selection Process	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.2
Sole Firm	As defined in RFP Clause 1.2.1
Support Personnel	As defined in RFP Clause 1.13.6
Team Leader	As defined in RFP Annexure A
Technical Proposal	As defined in RFP Clause 1.13

Glossary for Schedules

Form of Agreement	Form of Agreement as in Schedule-2
Agreement	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(a)
Agreement/Award Value	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 6.1.2

Applicable Laws	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(c)
Associate	As defined in Schedule-3 Clause 9(f)
Deliverables	As defined in Schedule-1 Clause 10
Effective Date	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(g)
Final Evaluation Report	As specified in Schedule-1 Clause 10
Inception Report	As specified in Schedule-1 Clause 10
Member	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(j)
Personnel	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(l)
Project Manager	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 4
Services	As defined in Schedule-2 Clause 1.1.1(n)
TOR	As defined in Schedule-1

Tender Information Summary (TIS)

1. Basic Tender Details		
1.1.	Tender Title/ Name of Assignment	Request for Proposal (RfP) for Evaluation of Production linked incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries
1.2.	File Number	I-19014/16/2026-DMEO
1.3.	Tender Type	RFP-Open Tendering
1.4.	Tender Category	Services
1.5.	Proposal Submission	Two Separate Proposals viz Technical & Financial be submitted on GeM Portal
1.6.	Product Category	Consultancy
1.7.	Selection Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) in 70:30 Ratio
1.8.	Appointing Arbitration	Head of the Procuring Organization
1.9	Language for all type Communication	English only
1.10	Form of Contract	Lumpsum
1.11	Organization	NITI Aayog
1.12	The Procuring Entity	DMEO- NITI Aayog
1.13	Mode of Procurement	Online- through GeM Portal
1.14	Tender Inviting Authority (TIA)	DG DMEO- NITI Aayog
1.15	Office Address & Communication for Correspondence	Shri D S Sajwan Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) Room No-431, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg New Delhi, 110001 Email: dmeoeval-niti@gov.in
2. Critical Dates		
2.1.	Publication on RFP on GeM Portal	22 nd July, 2026 (Wednesday)
2.2.	Pre-Proposal Queries	Yes
2.3.	Last date for Receiving queries /clarification	29 th July, 2026 (Wednesday)
2.4.	Mode & Address for submission of Pre-Proposal Queries	Email: dmeoeval@niti.gov.in
2.5.	i. Pre-Proposal Conference Date, Time & Venue	03 rd August, 2026 (Monday), 11 AM, R. No:228, NITI Aayog Link: https://dmeo.webex.com/dmeo/j.php?MTID=mc4c5fd96fae32866f6676c057d589922
	ii. Registration link for the Pre-proposal Conference. Registration may be completed up to one day prior to the Conference by submitting the details of the representatives attending the Conference	https://forms.gle/Nnc62xdBFktnSe168
2.6.	Authority response to Queries	05 th August, 2026 (Wednesday)

2.7.	Proposal Due Date (PDD)/Last date for submission of proposals ¹	12 th August, 2026 (Wednesday)
2.8.	Opening of Technical Proposals Date & Time	13 th August, 2026 (Thursday)
2.9.	Proposal Validity (Days from the date of Proposal Opening)	90 Days
3. Terms of Reference		
3.1	Period of Contract	3 months (90 days)
3.2.	Service Details:	As per Terms of Reference / Scope of Work.
4. Documents relating to Bid Security and Performance Security		
4.1.	Bid Security (EMD) Amount in INR:	Rs 2 lakh
4.2.	Is Bid Securing Declaration permitted in lieu of Bid Security?	Only for educational institutions as per RFP Clause 1.16.2
4.3.	Performance Security	3% of the Agreement/Award Value
4.4.	Bid/ Performance Security to be addressed/ in favor of	PAO, NITI Aayog
4.5.	Form of Bid/ Performance Security	Refer Checklist of documents
4.6.	Payment Schedule	Inception report = 20% Mid-term report =20% Completion of field survey and approval of data repository=10% Draft report = 30% Final report =20%
5. Critical URL Links [All Documents pertaining to tendering (Word and PDF format) can be accessed at https://dmeo.gov.in/tenders]		
6. Appendix I (Technical Proposal)		
5.1	Letter of Proposal	Form-1
5.2.	Particulars of Applicant	Form-2
5.3	Statement of Legal Capacity	Form-3
5.4	Power of Attorney	Form-4
5.5.	Financial Capacity of the Applicant	Form-5
5.6	Particulars of Key Personnel	Form-6
5.7	Proposed Methodology & Work Plan	Form-7
5.8	Eligible Assignments of the applicant	Form-8
5.9	Deployment of professional Personnel	Form-9
5.10	Support Personnel	Form-10
5.11	(a) Bid Security Declaration Form (b) UDYAM Certification	(a) Form-11 (for government owned universities/academic institutions only) (b) UDYAM Certification for MSME Applicant
7. Appendix II (Financial Proposal)		
5.13	Covering Letter	Form 1
5.14	Financial Proposal	Form 2
5.15	Estimated Personnel Cost	Form 3
8. Documents of LOA		
5.16	Form of Agreement	Schedule-2
5.17	Terms of Reference	<i>Schedule 1 of the RFP</i>

5.18	Deployment of Personnel	Appendix I Form 9
5.19	Estimate of Personnel Costs	Appendix II Form 3
5.20	Cost of Services	Appendix II Form 2
5.21	Payment Schedule	Schedule 2 Annex 5
5.22	Bank Guarantee for Performance Security	Schedule 2 Annex 6
5.23	Judicial Stamp Paper	<i>To be appended with Form of Agreement</i>
5.24	Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest	Schedule-3

1. Documents to be uploaded on GeM Portal online on or before PDD		
1.1.	Technical Proposal	As per Appendix-I, Form 1-11 (available on DMEO website)
1.2.	Financial Proposal	As per Appendix-II, Form 1-3 (available on DMEO)
2. Documents to be submitted offline		
2.1.	Bid Security [Insurance Surety Bonds/ Account Payee Demand Draft/ Fixed Deposit Receipt, Banker's Cheque (only for EMD)/ Bank Guarantee]	To be submitted upto 5 days after PDD.
2.2.	Power of Attorney	To be submitted before the award of Contract (Appendix-I Form-4 as available on DMEO website)
3. Documents to be submitted offline on signing of Contract		
3.1.	Performance Security (3% of the Agreement/Award Value) [Insurance Surety Bonds/ Account Payee Demand Draft/ Fixed Deposit Receipt/ Banker's Cheque (only for EMD)/ Bank Guarantee]	Bank Guarantee to be submitted as per Schedule 2 Annex 6 (available on DMEO Website)
3.2.	Form of Agreement	Schedule-2 (as available on DMEO website)
3.3.	Judicial Stamp Paper (To be appended with Agreement)	On Rs 200 Stamp Paper

1. Introduction and Instructions to Applicants

1.1 Background

- (a) The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) (**“the Authority”**) is an attached office of NITI Aayog. Constituted in September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Program Evaluation Office (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), DMEO works to fulfill the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mandate and to build the M&E ecosystem in India. DMEO has been mandated to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of schemes, programs and Initiatives of the Government of India (GoI) to strengthen their implementation and scope of delivery on an ongoing basis. Further, evidence-based policy making should be integral to overall governance structure in the country.

(b) Request for Proposal

The Authority invites proposals (**the “Proposals”**) for selection of a Technical Consultant (**the “Consultant”**) who shall conduct an evaluation study of the Scheme, in accordance with the TOR (**collectively the “Consultancy”**).

1.2 Scope of Proposal

- 1.2.1 Detailed description of the objectives, scope of services, deliverables and other requirements relating to this Consultancy are specified in this RFP. In case an applicant possesses the requisite experience and capabilities required for undertaking the Consultancy, it may participate in the Selection Process either individually (**the “Sole Firm”**) or as lead member of a Consortium of firms (**the “Lead Member”**) in response to this invitation. The term applicant (**the “Applicant”**) means the Sole Firm (in case of firms) or the Lead Member of a Consortium or Universities or Academic Institutions as the case may be. The manner in which the Proposal is required to be submitted, evaluated and accepted is explained in this RFP.
- 1.2.2 The Authority has adopted a two-stage selection process (**collectively the “Selection Process”**) for evaluating the Proposals comprising technical and financial bids. In the first stage, a technical evaluation will be carried out. Based on this technical evaluation, a list of short-listed applicants shall be prepared. In the second stage, a financial evaluation will be carried out. Proposals will finally be ranked according to their combined technical and financial scores. The first ranked Applicant shall be selected for negotiation (**the “Selected Applicant”**).
- 1.2.3 The Applicant shall submit its proposal (Both Technical & Financial) on GeM Portal. The Technical Proposal shall be submitted in the form as per Appendix-I ([as available on DMEO website](#)) and the Financial Proposal to be submitted in the form as per Appendix-II (as available on DMEO website). The Forms to be uploaded on GeM can be accessed on DMEO Website (<https://dmeo.gov.in/tenders>). Upon selection, the Applicant shall be required to enter into an agreement with the Authority in the form specified as per Schedule-2 ([as available on DMEO website](#)). The responsibility for the completion of study

in terms of submission of deliverables and achievements of milestones, as prescribed in Terms of Reference, lies with the Applicant.

- 1.2.4 Sub-Contracting by the applicant is not permitted. However, for conducting field surveys the applicant may engage field investigators or field survey firms. The responsibility to maintain the highest quality of data collected from this study lies with the applicant. The applicant shall submit the credentials of the survey firms proposed for conducting the field survey in the inception reports.

1.3 Key Personnel

- 1.3.1 The Consultant shall form a multi-disciplinary team (the “**Consultancy Team**”) **for undertaking this assignment. The Consultancy Team shall consist the key personnel (the “Key Personnel”)** who shall discharge their respective responsibilities as specified below as per Annexure A of RFP:

1.4 Conditions of Minimum Eligibility of Applicants

- 1.4.1 Applicants must read carefully the minimum conditions of eligibility (the “**Conditions of Eligibility**”) provided herein. Proposals of only those Applicants who satisfy the Conditions of Eligibility will be considered for evaluation. The Minimum Conditions of Eligibility as specified in the RFP may be relaxed for a particular Applicant, if applicable, subject to furnishing of relevant and valid documents or certificates, supporting such relaxations or exemptions under Applicable Laws.
- 1.4.2 To be eligible for evaluation of its Proposal, the Applicant shall fulfill the following
 - a. **General Eligibility of the Applicant:** The Applicant must be a **legal entity** as per Applicable Laws. The '**legal entity**' denotes an organization, that is recognized as a distinct entity under law. It can be an incorporated Company or LLP under Indian Laws or university, academic institution and research & development organization. The Applicant should not have been debarred or blacklisted on the date of application by the Central Government, any State Government, any Statutory Authority of the Government, or a Public-Sector Undertaking, from participating in any consulting assignment.
 - b. **Technical Capacity:** The Applicant should have, **over the past 8 (Eight) financial years** preceding the PDD, undertaken **a minimum of 2 (two) Eligible Assignments** as specified in Clause 4.2
 - c. **Financial Capacity:** The Applicant should have a minimum annual total revenue/turnover of Rs 2 Crore (Two Crore) in preceding 3 (three) financial years from the date of the application
 - d. **Availability of Key Personnel:** The Applicant should offer and make available all Key Personnel meeting the requirements specified in Annexure A of RFP.
 - e. **Age limit of Key Personnel:** All Key Personnel must be below the age of 60 Years and fulfill the Minimum Conditions of Eligibility specified in Annexure A of RFP:

1.4.3 The Applicant should enclose with its Proposal, certificate(s) from its Statutory Auditors¹ stating its Annual Turnover/Total Revenue² for the preceding 3 (three) financial years from the date of application. In the event that the Applicant does not have a statutory auditor, it should provide the requisite certificate(s) from the firm of Chartered Accountants that ordinarily audits the annual accounts of the Applicant.

1.4.4 The Applicant should submit a Power of Attorney (POA) as per the format of Appendix-1, Form-4 (as provided on DMEO website). However, that such Power of Attorney would not be required if the Application is signed by a partner in case the Applicant is a partnership firm or limited liability partnership.

In the case of government 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. should be submitted.

An Applicant should, during the last three years, neither have failed to perform on any agreement, as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by a judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement against the Applicant, nor have been expelled from any project or agreement nor have had any agreement terminated for breach by such Applicant.

While submitting a Proposal, the Applicant should attach clearly marked and referenced continuation sheets in the event that the space provided in the specified forms in the Appendices is insufficient.

1.5 Conflict of Interest

1.5.1 An Applicant shall not have a conflict of interest as per Schedule 3 (as available on DMEO website) that may affect the Selection Process or the Consultancy. Any Applicant found to have a Conflict of Interest shall be disqualified. In the event of disqualification, the Authority reserves the right to take action as per the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration for, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority including consideration of such Applicant's Proposal, without prejudice to any other right or remedy that may be available to the Authority hereunder or otherwise.

1.5.2 It is expected that the Consultant shall provide professional, objective, and impartial advice and at all times hold the Authority's interests' paramount, avoid conflicts with other assignments or its own interests, and act without any consideration for future work. The Consultant should not accept or engage in any assignment that would be in conflict with its prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place it in a position of not being able to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Authority.

1.5.3 Some guiding principles for identifying and addressing Conflicts of Interest have been illustrated in the Guidance Note on conflict of interest at Schedule-3 (as available on DMEO website).

1.6 Number of Proposals

¹ Please do not attach complete printed annual financial statements. In case relevant extracts of duly audited annual financial statements containing the requisite details are provided, duly countersigned by the authorized signatory, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary.

² Turnover of university means Revenue from all sources + Grant in Aid

- 1.6.1 No Applicant or its Associate should submit more than one Application for the Consultancy. An Applicant applying individually or as an Associate shall not be entitled to submit another application either individually or as a member of any consortium, as the case may be. If any Applicant or its Associate is found to submit more than one application either individually or as a member of any consortium, all of their applications shall be rejected.

1.7 Cost of Proposal

- 1.7.1 The Applicants shall be responsible for all of the costs associated with the preparation of their Proposals and their participation in the Selection Process including subsequent negotiation, visits to the Authority etc. The Authority will not be responsible or in any way liable for such costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Selection Process.

1.8 Verification of information

- 1.8.1 Applicants are encouraged to submit their respective Proposals after verification of the documents, reference materials, etc. within the purview of this RFP and the Applicable Laws and regulations or any other matter considered relevant by them.

1.9 Right to reject any or all Proposals

- 1.9.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in this RFP, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal and to annul the Selection Process and reject all Proposals, at any time without any liability or any obligation for such acceptance, rejection or annulment, and without assigning any reasons thereof.
- 1.9.2 Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 1.9.1, the Authority reserves the right to reject any Proposal if:

- (a) at any time, a material misrepresentation on the part of the applicant is made or discovered, or
- (b) the Applicant does not provide, within the time specified by the Authority, the supplemental information sought by the Authority for evaluation of the Proposal.

Misrepresentation/ improper response by the Applicant may lead to the disqualification of the Applicant. If the Applicant is the Lead Member of a consortium, then the entire consortium may be disqualified / rejected. If such disqualification / rejection occurs after the Proposals have been opened and the highest ranking Applicant gets disqualified / rejected, the Authority reserves the right to annul the Selection Process.

1.10 Clarifications

- 1.10.1 Applicants should seek clarifications, if any, on the RFP either through GeM portal (<https://gem.gov.in/>) by logging in through their registered ID or by sending an email to dmeo.eval@gmail.com before the date mentioned in the TIS (Critical Dates). The Authority shall endeavor to respond to the queries within the period specified therein but not later than 7 (seven) days prior to the Proposal Due Date. The Authority shall post the reply to all such queries on the Official Website/GeM portal without identifying the source of queries.
- 1.10.2 The Authority reserves the right not to respond to any questions or provide any

clarifications, in its sole discretion, and nothing in this Clause 1.10 shall be construed as obliging the Authority to respond to any question or to provide any clarification.

1.11 Amendment of RFP

- 1.11.1 At any time prior to the Proposal Due Date, the Authority may, for any reason, modify the RFP document by the issuance of Amendment and posting it on the Official Website at <https://dmeo.gov.in/tenders>.
- 1.11.2 All such amendments shall be posted on the GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in/> along with the revised RFP containing the amendments and will be binding on all Applicants.
- 1.11.3 In order to afford the Applicants a reasonable time for taking an amendment into account, or for any other reason, the Authority may, in its sole discretion, extend the Proposal Due Date.

Preparation and Submission of Proposal

1.12 Format and signing of Proposal

- 1.12.1 The Applicant shall provide all the information sought under this RFP. The Authority will evaluate only those Proposals that are received in the specified forms and complete in all respects.
- 1.12.2 Bids along with all the scanned copies of the document should be submitted in the electronic form only through the GeM e-tendering system before the PDD. Before the bid documents are uploaded, all attached documents should be signed using digital signatures of any of the following:
 - (a) by the proprietor, in case of a proprietary firm; or
 - (b) by a partner, in case of a partnership firm and/or a limited liability partnership; or
 - (c) by a duly authorized person holding the Notarized Power of Attorney, in case of a Limited Company or a corporation; or
 - (d) by the Authorized Representative of the Lead Member holding the notarized Power of Attorney, in case of consortium.
 - (e) by the Competent Authority from the Educational Institution

A Notarized copy of the Power of Attorney certified under the hands of a partner or director of the Applicant and notarized by a notary public in the form specified in Appendix-I (Form-4) (as provided on DMEO website) shall be uploaded along with the Proposal.
- 1.12.3 The documents mentioned below shall be sent separately to the Authority in original through Speed Post/Registered Post or delivered by hand to the person specified in **Invitation to Proposal (Page no. 4 of this RFP)**
 - a) Notarized Power of Attorney as required under Clause 1.4.4 prior to the award of contract and,
 - b) Insurance Surety Bond/Demand Draft/Account Payee/ Fixed deposit/ Receipt/ Banker's Cheque /Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee) towards Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, as required under Clause 1.16. Scanned copy of the same shall be uploaded on the GeM portal. Hard copy of the same will have to be submitted directly to the Authority not later than 5 (five) working days after the bid opening (Opening of Technical Proposal date & time).

c) Kindly note that, the proposal shall be rejected if a hard copy of the Bid security or Bid Security Declaration is not submitted later than 5 (five) working days after the bid opening. However, the hard copy of Power of Attorney shall be submitted prior to the award of contract.

d) The envelope should be sealed and shall clearly subscript the following:

RFP for “Evaluation of Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries”

1.12.4 Applicants should note the Proposal Due Date, as specified in TIS, for submission of Proposals. Except as specifically provided in this RFP, no supplementary material will be entertained by the Authority, and that evaluation will be carried out only on the basis of Documents uploaded on the GeM portal by the closing time of Proposal Due Date as specified in the TIS. Applicants will ordinarily not be asked to provide additional material information or documents subsequent to the date of submission, and unsolicited material if submitted will be summarily rejected.

1.12.5 The Authority is neither a party nor a principal in the relationship between the Applicant and the organization hosting the e-procurement portal (hereinafter called the GeM Portal). Applicants must comply with the rules, regulations, procedures, and implied conditions/ agreements of the GeM portal, including registration, compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) etc. Consultants shall settle clarifications and disputes, if any, regarding the Portal directly with them. The Consultant is advised to go through the terms and conditions of the GeM Portal carefully before applying.

1.13 Technical Proposal

1.13.1 Applicants should submit the technical proposal online on GeM Portal in the prescribed formats available at Appendix-I (the “**Technical Proposal**”) (as provided on DMEO website)’.

1.13.2 While submitting the Technical Proposal, the Applicant shall, in particular, ensure that:

- a. The Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration is provided;
- b. All scanned copies of the forms are submitted in the prescribed formats and signed by the authorized signatories;
- c. Power of Attorney, if applicable, is executed as per Applicable Laws;
- d. CVs of all Key Personnel and other professional are duly signed
- e. Key Personnel and other professional meet the Minimum Conditions of Eligibility laid down at Annexure-A of the RFP;
- f. Only one CV for each Key Personnel position has been furnished and no alternates are given.
- g. The latest CVs are signed and dated in blue ink or digitally signed by the respective Personnel and digitally countersigned by the authorized signatory. Only a copy of the CV signed by respective Key Personnel, duly digitally countersigned by the authorized signatory, shall be accepted. If 50% of the submitted CVs, are not signed by the key personnel, the evaluation of the technical bid shall be carried without considering these unsigned CVs and, if this Consultant is finally selected, the signed CVs shall be submitted by the Selected Consultant before signing of the LoA. The replacement of such key personnel would not be allowed during the evaluation of bids. If 75% of the submitted CVs are not signed by the respective

- proposed key personnel, the proposal shall be treated as non-responsive and rejected at the technical evaluation stage.
- h. The CVs contain an undertaking from the respective Key Personnel about his/her availability for the duration specified in the RFP;
 - i. Professional Personnel proposed should have good working knowledge of English language;
 - j. All Key Personnel will be available for the period indicated in the TOR;
 - k. The proposal is responsive in terms of Clause 2.1.3;
- 1.13.3 Failure to comply with the requirements spelt out in this Clause 1.13 shall make the Proposal liable to be rejected.
- 1.13.4 If it is found by the Authority at any stage that an applicant or individual Key Personnel has made a false averment regarding his qualification, experience or any other particulars, or his commitment regarding availability for the Project is not fulfilled, the Applicant, Individual Person or both shall be liable under breach of Code of Integrity for Public Procurement and shall be debarred for any future assignment of the Authority for a period not exceeding 2 (two) year as per GFR Rule 151. The award of this Consultancy to the Applicant may also be liable to be cancelled in such an event. In such an event, the Authority also reserves the right to forfeit bid security and/or debar the Applicant, without prejudice to any other right or remedy that may be available to the Authority.
- 1.13.5 The Technical Proposal should not include the Financial proposal or any information relating to the Financial Proposal. In the event of the financial proposal being included in the technical proposal the bid will be treated as non-responsive and rejected at technical evaluation stage.
- 1.13.6 The proposed team should be composed of experts and specialists (the “Professional Personnel”) in their respective areas of expertise and managerial/support staff (the “Support Personnel”) such that the Consultant should be able to complete the Consultancy within the specified time schedule. The Key Personnel specified in Annexure-A of RFP shall be included in the proposed team of Professional Personnel. The CV of each such Professional Personnel, if any, should also be submitted in the format at Form-6 of Appendix-I.
- 1.13.7 The Authority reserves the right to verify all statements, information and documents submitted by the Applicant in response to the RFP. Any such verification or the lack of such verification by the Authority to undertake such verification shall not relieve the Applicant of its obligations or liabilities hereunder nor will it affect any rights of the Authority thereunder.

1.14 Financial Proposal

- 1.14.1. Applicants should submit online the financial proposal in the Prescribed Formats available at Appendix-II (the “**Financial Proposal**”), clearly indicating the total cost of the Consultancy (Form-2 of Appendix-II, as provided on DMEO website) in both figures and words, in Indian Rupees (INR or ₹), and signed by the Applicant’s authorized signatories as mentioned in Clause 1.12.2. In the event of any difference between figures and words, the amount indicated in words shall prevail. In the event of a difference between the arithmetic total and the total shown in the Financial Proposal, the lower of the two shall prevail. In the event of a difference between the figures shown in the Financial Proposal Form-2 and the GeM Portal, the amount encrypted & submitted through GeM portal shall

prevail

1.14.2. While submitting the Financial Proposal, the Applicant should ensure the following:

- (i) All the costs associated with the assignment shall be included in the Financial Proposal. These shall cover remuneration for all the Personnel (Resident, in the field, office etc.), accommodation, air fare, equipment, printing of documents, surveys, geo-technical investigations etc. The total amount indicated in the Financial Proposal should be without any condition attached or subject to any assumption, and shall be final and binding. In case any assumption or condition is indicated in the Financial Proposal, it shall be considered non-responsive and liable to be rejected.
- (ii) The Financial Proposal should be exclusive of any tax liabilities.
- (iii) The consultant is liable to pay all the taxes as applicable for this consultancy. Also, all payments by the Authority shall be subject to deduction of taxes at source as per Applicable Laws.
- (iv) Costs (including breakdown of costs) shall be expressed in INR exclusive of tax liabilities.

1.15 Submission of Proposal/e-Bid

1.15.1. The Applicants should submit the Proposal in the prescribed formats provided in the respective links as per TIS of this RFP on GeM Portal with all pages numbered serially and by giving an index of submissions. Each page of the submission shall be digitally signed by the Applicant's authorized signatories as mentioned in Clause 1.12.2. In case the proposal is submitted on the document downloaded from the Official Website, the Applicant shall be responsible for its accuracy and correctness as per the version uploaded by the Authority and shall ensure that there are no changes caused in the content/format of the downloaded document. In case of any discrepancy between the downloaded or photocopied version of the RFP and the original RFP issued by the Authority, the latter shall prevail.

1.15.2. The proposal should be submitted online on the GeM Portal only; manual/offline bids shall not be accepted under any circumstances. Also, the applicant will have to send the original hard copy of Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration and Notarized Power of Attorney separately as specified in Clause 1.12.3(b).

1.15.3. The Technical and Financial bids must be submitted separately on GeM Portal in their respective folders/options, one clearly marked "**Technical Proposal**" and the other clearly marked "**Financial Proposal**". If financial proposal is included in the *folder/option* of technical proposal, the bid will be summarily rejected. The folder marked —Technical Proposal shall contain:

- (i) Application in the prescribed format (Form-1 of Appendix-I) along with Forms 2 to 11 of Appendix-I and supporting documents; and
- (ii) Scanned copy of Bid security Declaration or Bid Security Declaration as specified in Clause 1.12.3(b).

The folder marked —Financial Proposal shall contain the Financial Proposal in the prescribed format (Forms 1, 2 & 3 of Appendix-II).

1.15.4. The complete Proposal must be submitted online on or before 17:00 hours on the Proposal Due Date as specified in TIS. Proposals submitted by post, fax, telex, telegram, in-person or e-mail shall not be entertained.

1.15.6 The Proposal should be made in the Forms specified in this RFP at Appendix-I

and Appendix-II. All such forms are also available on DMEO Website (<https://dmeo.gov.in/tenders>). Any attachment to such Forms must be provided on separate pages and only information that is directly relevant should be uploaded. This may include scanned photocopies of the relevant pages of printed documents. No separate documents like printed annual statements, company brochures, etc. will be considered.

- 1.15.7 The rates quoted in the financial proposal should be firm throughout the period of performance of the assignment up to and including acceptance of the final report by the Authority and discharge of all obligations of the Consultant under the Agreement.

1.16 Bid Security

- 1.16.1 The Applicant should furnish as part of its Proposal, a bid security of Rs 2 lakh in the form of Insurance Surety Bonds/Demand Draft/ Account Payee/ Fixed Deposit/ Receipt/ Banker's Cheque /Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee) issued by one of the Nationalized/ Scheduled Banks in India in favor of PAO, NITI Aayog payable at New Delhi, except Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) who are registered on the Udyam Portal of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) (subject to compulsory submission of Udyam Certification) ([Udyam Portal](#)).
- 1.16.2 Bid securities of the unsuccessful bidders during the first stage i.e. technical evaluation, would be returned within 30 days of declaration of results of the technical evaluation, except of the two highest ranked applicants. In the event that the first ranked Applicant commences the assignment as required in Clause 3.5, the second ranked Applicant, who has been kept in reserve, shall be returned its Bid Security forthwith, but in no case later than 120 (one hundred and twenty) days from PDD. After the award of the contract, the Selected Applicant's Bid Security shall be returned within 30 (thirty) days on receipt of the performance security in accordance with the provisions thereof. In case of government owned universities/academic institutions, the Applicant shall furnish, as part of its Proposal, a Bid Security Declaration (instead of bid security) as per format specified in Appendix-I Form-11. Universities/academic institutions (hereunder referred to as universities/institutions)/ should be recognized by University Grant Commission or any State or the Central Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- 1.16.3 Any Bid not accompanied by the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, as the case may be, shall be rejected by the Authority as non-responsive.
- 1.16.4 The authority shall not be liable to pay any interest on the Bid Security and the same shall be interest free.
- 1.16.5 The Applicant, by submitting its Application pursuant to this RFP, shall be deemed to have acknowledged that without prejudice to the Authority's any other right or remedy hereunder or in law or otherwise, the Authority reserves the right to forfeit the bid security or take action as per the Bid Security Declaration for, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority in regard to the RFP including the consideration and evaluation of the Proposal under the following conditions:
 - a. If an Applicant submits a non-responsive Proposal;
 - b. If an Applicant engages in any of the Prohibited Practices specified in

Section 5 of this RFP

- c. If an Applicant withdraws its Proposal during the period of its validity as specified in this RFP and as extended by the Authority from time to time;
- d. In the case of the Selected Applicant, if the Applicant fails to reconfirm its commitments during negotiations as required vide Clause 3.1;
- e. In the case of a Selected Applicant, if the Applicant fails to sign the Agreement or commence the assignment as specified in Clauses 3.5 and 3.6 respectively; or
- f. If the Applicant is found to have a Conflict of Interest as specified in Clause 1.5.

1.17 Performance Security

- 1.17.1 The Applicant, by submitting its Application pursuant to this RFP, shall be deemed to have acknowledged that without prejudice to the Authority's any other right or remedy hereunder or in law or otherwise, its Performance Security shall be forfeited and appropriated by the Authority under circumstances specified in this Clause 1.17.4.
- 1.17.2 An amount equal to 3% (three per cent) of the Agreement/Award Value shall be deemed to be the Performance Security. Performance Security may be furnished in the form of Insurance Surety Bond/Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee), Account Payee Demand Draft, Fixed Deposit receipt issued by one of the Nationalized/Scheduled Banks in India.
- 1.17.3 Bid security shall be refunded to the successful bidder on receipt of Performance Security.
- 1.17.4 The Performance Security may be forfeited and appropriated by the Authority if the work submitted by the Consultant is felt to be substandard by the Authority and non-compliance with the scope of the study.

2. Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation of Proposals

- 2.1.1 The Authority shall open the Proposals at 10:00 hours on the next working day after the Proposal Due Date via online bid opening. The folder of Technical Proposal shall be opened first. The folder of Financial Proposal shall be kept locked for opening at a later date.
- 2.1.2 Proposals withdrawn prior to Proposal Due Date shall not be considered for evaluation.
- 2.1.3 Test of Responsiveness: Prior to evaluation of Proposals, the Authority will determine whether each Proposal is responsive to the requirements of the RFP. The Authority may, in its sole discretion, reject any Proposal that is not responsive hereunder. A Proposal shall be considered responsive if:
 - a. The Technical Proposal is received in the forms specified at Appendix-I; (All forms to be scanned and uploaded in pdf form on GeM Portal duly signed by the authorized signatory, statutory auditor and/or key personnel, as applicable)
 - b. It is received by the Proposal Due Date including any extension thereof pursuant to Clause 1.2;
 - c. It is accompanied by the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration Form as specified in Clause 1.16 or Appendix-I Form-11 (as available on

DMEO website).

- d. It is digitally signed, numbered and submitted as stipulated in Clauses 1.15;
 - e. It is accompanied by the Power of Attorney as specified in Clause 1.12.3 and Appendix-I Form 4(as available on DMEO website) ;
 - f. It contains all the information (complete in all respects) as requested in the prescribed formats as per TIS of the RFP.
 - g. It does not contain any condition or qualification; and
 - h. It does not contain the financial proposal or any information regarding the financial proposal.
 - i. It is not non-responsive in terms hereof.
- 2.1.4 The Authority reserves the right to reject any Proposal which is non-responsive and no request for alteration, modification, substitution, or withdrawal shall be entertained by the Authority in respect of such Proposals.
- 2.1.5 The Authority shall subsequently examine and evaluate Proposals in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 4 of this RFP (Criteria for Evaluation).
- 2.1.6 After the technical evaluation, the Authority shall prepare a list of pre-qualified and shortlisted Applicants in terms of Clause 4.4 for opening of their Financial Proposals. A date, time and venue will be notified to all Applicants for announcing the result of evaluation and opening of Financial Proposals. Before opening of the Financial Proposals, the list of pre-qualified and shortlisted Applicants along with their Technical Score will be read out. The opening of Financial Proposals shall be done in presence of respective representatives of Applicants who choose to be present. The Authority will not entertain any query or clarification from Applicants who fail to qualify at any stage of the Selection Process. The financial evaluation and final ranking of the Proposals shall be carried out in terms of Clauses 4.4 and 4.5.

2.2 Confidentiality

- 2.2.1 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 treat 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.

2.3 Clarification

- 2.3.1 To facilitate evaluation of Proposals, the Authority may, at its sole discretion, seek clarifications from any Applicant regarding its Proposal. Such clarification(s) shall be provided within the time specified by the Authority for this purpose. Any request for clarification(s) and all clarification(s) in response thereto shall be in writing.

- 2.3.2 If an Applicant does not provide clarifications sought under Clause 2.3.1 above within the specified time, the Authority may proceed to evaluate the Proposal by construing the particulars requiring clarification to the best of its understanding. The Applicant shall be barred from subsequently questioning such interpretation of the Authority.

3. Appointment of Consultant

3.1 Negotiations

- 3.1.1 The Selected Applicant may be invited for negotiations, if necessary. The negotiations shall generally be for re-confirming the obligations of the Consultant under this RFP. Issues such as deployment of Key Personnel, understanding of the RFP, methodology and quality of the work plan shall be discussed during negotiations. There shall be no change in the scope of the work/services during negotiation. **Up to two Key Personnel** who is/are not eligible as required in Annexure-A of RFP be replaced by the Applicant with better candidate (s) as per Clause 3.1.2. In case the Selected Applicant fails to reconfirm its commitment, the Authority reserves the right to forfeit the bid security or initiate debarment of the firm as per Bid security declaration of the Applicant in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.16. Notwithstanding the above, the substitution of Key Personnel at the negotiations may be considered if due solely to circumstances outside the reasonable control of and not foreseeable by the applicant, including but not limited to resignation, death or medical incapacity. In such a case, the Selected Applicant shall offer a substitute Key Personnel within the period specified in the invitation letter to negotiate the Contract, who shall have equivalent or better qualifications and experience than the original candidate.
- 3.1.2 The Authority will examine the CVs of all Key Personnel and those not found suitable shall be replaced by the Applicant to the satisfaction of the Authority within a week at no extra cost.
- 3.1.3 Before issuing a Letter of Award (LoA) to the successful Applicant, the Authority may, at its discretion, ask the selected Applicant to submit self-attested copies of **relevant certificates for minimum educational qualifications and proof of relevant experiences, given in the CVs in the proposal, of the Key Personnel for verification.** If so decided, the photocopies of such self-certified documents shall be verified and signed by the authorized signatories and kept in the records as part of the contract agreement. If the consultant fails to provide such originals or in case of substantive discrepancies in such documents, the proposal will be considered as non-responsive and rejected thereon. In such cases, the Authority may forfeit the Bid Security or/and initiate suitable action as per the provision of Bid Security Declaration.
- 3.1.4 The negotiations shall be concluded with a review of the finalized draft Contract, which shall be initiated by the Authority and the Applicant's authorized representative. If the negotiations fail, the Authority shall inform the Applicant in writing of all pending issues and disagreements and provide a final opportunity for the Applicant to respond. If disagreement persists, the Authority shall declare the proposal non-responsive, informing the Applicant of the reasons for doing so. The Authority shall invite the next- ranked responsive Applicant to negotiate a Contract. Once the Authority commences negotiations with the next-ranked

Applicant, the Authority shall not reopen the earlier negotiations. In case, the second ranked applicant is invited for negotiation, the lower cost, as per financial proposals, between the highest ranked applicant and the second highest ranked applicant shall be offered to the second highest ranked applicant for the award of contract.

3.2 Substitution of Key Personnel (During the Subsistence of the Agreement)

- 3.2.1 The Authority will not normally consider any request of the Selected Applicant for substitution of Key Personnel as the ranking of the Applicant is based on the evaluation of Key Personnel and any change therein may upset the ranking. Substitution will, however, be considered only based on the Consultant's written request and due to compelling or unavoidable situations outside the reasonable control of the consultant, including but not limited to resignation, death or medical incapacity. The substitution shall be subject to the provision of equivalent or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. Such substitution shall be limited to not more than two Key Personnel subject to equally or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. As a condition to such substitution, a sum equal to 10% (ten per cent) of the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the payments due to the Consultant from the date of replacement till the completion of contract. In the case of a second substitution hereunder, such deduction shall be 20% (twenty per cent) of the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the payments due to the Consultant from the date of replacement till the completion of contract. Any further substitution may lead to disqualification of the Applicant or termination of the Agreement.
- 3.2.2 Substitution of the Team Leader will not normally be considered and may lead to disqualification of the Applicant or termination of the Agreement.
- 3.2.3 In case the Authority is not satisfied with the performance of any Key Personnel, the Authority may initiate a request for substitution of such Key Personnel.

3.3 Indemnity

- 3.3.1 The Consultant shall, subject to the provisions of the Agreement, is liable to indemnify the Authority for an amount equal to the Agreement/Award Value, for any loss or damage that is caused due to any deficiency in services.

3.4 Award of Consultancy/draft contract and cancellation

- 3.4.1 Letter of Award (the "LOA") shall be issued, in duplicate, by the Authority to the Selected Applicant and the Selected Applicant shall, within 7 (seven) days of the receipt of the LOA, sign and return the duplicate copy of the LOA in acknowledgement thereof. In the event the duplicate copy of the LOA duly signed by the Selected Applicant is not received within 7 days of receipt of the LOA, the Authority, unless it consents to extension of time for submission thereof, reserves the right to cancel the LOA and the application and forfeit the bid security.

3.5 Commencement of assignment

- 3.5.1 The agreement shall be signed between the authority and the selected applicant within 7 days of receipt of signed LOA. The date of agreement will be the date of commencement. If the Consultant fails to sign the Agreement, the Bid Security of the Consultant shall be forfeited or action shall be initiated by the Authority as

per the Bid Security Declaration in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.16.5. The Selected Applicant shall not be entitled to seek any deviation³ in the Agreement.

3.6 Proprietary Data

3.6.1 All documents and other information provided by the Authority or submitted by an Applicant to the Authority shall remain or become 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 return any Proposal or any information related thereto. All information collected, analyzed, processed or in whatever manner provided by the Consultant to the Authority in relation to the Consultancy shall be the property of the Authority. 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. The ownership of all such data shall remain with the Authority. 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.

3.7 Liquidated Damages

3.7.1 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 consequential 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 10% (ten per cent) of the Agreement/Award Value.

3.7.2 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/Award Value per week, subject to a maximum of 10% (ten per cent) of the Agreement/Award 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.

3.7.3 Encashment and appropriation of Performance Security

The Authority shall have the right to invoke and appropriate the proceeds of the Performance Security, in whole or in part, without notice to the Consultant in the event of breach of this Agreement or for recovery of liquidated damages specified in this Clause 3.7.

3.7.4 Penalty for deficiency in Services

In addition to the liquidated damages not amounting to penalty, as specified in Clause 3.7, 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, other penal action including

³ “Deviation” refers to any departure from the term and conditions specified in the RFP document.

debaring for a specified period may also be initiated as per policy of the Authority.

4. Criteria for Evaluation

4.1 Evaluation of Technical Proposals

4.1.1 In the first stage, the Technical Proposal will be evaluated based on the eligibility criteria for the Applicant as laid down in Clause 1.4.2, their experience, understanding of the TOR, proposed methodology and Work Plan, and the qualifications and experience of the Key Personnel. Only those Applicants whose Technical Proposals get a score of 70 (seventy) marks or more out of 100 (one hundred) shall qualify for further consideration and shall be ranked from highest to the lowest based on their technical score.

4.1.2 Technical score (ST) is calculated by considering the highest Technical Proposal (TMax) and will be given a technical score (ST) of 100 points. The technical scores of other proposals will be computed as follows:

$$ST = 100 \times T / T_{Max}$$

(T = absolute score of Technical Proposal)

4.1.3 The scoring criteria to be used for evaluation shall be as follows:

S.No.	Parameter	Maximum Marks	Criteria
1.	Relevant Experience of the Applicant	30	Maximum 10 assignments⁴ can be submitted by the applicant*⁵ (a) 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: 500 to 750 respondents: 0.5 mark >750 to 1000 respondents: 0.7 mark >1000 respondents: 1 mark (b) Average annual total revenue/turnover of the applicant (10 marks) - Rs.2 crore to Rs.4 crore: 9 marks >Rs.4 crores: 10 marks (c) Value of Eligible Assignments(10 marks). The marks will be allocated based on the following: Each eligible assignment with value: - Rs.20 Lakhs to Rs.40 Lakhs: 0.8 mark >Rs.40 Lakhs to Rs.60 Lakhs: 0.9

⁴ Only the first ten assignment submitted by the applicant will be considered for scoring

⁵ 40% of the assignments are to be from the Lead Member. Other 60% can come from consortium partners. A maximum of 4 consortium partners included in the Lead Member is allowed.

			mark • >Rs.60 Lakhs : 1 mark
2.	Proposed Methodology and Work Plan	40	Evaluation will be based on the quality of submissions, as per Appendix-I Form-7 and the presentation made by the Applicant⁶. Proposed Methodology and work Plan (40 Marks) • Understanding of ToR • Methodology and Work Plan • Quality of Presentation • Response to Queries
3.	Experience of Proposed Key Personnel of the Applicant	30	1. Team Leader (Maximum Marks: 9) • 5 to 6 years: 4 marks • 7 to 9 years: 8 marks • 10 years and above: 12 marks 2. M&E Expert (Maximum Marks: 6) • 3 to 4 years: 2 marks • 5 to 7 years: 4 marks • 8 years and above: 6 marks 3. Sector Expert (Maximum Marks: 6) • 3 to 4 years: 2 marks • 5 to 7 years: 4 marks • 8 years and above: 6 marks 4. Financial Analysis Specialist (Maximum Marks: 6) • 3 to 4 years: 2 marks • 5 to 7 years: 4 marks • 8 years and above: 6 marks 5. Data Analytics and Statistics Expert (Maximum Marks: 3) • 2 to 4 years: 2 marks • 5 years and above: 3 marks
Total		100	

4.2 Eligible Assignments

4.2.1 For the purposes of determining Conditions of Eligibility and for evaluating the Proposals under this RFP, advisory/ consultancy assignments, for the following projects shall be deemed as eligible assignments (the “**Eligible Assignments**”):

- In case the applicant submits more than ten assignments, only first ten assignment will be considered for evaluation
- Assessment/research/evaluation study in food processing/agri-

⁶ The presentation shall be made by all the proposed team members (key personnel) only for their respective part of the proposal (in-person or virtually). The Team Leader must present the majority of the proposal (approximately 50%) of the proposal. In case of absence of Team Leader and M&E Specialist (Project Manager) during presentation, the Authority may reject the proposal.

business/MSME/Industries sector conducted for Union/State Government/ regulatory commission/ tribunal/ bilateral agencies/ multilateral agencies/ statutory authorities/ public sector entities in India covering a minimum sample size of **500 respondents**.

- c. Provided that the Eligible Assignments have been completed in the 8 (eight) financial years preceding the PDD.
- d. Provided that the value of each eligible assignment submitted by the Applicant is at least ₹ **10 Lakhs**.
- e. For the Eligible Assignments, the Applicant shall provide requisite supporting documents such as copies of contracts, agreements etc. The value 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.

4.3 Shortlisting of Applicants

- 4.3.1 The technically qualified applicants shall be short-listed for financial evaluation in the second stage.

4.4 Evaluation of Financial Proposals

- 4.4.1 In the second stage, the financial evaluation will be carried out as per this Clause. The financial score (SF) for the applicant will be arrived at based on the formula given in Clause 4.4.3.
- 4.4.2 For financial evaluation, the total cost indicated in the Financial Proposal will be considered
- 4.4.3 The Authority will determine whether the Financial Proposals are complete, unqualified and unconditional. The cost indicated in the Financial Proposal shall be deemed as final and reflecting the total cost of services. Omissions, if any, in costing any item shall not entitle the firm to be compensated and the liability to fulfill its obligations as per the TOR within the total quoted price shall be that of the Consultant. The lowest Financial Proposal (FMin) will be given a financial score (SF) of 100 points. The financial scores of other proposals will be computed as follows:

$$SF = 100 \times FMin/F$$

(F = amount of Financial Proposal)

4.5 Combined and Final Evaluation

- 4.5.1 Proposals will finally be ranked according to their combined technical (ST) and financial (SF) scores as follows:

$$S = ST \times Tw + SF \times Fw$$

Where, S is the combined score, and Tw and Fw are weights assigned to Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal, which shall be 0.70 and 0.30 respectively.

- 4.5.2 The “Selected Applicant” shall be the first ranked Applicant (having the highest combined score). The Authority reserves the right to take action as per the Bid Security Declaration in accordance with the provisions of Clause 1.16.5, in case the first-ranked Applicant withdraws, or fails to comply with the requirements specified in Clause 3 as the case may be.

5. Fraud and Corrupt Practices

The Applicants and their respective officers, employees, agents and advisers shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the Selection Process. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this RFP, the Authority shall reject a proposal without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Applicant, if it determines that the Applicant has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, anti- competitive practice, coercive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice in the Selection Process or after the issue of the LOA or the execution of the Agreement. In such an event, the Authority shall, without prejudice to its any other rights or remedies, take action as per the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration, or forfeit and appropriate the Bid Security or Performance Security, as the case may be. Further, such an Applicant or Consultant shall not be eligible to participate in any tender or RFP issued by the Authority during a period of 2 (two) years from the date of such an order.

For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:

- (a) **“Corrupt practice”** means making an offer, solicitation or acceptance of a bribe, reward, gift or any material benefit in exchange for an unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or to otherwise influence the Procurement Process
- (b) **“Fraudulent practice”** means any omission or misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefits may be obtained or an obligation avoided. Such practices include a false declaration or false information for participation in a Procurement Process or to secure a Contract, or in the execution of the agreement
- (c) **“Coercive practice”** means harming or threatening to harm persons or their property to influence their participation in the Procurement Process or affect the execution of the agreement.
- (d) **“Anti-competitive practice”** means any collusion, Proposal-rigging or anti-competitive arrangement, or any other practice including cartels coming under the purview of the Competition Act, 2002, between two or more Applicants, with or without the knowledge of the Authority, that may impair the transparency, fairness, and the progress of the Procurement Process or to establish Proposal prices at artificial, non-competitive level.
- (e) **“Conflict of interest”** means participation by a bidding firm or any of its affiliates who are either involved in the Consultancy Contract to which this procurement is linked; if they are part of more than one Proposal in the procurement; or if their personnel have a relationship or financial or business transactions with any official of Authority who are directly or indirectly related to tender or execution process of contract; or improper use of information obtained by the (prospective) Applicant from the Authority with an intent to gain unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or for personal gain or in any other manner specified in Clause 3 Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest .
- (f) **“Obstructive practice”** means materially impeding Authority’s investigation into allegations of one or more of the above-mentioned prohibited practices either by deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering; or by concealing evidence material to the investigation; or by making false statements to investigators and/ or by threatening, harassing or intimidating any party threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or by impeding

the Authority's rights of an audit or access to information.

6. Timeline for Project Execution

The total duration of the evaluation study is Three Months (90 days), wherein the inception report is to be submitted by the consultant within 10 days from signing of the contract. In the Inception report, the consultant is required to submit a Gantt Chart (weekly) of all the activities and sub-activities. The consultant shall propose the timeline for the payment linked deliverables which are a) Mid-Term Report b) Draft Evaluation Report and c) Final Evaluation Report. The payment linked deliverable shall adhere to the requirements given in Section 8- Timelines of the Terms of Reference. The project monitoring will be done by the Authority based on the timelines submitted by the consultant in the Inception report (Gantt chart) for the payment linked deliverables. In case of any delay in the submission of payment linked deliverables namely, inception report, mid-term report, draft evaluation report and final evaluation report, the consultant will be penalized as per the extant provisions of the RFP.

Annexure A

Details of minimum Education qualification & Experience required from the Consultancy Team

S. No.	Key Personnel ⁷	Minimum Educational Qualification ⁸	Length of Professional Experience	Minimum Length of Relevant Experience	Roles and Responsibilities
1.	Team Leader	Master's Degree in Economics, Public Policy, Business Administration or equivalent	12 years	At least 10 years immediately preceding the date of submission of application in handling evaluation/assessment/r research studies or projects in the social sector.	Annexure B
2.	M&E Expert	Master's Degree in Economics/Statistics or equivalent	10 years	At least 8 years in undertaking large-scale impact evaluations, programme assessments, or monitoring studies of Government schemes, preferably in manufacturing, Industry, MSME, agriculture, or food processing sectors.	
3.	Sector Expert-Food Processing and Agri-Business	MBA in Food Agri-Business Management/ Food Enterprise Management/ Food Processing and Business Management or equivalent	10 years	At least 8 years of experience in food processing, agri-value chains, industrial policy, MSME development, or related sector studies.	
4.	Financial Analysis Specialist	Master's Degree in Finance, Economics, Commerce, Chartered Accountancy or equivalent	10 years	8 years in financial analysis, scheme appraisal, public expenditure review or financial due diligence, with familiarity with GST compliance,	

⁷ The upper age limit of the proposed key personnel shall not exceed the age of 60 years

⁸ For degrees obtained from the accredited foreign Boards/universities, the applicant shall furnish a self-declaration on the academic equivalence to the 'Minimum Educational Qualifications' as defined in Annexure-A.

				statutory audit processes and investment verification	
5.	Data Analytics and Statistics Expert (Quantitative and Qualitative research)	Master's Degree in Statistics/Economics or equivalent	8 years	At least 5 years of experience in quantitative and qualitative data management and analysis.	
6.	Research Associate	Master's Degree in Social Sciences/Management/Statistics or equivalent	5 years	At least 5 years of relevant work experience in assessment/evaluation/research in food processing/ agri-business/agriculture and allied sectors.	

Annexure B

S. No.	Key Personnel	Roles and responsibilities
1.	Team Leader	S/He will lead, co-ordinate and supervise the multidisciplinary team for preparation and act as focal point to the Authority throughout the duration of the Consultancy. S/He will be responsible for: • Overall execution of the consultancy assignment with DMEQ. • Design and finalise the evaluation framework, methodology, sampling plan, and tools • Accountable leadership providing guidance, problem solving support and leading discussions with senior stakeholders • Ensure all deliverables and milestones are satisfactorily delivered • Ensure high quality of data, analysis and report writing. • Provide overall strategic input and guidance to the project. • Drive discussions with senior officials in the Government at Centre and State levels, sector experts, key stakeholders, etc. to refine the investigative instruments and gain insights about the scheme. • Act as the focal point of contact for the project-related activities and would be responsible for presenting the findings and recommendations of the evaluation study in the high-level meetings as per requirement. • Sending periodic updates to DMEQ, highlighting challenges and potential solutions in project execution. • Coordinating with the core team, survey team and other stakeholders

		• Ensuring content accuracy, creativity, consistency and innovation in the report. • Project management as per agreed activities, timelines and deliverables • Provide guidance on all the research activities including research tools, analysis plan and training. • Perform other relevant duties as assigned by the authority. • To brief authority biweekly on the progress and challenges apart from specific deliverables mentioned in the ToR.
2.	Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	S/He will lead the overall monitoring and evaluation for the evaluation, and will be responsible for: • Support the Team Leader in overall management and technical execution of the evaluation study. • Develop the evaluation framework, Theory of Change (ToC), evaluation matrix, and results chain for the study. • Design evaluation questions, indicators, and performance assessment criteria in line with the objectives of the study. • Develop qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and ensure methodological rigor throughout the study. • Prepare research instruments, interview guides, and data collection protocols. • Supervise data analysis and ensure appropriate use of evaluation techniques and analytical methods. • Ensure quality assurance of all study outputs, including reports, presentations, and policy briefs. • Provide technical guidance to field teams and analysts on evaluation methods and interpretation of findings. • Contribute to preparation of inception, interim, draft, and final evaluation reports and presentations. • Support dissemination of findings and incorporation of comments from DMEQ and stakeholders. • Perform any other duties assigned by the Team Leader or the Authority.
3.	Sector Expert (Food Processing/MSME/Agribusiness/Industry)	S/He will provide specialized expertise on food processing/MSME/Agribusiness/ Industry, and will be responsible for: • Provide sector-specific expertise relating to food processing, MSMEs, agribusiness, industry, and related value chains. • Undertake detailed sectoral assessment and contextual analysis of the scheme and its interventions. • Examine industry dynamics, competitiveness, market trends, value chain integration, exports, and employment generation aspects. • Conduct stakeholder consultations with industry associations, experts, entrepreneurs, and implementing agencies. • Identify best practices, emerging opportunities, and implementation bottlenecks in the sector. • Provide technical inputs for the development of research instruments and analytical frameworks. • Prepare sector-specific analytical notes, case studies, and inputs for reports and presentations. • Assist the Team Leader in presenting findings and recommendations to stakeholders.
4.	Financial Analysis Specialist	S/He will be responsible for: • Conducting financial analysis of incentive disbursement patterns, investment actuals versus commitments and cost-

		efficiency metrics across scheme categories and segments; - Assessing the robustness of governance and verification mechanisms, including review of GST records, statutory auditor certificates, chartered engineer certificates, shipping documents and PMA verification processes; - Examining financial risks including related-party transactions, transfer pricing adjustments, product reclassification, invoice timing manipulation and accounting adjustments; - Analysing the compliance burden and transaction costs for SMEs and MSMEs under both schemes; - Contributing to findings on efficiency, additionality and governance and verification evaluation criteria; - Assessing whether deductions, refunds, penalties and bank guarantee invocations were enforced where required; - Reviewing millet content declaration compliance and FSSAI labelling verification under PLISMBP; - Supporting the team leader and M&E expert in financial data interpretation and report writing
5.	Data Analytics and Statistics Expert (Quantitative and Qualitative research)	S/He will support both quantitative and qualitative research, manage secondary data and conduct analytical and meta-analysis functions, and will be responsible for: - Developing the sampling methodology, sampling frame and sample size estimation for the study; - Designing the statistical and analytical framework for quantitative and qualitative analysis; - Undertaking statistical analysis, trend analysis, inferential analysis and estimation of programme outcomes and impacts; - Applying appropriate econometric and counterfactual techniques, wherever feasible, for assessing programme effectiveness and additionality; - Managing datasets from multiple sources and undertaking data cleaning, coding and validation exercises; - Developing analytical dashboards, data visualisation tools and summary tables to facilitate interpretation of findings; - Conducting triangulation of primary and secondary data and ensuring robustness of findings; - Computing cost-efficiency metrics including public cost per job generated, per crore of incremental sales and per crore of export sales; - Providing technical guidance to field teams regarding data collection protocols and quality assurance measures; Ensuring confidentiality and secure management of all data and databases generated under the study.
6.	Research Associate	S/He will provide research and field support to the core team and will be responsible for: - Assisting in secondary data collection, literature review and compilation of scheme-related documents including guidelines, qrrs, parliamentary questions and sector reports; - Supporting development and pre-testing of data collection instruments under the guidance of the M&E Expert and Data Analytics Expert; - Coordinating logistics and scheduling for KIIs, FGDs and beneficiary surveys across Tier 1, 2 and 3 geographies; - Conducting field interviews and surveys under the supervision of senior team members; data entry, coding and primary cleaning of

		quantitative and qualitative datasets; • Maintaining field notes, interview records and documentation of stakeholder consultations; • Preparing summary notes, tables and draft sections as required by senior team members; • Supporting preparation of presentations, reports and annexures; and performing any other research or administrative duties assigned by the Team Leader
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Schedule 1: Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EVALUATION STUDY OF PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

1. Quality Assurance of the Evaluation Report

The evaluation report submitted by the Consultant must comply with DMEO's quality standards in order to be accepted. In case of any compromise in the quality of the deliverables, a suitable penalty would be imposed on the Consultant as per the provisions given in the RFP.

An indicative quality standard followed by DMEO is given below. The consultant may include more such standards to further enhance the report quality.

1.1. Executive Summary (ES)

The executive summary (ES) is meant to be read by a wider audience; thus, it must be written with extreme neatness and attention to detail. It should be written with clarity, coherence and crispness. Findings of the report should be elaborated with key statistics and recommendations following from findings. The ES should offer more than just a synopsis of the chapters; it should also triangulate all the evidence obtained during the study from the primary survey and secondary data and policy implications to flow from such findings. The ES should be forthright in its observations, precise in its deductions and proactive in its suggestions. ES should ideally be written in short, separate paragraphs that do not exceed five pages. All data/findings/recommendations cited from the main report need to be properly referenced using page numbers. The ES should only briefly touch up the evaluation questions, issues and problems. The ES needs to be sharp and centred on the conclusions and suggestions emerging from the evaluation study.

1.2. Professional Language and Referencing

The report should be written in a professional manner and in accordance with the standards of a typical double-blind, peer-reviewed publication. The report should be free from grammatical errors, plagiarism and spelling mistakes. Reports with more than 20 per cent plagiarised content will not be accepted. The plagiarism will be ascertained through software/tools such as Turnitin etc. It must adhere to the suggested report structure and appropriately referenced with necessary citations. Any data, diagrams and graphs must be appropriately labelled and referenced.

1.3. Objective Findings and Recommendation

The report should be a succinct, stand-alone document with objective language that may be used to inform decision-making. The findings should be presented clearly, providing sufficient evidence and systematically addressing all the evaluation objectives. The recommendations should be clearly formulated and logically derived from the findings of the report. It should be clearly articulated and prioritized based on their importance and potential impact for the improvement of the scheme. The conclusions drawn from primary and secondary research must be given equal weight. Recommendations that lead to an increased financial burden on the government (such as those on increasing budgetary allocation) should be avoided, unless there is sound evidence emerging from the analysis that an increase may be expedient. Focus should be on resource optimisation/judicious usage of resources

1.4. Ethical Considerations and Data Protection

Ethical considerations, such as confidentiality and data protection and data quality, must be upheld throughout the process.

2. Background and Context

2.1. Background of Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)

The Government of India approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) as a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹10,900 crore. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). The scheme is operational for **six years**, from FY 2021-22 to FY 2026-27.

The food processing sector is strategically important to India's economy due to its linkages with

agriculture, industry and services, contributing to value addition, reduction of post-harvest losses, employment generation, export promotion and rural income diversification. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) framework was introduced to promote domestic manufacturing, investment, global value chain integration and exports through performance-linked incentives based on incremental sales. MoFPI conceptualised the PLISFPI under the ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan for Enhancing India’s Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports’.

2.1.1 Objective

The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) was approved with the following objectives:

- Support creation of global food manufacturing champions
- Promote Indian Brands
- Increase employment opportunities for off-farm jobs
- Ensure remunerative prices of farm produce
- Higher income to farmers

The Scheme is operational for a period of six years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2026-27) and provides **financial incentives linked to incremental sales** of eligible food products manufactured in India⁹. Incentives are payable in the subsequent financial year upon verification of performance parameters.

The scheme has three categories:

1. Incentive for manufacturing of four major food products segments viz. Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/RTE) including millet-based foods, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products & Mozzarella Cheese.
2. Incentivizing Innovative and Organic products of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) across all the four food segments including Free Range - Eggs, Poultry Meat & Egg Products.
3. Support for branding and marketing abroad to incentivise the emergence of strong Indian Brands.

2.1.2 Financial Outlay

The scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹10,900 crore, with implementation spanning from 2021–22 to 2026–27. Incentives are provided for a maximum duration of six years per selected beneficiary for incremental sales of eligible products based on yearly threshold criteria of minimum CAGR in sales over a defined base year and completion of committed investment within 3 years i.e. FY 2023-24. Subsequently, on the recommendations of EGoS, the Approval Committee accorded extension of investment period by 1 year i.e. up to 2024-25 for the Marine sector.

Financial Progress (in crore) of the Scheme since 2021-22 is as follows

Financial Year	Outlay as per the Cabinet Note	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Utilization (%)
2021-22	10	10	10	9.27	92.7

⁹ The entire chain of manufacturing processes, including primary processing, of the food products of the relevant segment applied for coverage under the scheme shall take place in India. However, for additives, flavours and edible oils this condition would not apply.

2022-23	1022	1022	801	489.83	61.15
2023-24	1537	1530	1150	590.50	51.34
2024-25	1954	1444.02	700	450.49	64.35
2025-26	2436	1200	1200	1199.96	99.9
2026-27	1975	1200	-	556.76 [#]	-
2027-28	1716	-	-	-	-
Total	10,900*	-	-	-	-
[#] As on May 2026 * Includes ₹250 Crs (approx 2% outlay) earmarked for innovative/ organic product in the SME sector and ₹800 Crs for PLISMBP					

2.1.3 Applications under the Scheme

Under the scheme, 316 applications were received, of which 186 were approved. Subsequently, 4 applicants did not accept the approval, 15 applicants withdrew from the scheme, and 3 approvals were cancelled. Consequently, as of the reporting period, 164 active applicants remain, representing 128 companies and 274 units. The active applicant base comprises 50 Category-I applicants, 15 Category-II applicants, 70 Category-III applicants, and 29 PLI-Millet applicants. Against the threshold investment requirement of Rs 3,217 crore, the PLI applicants committed a total investment of ₹7,722 crore. Actual investments amounting to Rs 9,207 crore have been reported, exceeding the committed level.

Details of the applications under the scheme are furnished in the table below:

Category	Applications Received	Rejected Applications	Selected Applications	Did not Accept approval	Withdrawn/ Cancelled Applicants	Live Applicants
Fruits & Vegetables	40	7	33	4	4	25
RTC/RTE	34	22	12	0	0	12
Marine Products	11	0	11	0	2	09
Mozzarella Cheese	6	2	4	0	0	04
Innovative	62	60	2	0	0	2
Organic (Round 1 & 2)	36	22	14	0	1	13
Branding & Marketing	94	14	80	0	10	70
Millet Large Entity	8	0	8	0	0	8

Millet MSME	25	3	22	0	1	21
Total	316	130	186	4	18	164

2.1.4 Eligibility Criteria

Companies engaged in manufacturing of food products in India and sale of such products covered under the target segments are eligible to apply. The scheme covers large entities as well as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Applicant categories

The Scheme provides differentiated eligibility under three categories:

Category I: This category is for large entities. Incentive is linked to incremental sales of eligible food products, subject to eligibility, completion of investment and CAGR conditions. Category-I applicants may also claim support for Branding and Marketing abroad under Category III through a separate application.

Category II: This category is only for SMEs manufacturing innovative/organic products.

Category III: This category is for applicants seeking support only for Branding and Marketing of Indian food brands in overseas markets. The incentives under this component are released for a period of 5 years with effect from 2022-23.

Applicants are required to meet specified minimum sales in the base year (2019-20) and commit to prescribed levels of fresh investment in plant & machinery, technical civil works and associated infrastructure, as defined under the Scheme guidelines.

Eligibility of Applicants under PLI-FPI

Segment	Minimum Sales of all food products in 2019-20 (in Cr.)	Minimum Investment (in Cr.)
Category-I:		
RTE/RTC	500	100
Processed Fruits & Vegetables	250	50
Marine Product	600	75
Mozzarella Cheese	150	10 MTPD ¹⁰ plant – ₹23 Cr.
Category-II: Innovative/ Organic products of SME including FR Eggs, Egg products, Poultry Meat		
a) Udyog Aadhar/ Udyami Registered		
b) Achieved Minimum Sales of ₹1 crore during 2019-20 for each of the innovative/ organic products proposed to be incentivized		
c) Applicant for Organic Product shall be registered with APEDA ¹¹ for the organic product proposed to be incentivized.		

¹⁰ Metric Tons Per Day

¹¹ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

Category-III: Branding & Marketing

- a) Only Indian Brands are covered for selling food products completely manufactured in India;
- b) Branding & Marketing shall be undertaken by the Applicant either directly or through its subsidiary or any other Agency.

2.1.5 Incentive Mechanism

Incentives under the Scheme are payable for a period of six years, from FY 2022–23 to FY 2027–28, based on incremental sales achieved during FY 2021–22 to FY 2026–27. Incentives for a given year are disbursed in the subsequent year. Selected applicants are eligible for incentives ranging from 4% to 10% on incremental sales over the prescribed base year.

For the first four years of the Scheme, incremental sales are assessed against FY 2019–20 as the base year. For the fifth and sixth years, FY 2021–22 and FY 2022–23 serve as the respective base years. In addition, applicants are required to achieve the prescribed threshold CAGR over the relevant base year to qualify for incentives.

The threshold CAGR criteria, maximum growth to be incentivised and rate of incentive for different segments of Category-I and II are furnished in the table below:

Category I	Segment	Incentive Disbursement criteria (%)		Rate of Incentive		
		Min. Req CAGR	Max. Growth to be incentivized	2021-22 to 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
RTE/RTC	Biscuits	10%	13%	5%	4.5%	4%
	Non-Biscuits			7.5%	6.75%	6%
F&V	Spices	10%	12%	5%	4.5%	4%
	Non-Spices		15%	10%	9%	8%
Marine	Normal products	5%	10%	6%	5%	4%
	Value added products			10%	10%	10%
Mozzarella Cheese		15%	16%	10%	6%	4%

With a view to align disbursement of incentives with Annual budget outlay for the Scheme, annual caps were prescribed in the Approval Letter for distribution of incentives as under:

Year	FY22-23	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	Total
Incentive Allocation	7%	13%	18%	24%	20%	18%	100%

However, for the first performance year i.e. FY21-22, Applicants were disbursed the total incentive amount, without applying annual distribution capping. For the second performance year onwards, annual cappings were revised for distribution of the balance incentive (excluding the amount already disbursed for performance year FY21-22), as under:

Incentive Distribution Year	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	Total
Performance Year (%)	15.35%	24.28%	25.78%	17.36%	17.23%	100%

Details for Category-II are as under:

Category	Segment	Incentive disbursement criteria (%)	Rate of Incentive		
		Min. required CAGR	2021-22 to 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Category-II	Organic Products	10%	10%	9%	8%
	Innovative Products	10%	10%	9%	8%

Under **Category- III**, applicants will be extended financial incentives at 50% of expenditure on Branding & Marketing abroad subject to a maximum grant of 3% of Sales of food products or ₹50 crore per year, whichever is less. The minimum expenditure for incentive shall be ₹5 crore over a period of five years. In such case, an admissible grant would be ₹2.5 crore. For brands dealing exclusively in commodity products such as rice, atta (flour), edible oil, and similar products, the incentive for branding and marketing abroad is capped at ₹10 crore per year, subject to an overall ceiling of ₹50 crore over the five-year incentive period.

2.2. Background of Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Millet Based Products (PLISMBP)

2.2.1 Background

The declaration of 2023 as the ‘International Year of Millets’ by the United Nations General Assembly, based on India’s proposal, along with the announcement of 2023 as the ‘Millet Year’ by the Hon’ble Finance Minister, provided impetus for promoting millets in processed food products. In this backdrop, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries proposed incentivising millet-based RTC/RTE products under the Production Linked Incentive framework to enhance the use of millets in food products, promote value addition and increase sales in domestic and export markets.

To support this objective, it was proposed that savings available under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI) be utilized for providing sales-based incentives for millet products under the RTC/RTE segments through suitable amendments to the scheme guidelines and issuance of a fresh EoI, including the inclusion of the Micro segment along with SMEs. Subsequently, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Millet Based Products (PLISMBP) with an outlay of ₹800 crore for the scheme period of FY 2022-23 to FY 2026-27.

2.2.1 Objective and Components

The objectives of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Millet Based Products (PLISMBP) are to increase usage of millets in food products and promote its value addition. These objectives are sought to be achieved through incentivising manufacture of selected millet-based products and their sale in domestic and export markets.

2.2.2 Eligibility Criteria

Packaged and Branded Ready to Cook/Ready to Eat (RTC/RTE) food products in consumer

packs with more than 15% of millets by weight/ volume in product composition.

Eligibility Criteria for different Categories of Applicants	
Category of Applicants	Minimum Sales of All Food Products in 2020-21 (₹ Crore)
Large Entity	250
MSME	2

2.2.3 Incentive Mechanism

Applicant shall be required to achieve minimum CAGR of 10% on sales of the eligible products from the base year for grant of incentive.

Category	Segment	Incentive disbursement criteria (%)	Rate of Incentive		
		Min. required CAGR	2022-23 to 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Millet Products	Large Entity	10%	10%	9%	8%
	MSME	10%	10%		

2.3. Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism for PLISFPI & PLISMBP

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is responsible for the implementation of PLISFPI and PLISMBP. The Ministry approves the selection of applicants under the schemes and sanctions and releases incentives within the approved outlay.
- The schemes are implemented with operational support from a Project Management Agency (PMA), which provides secretarial, managerial, implementation, monitoring and evaluation support. The PMA is responsible for appraisal of applications and proposals, verification of eligibility, monitoring of investment commitments, scrutiny of incentive claims, compilation of data relating to investment and sales performance and periodic reporting on scheme progress and performance.
- A web-based MIS system and a national portal has been established by the PMA for online application processing, monitoring and implementation of all scheme-related activities.
- Overall policy oversight and periodic review of the schemes are undertaken by the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) chaired by the Cabinet Secretary under the broader PLI framework. The EGoS monitors the progress and financial outgo of the schemes, ensures uniformity across PLI schemes and is empowered to make changes in the modalities of the schemes, while ensuring that expenditure remains within the approved outlay.
- The schemes encourage both greenfield investments and expansion of existing manufacturing facilities, while also permitting participation through contract manufacturing arrangements, thereby enabling wider industry participation, including SMEs and Micro enterprises.

3. Objective of the Evaluation Study

The study shall assess whether the scheme has achieved its intended objectives and whether public expenditure has created measurable value in terms of investment, sales, exports, Indian branding, employment, value addition, MSME participation, farmer linkages and sectoral competitiveness.

Key Evaluation Questions

I. PLISFPI

1. Evaluate the relevance of the scheme.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme in achieving its stated objectives, including the extent to which the scheme reached its intended beneficiaries.
3. Evaluate the performance of the scheme in terms of investment, production, exports, and employment generation.
4. Evaluate the operational, financial and administrative efficiency of the scheme.
5. Evaluate the impact of the scheme against its intended objectives and any unintended outcomes.
6. Evaluate the success of the scheme in contributing to the creation of Global Food Manufacturing Champions.
7. Evaluate whether the scheme has contributed to increased demand and consumption of beneficiary products in international markets.
8. Evaluate the extent to which the scheme has catalysed technology adoption, new product introduction and product diversification within target segments.
9. Evaluate whether the scheme has catalysed improvements in compliance with quality certification requirements in export markets.
10. Evaluate the inducement effect of the scheme on SMEs, including whether the scheme enabled new investments, market entry, product diversification or business expansion that would otherwise not have occurred.
11. Evaluate the impact of the scheme on SMEs through direct participation as PLI beneficiaries and indirect participation through integration into the value chain of PLI-supported firms.
12. Evaluate the sustainability of the scheme and assess whether the outcomes achieved under the scheme are likely to remain viable beyond the period of fiscal support.
13. Evaluate the internal and external coherence of PLISFPI, including the extent to which the various components of the scheme complement one another and align with other central and state incentive schemes relating to processed food products.
14. Evaluate the equity dimensions of the scheme's reach, including gender, geographic and applicant category dimensions.
15. Evaluate whether the large number of approved beneficiaries has had any adverse consequences for the scheme's ability to achieve its core objectives.
16. Evaluate key implementation bottlenecks, design gaps and unintended consequences of the scheme, identify any high-growth product segments that remain outside the scheme's coverage, and draw evidence-based lessons and recommendations for future food processing incentive schemes.

II. PLISMBP

1. Evaluate the relevance of the scheme.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme in achieving its stated objectives, including the extent to which the scheme reached its intended beneficiaries
3. Evaluate the performance of the scheme in terms of investment, millet procurement, production, exports, and employment generation.
4. Evaluate the operational, financial and administrative efficiency of the scheme.
5. Evaluate the impact of the scheme against its intended objectives and any unintended outcomes.
6. Evaluate the extent to which production expansion and market entry achieved under the scheme can be attributed to scheme incentives.

7. Evaluate the extent to which the scheme has catalysed technology adoption, new product introduction and product diversification within the millet-based food processing sector.
8. Evaluate the impact of the scheme on MSMEs through direct participation as PLI beneficiaries and indirect participation through integration into the value chain of PLI-supported firms.
9. Evaluate the sustainability of the scheme and assess whether the outcomes achieved under the scheme are likely to remain viable beyond the period of fiscal support.
10. Evaluate the internal and external coherence of the scheme with other central and state incentive schemes relating to millet-based products.
11. Evaluate the implications of introducing PLISMBP after PLISFPI, including the impact of scheme interaction, design interdependencies and the exclusion provision on the performance of both schemes.
12. Examine the equity dimensions of the scheme's reach, including gender, geographic and applicant category dimensions, with particular reference to millet-growing states and communities.
13. Evaluate key implementation bottlenecks, design gaps and unintended consequences of the scheme and draw evidence-based lessons and recommendations for future millet-focused incentive schemes.

4. Scope of Evaluation

4.1. Reference Period of the Study

- The primary reference period covers FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25 for PLISFPI (four completed implementation years) and FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25 for PLISMBP (three completed implementation years).
- Secondary data and trend analysis may consider at least 3-5 years prior to the scheme launch for facilitating before–after comparison, trend analysis, baseline benchmarking (FY 2019-20 for PLISFPI; FY 2020-21 for PLISMBP), and counterfactual interpretation.

4.2. Scope of Evaluation to be undertaken by the Selected Consultant

4.2.1 Inception and Desk Review

- Conduct a comprehensive desk review of all scheme-related documents.
- Access and analyse the online PLIS Portal.
- Develop a Theory of Change (ToC) for the schemes, explicitly mapping inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts and identifying key assumptions underlying the causal logic.
- Develop the Evaluation Framework (evaluation questions, sub-questions, indicators, data sources and means of verification).
- Finalise the sampling design, data collection instruments and field visit plan.
- Submit an Inception Report for review and approval before proceeding to field visit.

4.2.2 Primary Data Collection

- Conduct Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with MoFPI officials, IFCI (PMA) officials, NITI Aayog and other relevant stakeholders
- Administer structured surveys to stratified samples of PLISFPI Category I, II and III beneficiaries and PLISMBP Large Entity and MSME beneficiaries to assess investment actualisation vs. commitment, sales and export performance, incentive claim experience, compliance costs and overall satisfaction and perception of scheme design.
- Conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with SME applicants (Category II) and upstream farmer / FPO groups supplying to selected applicants, to assess downstream income effects and supply chain integration.

- Administer surveys to non-selected and withdrawn applicants to understand barriers to participation and perceptions of selection fairness.
- Conduct a sample verification of disbursement claims under both schemes against source documents (GST returns, Statutory Auditor certificates; for PLISMBP- millet content declarations and FSSAI labelling compliance records) as facilitated by MoFPI/PMA, with particular attention to the base year sales data, CAGR computation and segment-wise incremental sales claims.
- Field visits shall verify investment, capacity creation, capacity utilisation, eligible products, manufacturing process, employment, procurement, export operations, branding systems, millet content compliance and supporting documents.
- Field visits shall include Manufacturing units of selected Category-I beneficiaries, SME units under Category-II, millet-based product units, Contract manufacturing units, Farmer/FPO/cooperative supply-chain locations, Export-oriented and branding-linked beneficiaries and High-performing and low-performing cases.

4.2.3 Analysis and Reporting

- Undertake scheme-wise quantitative analysis: PLISFPI — segment-wise investment actuals vs. commitments, CAGR achievement rates, disbursement amounts vs. targets, export growth; PLISMBP — claim filing rates, incremental sales vs. base year, millet procurement volumes, disbursement vs. ₹800 crore outlay.
- Conduct attribution analysis for PLISMBP millet sales growth: separate the contribution of scheme incentives from the ambient market effect of IYM 2023, government procurement mandates (e.g., MDM millet inclusion) and global millet demand trends.
- Analyse the design interaction between PLISFPI (millet component within Cat I RTC/RTE) and PLISMBP — specifically, whether the exclusion provision (clause 5.11) has functioned as intended or has created market segmentation distortions.
- Assess the differential experience of MSME applicants across the two schemes, particularly whether PLISMBP's no-investment-threshold design delivered its intended inclusivity benefit, or whether other barriers (CAGR compliance, millet content testing, FSSAI labelling) offset this advantage.
- Triangulate all primary and secondary evidence and prepare the evaluation report.

5. Data Collection and Methodology

The evaluation shall adopt a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of scheme performance data with qualitative insights from stakeholder consultations. The methodology must be participatory, ensuring that perspectives of beneficiaries are adequately captured alongside institutional perspectives. Given that the two schemes operate on the same PMA and portal infrastructure, primary data collection should be designed to minimise respondent fatigue, where a respondent is relevant to both schemes, a single integrated interview/survey should be administered. The consultant is expected to propose a robust evaluation framework in the Inception Report, but the following provides the minimum expected methodological standards.

5.1. Primary Data Collection

5.1.1 Sampling

The agency shall develop a detailed sampling framework for conduct of the primary assessment across all relevant respondent categories. The sampling strategy shall include:

- Comprehensive coverage of approved beneficiary firms under each of the categories and segments across both schemes, subject to operational feasibility
- Purposive selection of non-beneficiary comparator firms operating in similar, competing, or

adjacent product categories for comparative assessment

- Purposive inclusion of implementing authorities, verification agencies, disbursement agencies, and regulatory institutions in KIIs
- Purposive coverage of industry associations, supplier ecosystem participants, testing and certification bodies, technical experts, logistics/service ecosystem actors, and other relevant sector specialists
- Purposive selection of representative beneficiary firms for in-depth case studies

The agency should ensure that the sampling design provides adequate representation across product categories, scale of investment, stage of implementation, ownership profile, geography, and technology intensity so as to support comprehensive beneficiary-level and ecosystem-level analysis. The final respondent-wise sampling plan indicating respondent universe, proposed sample coverage, category-wise spread, and justification of sample selection shall be submitted at inception stage for approval of DMEO prior to commencement of field assessment.

The minimum respondent coverage expected under the primary assessment is indicated below. The agency may propose higher respondent coverage where analytically justified; however, any reduction below the prescribed minimum thresholds shall not be permissible without prior approval of DMEO.

Category	Segment	Beneficiaries	Non-Beneficiaries		
			Non-recipient beneficiaries	Rejected Applicants	Non-Applicants
Cat I	Processed F&V	11	2	2	2
	Marine Products	5	0	0	
	Mozzarella Cheese	2	1	1	
	RTC/RTE Foods	5	1	2	
Cat II	Organic	4	2	2	2
	Innovative	0	1	3	
Cat III	Branding & Marketing	9	4	2	2
Millet	Large Entities	4	1	0	2
	MSME	6	2	1	
Total		50	14	13	8

Given the relatively small universe in each category, the consultant should make every effort to maximise response rates and should clearly document non-response, refusals and substitutions in the methodology section of the report.

5.1.2 Analysis

Quantitative analysis shall employ descriptive statistics, scheme-wise trend analysis, cross-tabulations and where data permits, difference-in-differences or before-after comparisons to assess scheme impact. For PLISMBP specifically, the consultant shall propose a structured approach to attributing millet sales growth, recognising that the IYM 2023 effect and government millet procurement mandates constitute significant confounders. This may include a comparator analysis of millet-based product sales trends among non-PLISMBP entities, or use of aggregate market data. The consultant shall clearly document all analytical assumptions,

limitations of available data and confidence intervals where applicable.

The consultant shall analyse:

- Committed versus actual investment, base year sales and annual sales, incremental sales;
- domestic versus export sales, CAGR achievement;
- incentive claimed, approved and disbursed; rejected, delayed or deducted claims;
- employment generated; state-wise and segment-wise distribution; firm and group concentration;
- incentive-to-investment ratio; incentive-to-sales ratio; incentive-to-export ratio; cost per job generated.

Where data permits, the consultant may use before-after comparison, beneficiary versus non-beneficiary comparison, difference-in-differences, trend analysis and inflation-adjusted sales analysis. Qualitative data from KIIs and FGDs shall be analysed thematically, with emerging themes cross-validated across respondent categories. The consultant shall maintain an audit trail of qualitative evidence, including de-identified quotes (with respondent category and date) used to support findings.

5.1.3 Secondary Data Analysis

The consultant shall systematically compile and analyse all relevant secondary data sources, including:

- PLIS Portal records (application data, disbursement records, QRRs)
- FSSAI labelling compliance data relevant to millet content claims under PLISMBP
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)/ Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) export data for the relevant product segments
- MoFPI annual reports and press releases
- Parliamentary questions and responses pertaining to PLISFPI (Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha)
- National/state-level millet procurement data under government schemes (e.g., Mid-Day Meal millet inclusion, PM-POSHAN) as confounders for PLISMBP attribution
- Outcome Budget documents and Parliamentary Q&A on both schemes
- Any CAG or internal audit observations on PLISFPI/PLISMBP implementation
- Any other documents including monitoring/evaluation reports

5.2. List of Stakeholders to be consulted

An indicative list of stakeholders to be consulted are presented in the table below:

Scheme	Stakeholder	Mode of Survey
PLISFPI	Cat I, II and III beneficiaries	Structured Survey
PLISFPI	Non-beneficiaries/ Non Applicants	Structured Survey
PLISFPI	Contract manufacturers	Structured Survey
PLISMBP	Large Entity and MSME beneficiaries	Structured Survey
PLISMBP	Non-beneficiaries/ Non Applicants	Structured Survey
Both	Farmers/FPOs/Grain/Agri-commodity suppliers	FGD
Both	Worker and labour contractors	FGD

Both	NITI Aayog/ MoFPI (PLIS Division)/ State Govt officials	KII
Both	Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) officials	KII
Both	Industry Associations- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Millet network, APEDA, MPEDA etc	KII

The specific organisations and individuals within each category to be surveyed shall be identified in the Inception Report in consultation with DMEO.

For PLISMBP-specific field consultations with millet farmers and FPOs, the consultant should prioritise districts with highest PLISMBP beneficiary concentration and traditional millet-growing regions. The consultant must ensure that consultations with applicants maintain appropriate confidentiality. All stakeholder interactions must adhere to ethical research principles, including voluntary participation and informed consent.

6. Mechanism to ensure Data Quality

6.1. Secure Data Capture and Confidential Information Handling

The agency shall deploy appropriate secure digital systems and controlled data management protocols for collection, storage, transmission, access control, and processing of confidential commercial, financial, production, and investment-related information obtained from beneficiary firms, comparator firms, and institutional respondents. Adequate safeguards shall be maintained to ensure secure retention of firm-sensitive information, restricted access to respondent-identifiable records, encrypted digital transfer wherever required, and non-disclosure of commercially confidential data except in anonymized analytical form.

6.2. Primary Data Quality Assurance and Validation

The agency shall establish and operationalize a comprehensive internal quality assurance framework to ensure reliability, completeness, consistency, traceability, and auditability of all primary evidence generated during the study. The framework shall cover the full cycle of primary data collection, including investigator preparedness, piloting of tools, field deployment, live supervision, digital validation, respondent verification, documentary substantiation, administrative/public records, and final cleaning and auditability of datasets. The Consultant shall additionally submit, at inception stage, a detailed Data Quality Assurance and Risk Mitigation Plan indicating key field and analytical risks, supervision architecture, investigator accountability mechanisms, digital validation protocols, physical and telephonic back-check procedures, confidential information handling safeguards, and corrective action systems proposed for maintaining field data integrity throughout the assignment. For maintaining the accuracy, integrity, and credibility of field data, the following quality assurance provisions shall mandatorily be followed:

- i. **Field Team Competency, Screening and Deployment:** The field investigators engaged for conducting Surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), In-depth Interviews (IDIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), case studies, and other primary research activities shall have at least three (3) years of prior experience in conducting similar surveys/interviews. The consultant shall undertake a mandatory two-step training process comprising

structured classroom/in person training followed by on-field practical training for all investigators, moderators, supervisors, and data collection personnel. The consultant shall further establish adequate screening and assessment mechanisms to ensure that only those investigators who attain the required level of understanding of questionnaires, inquiry protocols, ethical standards, digital devices, and respondent handling procedures are deployed for the field study. An adequate number of trained surveyors, supervisors, moderators, note takers, and coordinators shall be deployed in each district/block/village/urban cluster in accordance with the sample spread and logistical requirements so as to ensure timely completion, sufficient supervision coverage, and uninterrupted field operations.

- ii. **Tool Piloting, Survey Design Standards and Version Control:** Prior to commencement of full-scale fieldwork, pilot exercises shall be conducted on at least two percent (2%) of the sample size across Surveys, KIIs, IDIs, and FGDs in order to fine tune the inquiry tools, digital forms, field protocols, and respondent engagement processes. Similar pilots shall also be conducted for an adequate number of case studies and qualitative interviews to test the robustness of discussion guides and documentation templates. A brief note on pilot learnings, identified implementation issues, and subsequent modifications made in questionnaires/instruments shall be submitted to DMEO before the launch of final fieldwork. All tools and instruments for data collection shall be developed using well-structured and clearly defined form design files with built-in validations, skip logics, coding protocols, and provisions for systematic updates. The consultant shall maintain documented version control of all revisions made to questionnaires, interview schedules, qualitative guides, and digital survey forms throughout the survey lifecycle.
- iii. **Data Collection Protocols, Digital Tracking and Field Documentation:** Use of mobile-based Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), near real-time geo-tagged, time-stamped, and digitally trackable data collection and validation systems shall be mandatory to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accuracy in field operations. DMEO shall be provided access to the data capture platform, backend systems, and incoming field data during the survey period. In case of KIIs, IDIs, and other institutional consultations, each interview shall be geo-tagged and GPS coordinates of the interview location shall be captured and submitted along with interview transcripts, interview notes, or documented summaries, as applicable. Photographs of the office/building clearly displaying the name of the Department, Agency, Institution, or Firm visited shall also be furnished wherever physical interviews are undertaken. The consulting firm may deploy additional digital or documentary methods for tracking successful completion of KIIs, IDIs, case studies, manufacturing facility visits, and other qualitative exercises. Telephonic interviews, virtual consultations, email confirmations, and other remote respondent interactions undertaken for verification, supplementary evidence generation, or respondent confirmation shall also be systematically documented and retained as part of the quality assurance trail. All data collection shall be undertaken in an ethical manner with due regard to respondent privacy, informed consent, confidentiality, and secure handling of commercially sensitive and respondent-level information.
- iv. **Data Quality Management, Supervision and Real-time Monitoring:** The consultant shall constitute a dedicated Data Quality Management (DQM) Team at the national level with active communication and coordination with field evaluation teams. The DQM Team shall review incoming field data on a daily basis, undertake high-frequency quality checks, monitor protocol compliance, identify anomalies or suspicious entries, and issue corrective instructions to field teams. Weekly quality progress reports shall be submitted

by the DQM Team to the Team Leader. The Team Leader shall retain overall responsibility for supervision of the DQM mechanism and shall present, on a weekly basis, the quality management tools applied, deviations observed, and corrective measures undertaken to the Project Director and Working Group at DMEO. Further, a real-time Data Quality Monitoring Dashboard shall be developed in consultation with DMEO to track field progress and quality indicators including, but not limited to, completion rates, non response rates, missing values, logic failures, location compliance, enumerator productivity, suspicious response patterns, respondent verification status, and other high-frequency quality checks. Any issues identified through the dashboard or supplementary quality reviews shall be immediately rectified during the active data collection process.

- v. **Data Validation, Verification and Corrective Recollection:** One hundred percent of the data collected shall be subjected to validation through pre-defined validation checklists, automated logic tests, documentary consistency checks, and completeness checks. Missing, inconsistent, incomplete, duplicate, or suspicious data points shall be flagged and recollected, revalidated, or corrected within the active fieldwork window. At least five percent (5%) of completed quantitative interviews shall be physically verified through independent supervisory visits. In addition, telephonic back-checks, respondent confirmation calls, and random spot validations shall be undertaken by the consultant across geography and respondent categories. Supervisors shall also undertake surprise checks of ongoing interviews and respondent confirmations from select KIIs/IDIs to validate authenticity of conduct. In case of FGDs and other group-based qualitative exercises, at least five percent (5%) back-checks shall be undertaken to verify conduct of discussion, participant attendance, and adequacy of documentation. Wherever manufacturing facility visits and beneficiary site assessments are undertaken, the consultant shall additionally validate self-reported beneficiary implementation status against observable physical evidence, documentary records available at site, and photographic verification logs. Data found to be of inadequate quality, unverifiable authenticity, insufficient completeness, or unsupported respondent traceability shall be recollected, corrected, or replaced, subject to approval of DMEO.
- vi. **Data Ownership, Auditability and Analytical Verifiability:** DMEO shall retain exclusive ownership of all raw data, metadata, transcripts, audio records (where permissible), photographs, geo-coordinates, field notes, validation logs, and supporting documentation generated under this assignment. The agency shall provide DMEO complete login credentials and unrestricted backend access to the digital platform(s) used for data capture and storage. The Consultant shall ensure that all final datasets are systematically cleaned, collated, coded, normalized, anonymized wherever required, and rendered fully auditable, and are supported by respondent verification trails, documentary substantiation, administrative record reconciliation, public disclosure triangulation, and digital tracking evidence so that every analytical conclusion emerging from the study remains transparent, replicable, and independently verifiable. All respondent verification records, telephonic confirmation sheets, geo-tagged evidence, interview transcripts, facility photographs, and validation audit trails shall be preserved in retrievable digital form and submitted to DMEO along with the final data repository.

7. Deliverables

Based on comments, observations and technical directions received from DMEO and other stakeholders on the Draft Evaluation Report, the Agency shall undertake all necessary revisions, evidentiary strengthening, restructuring of findings, analytical clarification and refinement of

recommendations before submission of the Final Evaluation Report.

The Agency shall remain responsible for iterative revision and resubmission of draft outputs until the Final Evaluation Report is accepted by DMEQ as meeting the prescribed quality standards.

The selected Consultant shall submit the following key deliverables during the course of the assignment:

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
1.	Inception Report and Presentation	• Introduction and background of the study • Objectives of the study • Approach and methodology • Literature review and preliminary findings • List of stakeholders and insights from preliminary stakeholder consultations • Sampling plan including sample coverage • Pilot plan • Analysis framework and plan (Mapping of objectives with data points and potential data sources, etc.) • Deliverables and timeline of the study (Weekly Gantt Chart) • Survey Team structure • Training plan for the survey team · Field movement plan (Indicative) · Quality control mechanism · Perceived risks/ limitations and mitigation plan · Research tools/instruments/ software- Qualitative and Quantitative · Questionnaires, discussion guides, etc. · Details of CAPI questionnaire development · Data/ information analysis software for both quantitative and qualitative research · Detailed report structure The inception report should not be lengthy.
2.	Mid-term report and presentation (to be submitted as per the timeline and covering a minimum of 40% of the sample)	• Study progress details including training and pilot summaries • Summary on data collected so far including methods used • Challenges faced and mitigation measures • Preliminary findings and key observations • Revised work plan, if applicable • Measures adopted for ensuring data quality including data verification, data validation, back checks, surprise inspections and use of CAPI and tracking systems.

S. No.	Deliverables	Broad Topics (Indicative)
		The mid-term report is a progress report and should not repeat the content of the inception report.
3	Submission of Raw and Cleaned Data Repository	- Validated raw datasets - Cleaned and coded datasets, codebooks and data dictionaries - Respondent verification logs and interview transcripts - Geo-tagged evidence, facility photographs and all associated primary documentation in editable digital form.
4.	Draft evaluation report and presentation for stakeholder consultation	Executive Summary (It should be crisp, direct and lucidly written with emphasis on appropriate sections such as Findings and Recommendations. Findings should be elaborated with key statistics and the recommendations should follow the findings. Length of the Executive Summary should ideally be 5 pages.
5.	Final evaluation report and presentation after incorporation of inputs from all concerned stakeholders	- Sector and scheme Overview (synthesis of the findings from the meta-analysis and the field study as well as the granular scheme level analysis.) - Study Objectives - Study Approach & Methodology (Brief discussion in the main report. The details would go in the appendix) - Secondary data analysis - Primary data analysis - Discussion on findings & Recommendations (insights and comparisons including case studies) - References & Appendices Final revised report after incorporation of comments/suggestions of DMEO and concerned Ministries/Departments to be submitted along with the final cleaned analytical repository, presentations and all supporting annexures/documentation. The final report should be concise, coherent and well-structured, with specific emphasis on clarity of language and brevity. Proofreading of the manuscript shall be compulsory.
6.	Presentations and sub-reports on primary data collection, data quality check, secondary research, best practices compendia, policy briefs (10–15 pages) and thematic notes as and when requested by DMEO	

All reports shall be submitted in hard copy (10 nos.) and soft copy along with editable digital versions of all supporting datasets, analytical tables and annexures.

8. Timelines

The duration of the evaluation study shall be **three (3) months** from the date of award/acceptance of the Letter of Award.

S. No.	Activity	Deadlines
1	Award of Contract	T (Date of Contract Signing)
2	Inception Report	T+10 days
3	Finalization of Inception Report based on comments from DMEQ	T+15 days
4	Finalization and Piloting of Questionnaire	T+25 days
5	Pilot Study Report	T+27 days
6	Finalization of Pilot Study Report based on comments from DMEQ (The report should contain finalized tools to be used in the survey)	T+30 days
7	Start of Fieldwork	T+35 days
8	Mid-Term Report (covering a minimum of 40% of the sample)	T+50 days
9	Completion of Fieldwork	T+65 days
10	Review of Data Quality and Clearance by DMEQ	T+70 days
11	Submission of Draft Report	T+80 days
12	Finalization of Report Comments to be provided by DMEQ & Ministry within 7 days of submission of draft report	T+87 days
13	Approval of Final Reports and presentations	T+90 days

Review of submitted reports by DMEQ shall not be treated as a pause in assignment execution. The consultant shall continue parallel permissible work during review periods.

9. Indicative Report Structure

The Final Evaluation Report shall be concise, evidence-based and policy-oriented and shall broadly contain the following chapters:

1. Preface
2. Executive Summary
3. Sector Overview
4. Scheme Overview
 - 4.1. Brief background
 - 4.2. Scheme Objectives
 - 4.3. Implementation mechanisms
 - 4.4. Nature of evaluation studies and their key findings - Gaps therein
5. Study Objectives
6. Study Approach & Methodology (Brief discussion in the main report. The details will go in the appendix)
 - 6.1. Overall approach
 - 6.2. Field Study methodology
 - I. Qualitative
 - A. Stakeholder & geographical coverage
 - B. Tools
 - II. Quantitative
 - A. Sampling - Geographical coverage & respondent profile
 - B. Sample size
 - C. Sample selection
 - D. Tools

7. Evaluation Findings
8. Observations & Recommendations
 - I. Scheme performance - Outputs & Outcomes
 - II. Key issues/challenges & their root causes
 - III. Key recommendations/Way Forward -:
 - A. Governance
 - B. Fund Flow efficiency & Utilization
 - C. M&E systems
 - D. Any other relevant aspect
 - IV. Interventions in Cross-sectional areas –
 - A. Accountability & Transparency
 - B. Use of IT/Technology in driving efficiency
 - C. MSME and contract manufacturing linkages
 - D. Any other relevant cross-sectional area
 - V. Need for modifications/deletions/additions to fill-in gaps
9. Conclusions
 - I. Summary of the findings
 - II. Way Forward
10. References & Appendices
 - I. Details of Key Informant Interviews and FGDs
 - II. Appendix 1a - List of stakeholders interviewed
 - III. Appendix 1b - Geography-wise sample Size covered
 - IV. List of beneficiaries interviewed

The Consultant shall submit a detailed chapterization and report structure in the Inception Report for approval of DMEO.

10. Reporting

The Consultant shall work in close coordination with DMEO throughout the assignment. DMEO shall designate a Project Director/Project Coordinator and may constitute a Working Group for review, supervision and technical guidance.

The Consultant shall make formal presentations on the Inception Report, Mid-Term Progress Report, Draft Evaluation Report and any other thematic note/report as may be required by DMEO.

The Consultant shall submit weekly written progress updates to DMEO indicating, inter alia, work completed during the week, evidence generated, sample progress, field movement status, data reviewed, concerns regarding access to respondents or records, methodological issues requiring clarification, risks encountered, mitigation measures undertaken and activities proposed during the following week.

The Consultant shall maintain regular communication with DMEO through email, teleconference, video conference and physical meetings, as required and shall immediately flag any issue requiring administrative facilitation, access support, or technical guidance through written issue notes.

Review of submitted reports by DMEO shall not be treated as a pause in assignment execution and the Consultant shall continue with all parallel permissible tasks during the review period unless specifically directed otherwise.

11. Meetings

DMEO may convene periodic review meetings, technical consultations, evidence validation sessions, inter-departmental discussions, or presentation meetings with the Consultant during the course of the assignment. Such meetings may be held physically at DMEO/NITI Aayog office or through virtual mode.

The Consultant shall ensure participation of the Team Leader and relevant domain experts in all such meetings and shall make available all necessary presentations, evidence notes, tabulations and clarifications required for meaningful review.

No separate TA/DA, sitting fee, or meeting-related reimbursement shall be payable by DMEO for attendance of the Consultant in any such review or presentation meeting.

12. Responsibilities

The following shall form integral cross-cutting responsibilities of the Consultant under this assignment:

DMEO / NITI Aayog

- DMEO shall provide overall guidance, approve the inception report, approve tools and sampling plan, review reports and facilitate coordination with MoFPI where required.

MoFPI/PMA

- MoFPI/PMA shall provide access to relevant administrative data, beneficiary lists, application records, approval letters, QRRs, investment data, sales/export data, claim/disbursement data, Branding and Marketing records, PLISMBP records, amendments and other relevant documents.

Consultant

- The Consultant shall remain solely responsible for ensuring completeness of evidence generation, adequacy of respondent coverage, methodological defensibility of the evaluation design, reliability of all primary and secondary evidence used and timely delivery of all approved outputs under the study.
- The Consultant shall ensure strict adherence to all approved ethical protocols, respondent confidentiality requirements, commercially sensitive information safeguards and secure handling of beneficiary-level, comparator-level and institutional data throughout the assignment period.
- The Consultant shall maintain full compliance with the approved Data Quality Assurance Framework, field validation standards, digital documentation requirements and audit trail preservation mechanisms prescribed under this Terms of Reference.
- The Consultant shall ensure that no stage of methodology finalisation, field deployment, analytical processing, or report drafting is undertaken in a manner inconsistent with observations, approvals, or directions issued by DMEO from time to time.
- Any requirement of supplementary evidence generation, respondent revalidation, additional field verification, clarification notes, analytical refinement, or supporting tabulations arising during DMEO review shall be complied with by the Consultant within the approved assignment scope without dilution of timelines or quality commitments.
- The Consultant shall maintain retrievable and well-organised digital records of all respondent confirmations, telephonic validations, virtual consultations, email communications, documentary submissions, geo-tagged field evidence, photographic records and other verification materials generated during the course of the study.
- The Consultant shall ensure that all personnel engaged under the assignment, including field investigators, analysts, domain experts and partner institutions, comply with the confidentiality, quality assurance and data security obligations binding upon the Consultant under this study.
- The Consultant shall be fully responsible for internal coordination across methodology teams, field teams, analytical teams, data processing units and reporting teams so as to

ensure consistency of evidence flow, analytical traceability and coherence across all final outputs submitted to DMEO.

- No commercially confidential firm-level information, identifiable respondent disclosure, or sensitive institutional input collected during the evaluation shall be disclosed in the public domain or used outside the scope of this assignment except with prior written approval of DMEO.
- Any additional clarification, explanatory note, technical annexure, methodological justification, or evidence substantiation sought by DMEO during the currency of the assignment or at final acceptance stage shall be furnished by the Consultant within stipulated timelines.

REFERENCE

Annexure A

PLISFPI Coverage of Food products under different food segment

Under the Scheme, the following four Segments of food products are covered:

1. Ready to Eat/ Ready to Cook (RTE/RTC)
2. Fruits and Vegetable Products
3. Marine Products
4. Mozzarella Cheese

Product Groups which would be covered under above 4 Segments are indicated in column 2 of the table below. Details of Food Products under each Product Groups are given in Column 3. Products which are not covered in column 3 are excluded from the scheme in addition to those which are indicated in column 4.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
S.No.	Product Group	Products Covered	Exclusion
RTE/RTC Segment			
1	Packaged Ready Meals, Soups and Ready Mixes, Other RTE/RTC Products	1. Ready Meals (Shelf stable, frozen, dried, chilled ready meals which do not require any cooking preparation other than heating) & Dinner mixes (in Ready-to-cook/prepare format); Diabetic Foods; Sausages, salamis, nuggets and other such preparation under heading 1601 & 1602 2. Soups & broth (shelf stable, dehydrated, instant, chilled and frozen soup) 3. Ready Mixes (Dessert Mixes, Batter Mixes, Thandai Mix) - All products under HSN 1601, 1602, 2104 are included - All products under HSN 2106* are included except Protein Concentrates, Soft Drinks, Pan masala, Betel nuts, Churna for Pan as given in column 4 *Applicable on Sl. No 1,2,3 of RTE/RTC Segment	Protein Concentrates, Soft Drinks, Pan masala, Betel nuts, Churna for Pan (21061000-40; 21069070)
2	Mixtures (Namkin, Bhujia), Puffed Snacks, Snack bars	1. Indian Savoury snacks -Mixtures (Namkin, Bhujia) including extruded snacks 2. Puffed Snacks: Processed/ reconstituted/ shaped cereals-based snacks 3. Snack Bars: Cereals and Non-Cereals Bar, Granola/muesli bars, breakfast bars, energy and nutrition bars, fruit bars and other snack bars (HSN 2106)	
3	Sweets	Packaged Traditional Indian Sweets (HSN 2106)	

4	Ice cream desserts, Ready to Drink Products	1. Ice Cream: Impulse Ice Cream, Take Home Ice-Cream, Frozen Dessert: Includes cakes, pies/tarts etc 2. Milk Based Beverages- Yoghurt, Buttermilk, Lassi etc. 3. Soya Milk - All products under HSN 2105 & 0403 are included - All products under HSN 2202 are included except Aerated Water, Lemonade, Non Alcoholic beer. Part of inclusion is covered under Fruits & Vegetables categories (as mentioned at Sl.No. 3 of fruits & vegetable segment)	Aerated Water, Lemonade, Non Alcoholic beer (HSN 22021010-9100; 22029990)
5	Bakery products - Biscuits, Packaged cakes	1. Sweet Biscuits: chocolate coated biscuits, cookies, filled biscuits, plain biscuits and wafers 2. Savoury Biscuits: Non-sweet biscuits and crackers often consumed with cheese and other savoury foods 3. Packaged Cakes: Chocolate cake, strawberry and other fruit flavoured cakes, fruit cake, carrot cake, cheesecake, muffins etc - All products under HSN 1905 are included except fresh/ leavened bread	1. Fresh/Leavened Bread (HSN 19051000)
6	Millet Based Products with millet content above specified %	Any food product having minimum millet % as prescribed by MOFPI- irrespective of products mentioned in exclusion in case of millet-based products, except flour/atta	Millet Flour
Fruits & Vegetables Segment			
1	Processed/ Preserved Fruits and Vegetables products	1. Processed/ Preserved Fruits and Vegetables products - Steamed, Boiled, Frozen, Dried, Pickled, Provisionally Preserved 2. RTC Potato/Vegetable Products 3. Potato- Flour, meal, powder, flakes, granules and pellets 4. Fruit Squash - All products under HSN 0710, 0711, 0712, 0811, 0812, 0813, 0814, 1105, 1106, 1903, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 are included - All products under HSN 0804, 2005, 2008 are included except fresh fruits and vegetables, potato chips and products predominantly made of nuts, dates & figs	1. Fresh fruits and vegetables 2. Potato chips (HSN 20052000) 3. Products predominantly made of nuts, dates, figs (HSN 8041010-90, 8042010-90, 8043000, 8044000, 8045010-20, 8045090, 20052000, 20081100-1930, 20081990)
2	Packaged	1. Packaged crushed or grounded dehydrated herbs	All raw/

	Mixed Spices, Mixed Condiments & Seasonings	and spices- (Spices notified by spice board) 2. Mixed Condiments & Seasoning (Dry/ Dehydrated Sauces, Dry Recipe Powder mixes, dry powder marinades 3. Oleoresins: All processed form of oleoresins - All products under HSN 0904, 0905, 0906, 0907, 0908, 0909, 0910 ,1301, 2103, 2906, 3003, 3301 are included except raw/ unprocessed forms of herbs and spices, different gums, lacs and other vegetables saps and extracts	Unprocessed forms of herbs and spices, different gums, lacs and other vegetables saps and extracts 1
3	Fruit Juice and Fruit based drinks Jam/ Jelly Tomato Ketchup, pastes, purees and all Sauces Coconut and other plant waters	1. 100% Fruit juice/pulp/paste- Not from concentrate 100% juice, reconstituted 100% juice and frozen 100% juice 2. Fruit based drink having fruit content => 10% Juice drinks made up of fresh juice or concentrate, having more than 10% fruit juice content; Packaged Coconut Water & other plant water 3. All fruits-based Jams/Jellies 4. Tomato- Ketchup, paste and puree 5. Packaged Sauces: Table sauces, pasta sauces, cooking sauces, dry sauces, ketchup, mustard, oyster sauces, salad dressings, dips and other sauces - All products under HSN 2002, 2007, 2009, 2103 are included. - All products under HSN 2202 are included except Aerated Water, Lemonade, Non Alcoholic beer.	Aerated Water, Lemonade, Non Alcoholic beer (HSN 22021010-9100; 22029990)
Marine Segment			
Marine Products with Normal Incentives			
1	Fish Crustacean/ Molluscs	1. Fish Chilled/ Frozen/ dried/ salted/ brined/ smoked 2. Fish Fillets & Meat -Fresh, Chilled & Frozen 3. Crustacean- Chilled, Frozen, Steamed, Boiled 4. Molluscs - Chilled, Frozen, Steamed, Boiled - All products under HSN 0302, 0303, 0304, 0305, 0306, 0307 are included. Some of the products of IQF & AFD are included for higher incentive and appear in Sl.No 3 & 4 below.	
Marine Products with higher Value-Added Incentive			
1	Value added marine products	Value added marine products: Canned, Battered & breaded, Pickles, Sausages - All products under HSN 1604 & 1605 are included	

2	IQF Value added Marine Products	1. IQF Shrimps: Stretched shrimp (Nobashi), butterfly/marinated shrimp, IQF Skewered shrimp, IQF Sushi shrimp 2. Blanched Squid pineapple cut, Cuttlefish Sushi, Tuna loins, Shashimi grade Tuna	
3	Freeze-Dried Value-Added Products	Accelerated Freeze Dried shrimp/ shrimp powder, Freeze dried Cephalopods	
Mozzarella Cheese Segment			
1	Mozzarella Cheese	Mozzarella Cheese in Bulk Packaging Mozzarella Cheese in Consumer Packaging - Only Mozzarella Cheese under 0406 is covered	All other cheese except mozzarella (HSN 04061000-4000)

Annexure B

PLISFPI Evaluation Criteria

Category-I Applicants: Selection of Applicants on Sales & Investment Criteria will be based on combined score as given below

S No.	Criteria	Weightage (%)
1	Total Sales (Domestic & Exports) in 2019-20 of food products listed in the Application for coverage under the scheme	33.3
2	Export Sales (of items covered at Sl No 1 above)	33.3
3	Committed Investment	33.3
	Total	100
The Applicant with highest Sales, exports and Committed Investment will receive 100 marks for each criterion. Other Applicants will be awarded marks in proportion to their Sales and Committed Investment vis a vis the Applicant with highest score.		

Category-II Applicants: Selection of Applicants of Innovative and Organic Products will be based on combined score as given below.

	Selection Criteria: Innovative Products	Weightage (%)
1.	Sale of Product sought to be promoted in 2019-20	25

2.	CAGR in Sale of Product/s sought to be promoted for 3 years (2016-17 to 2019-20)	15
3.	Investment made in the last 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)	10
4.	Availability of funds for investment in Production & Marketing (Own fund, Loan, tied up from Private equity, Venture Capital, Angel Investors)	10
5.	Assessment of Innovativeness/ novelty of products, patent on the product, USP, Recognition if any, Special Characteristics, Business plan, export potential, scalability, share of own manufacturing in total Sales	40
	Total	100
	Selection Criteria: Organic Products	Weightage (%)
1.	Sale of Product sought to be promoted in 2019-20	25
2.	CAGR in Sale Products to be promoted for 3 years (2016-17 to 2019-20)	15
3.	Investment made in the last 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)	15
4.	Availability of funds (tied up from Private equity, Venture Capital, Angel Investors) for investment in Production & Marketing.	15
5.	Assessment of the USP, level of product development, Business plan, export potential, scalability, share of own manufacturing of product in total Sales	30
	Total	100
The Applicants will be ranked based on aggregate score and number of Applicant selected will be based on allocation of outlay for the component.		

Category-III Applicants: Selection of Applicants will be based on Combined score as given below:

Bid Criteria: Branding			
	Criteria	Markets	Weightage (%)
1.	Sale* of Food Products of Brand/s sought to be promoted in 2019-20	Total	10
		Exports	10
2.		Total	5

	CAGR in Sale* of Products of Brand/s sought to be promoted for 3 years (2016-17 to 2019-20)	Exports	10
3.	Branding Expenditure 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20)	Domestic + Export	20
4.	Level of recognition of the Brand in India, level of value addition, Strategy and plan for production, Sales, exports and branding of products in domestic and export markets		45
	Total		
*Sale of own brand “branded food products” to the exclusion of unbranded food products.			
The Applicants will be ranked based on aggregate score and number of Applicant selected will be based on allocation of outlay for the component.			

Annexure C

PLISMBP: Indicative List of Eligible Millet Based Food Products and Evaluation Criteria

S.No	Product Category	Millet Based Products Covered
1	Breakfast Cereals & Bars	Muesli & breakfast cereals, puffs, flakes granola, breakfast protein bars
2	Bakery Products	Millet cookies, Cakes, Rusks
3	Snacks/RTC & RTE	Noodles, Pasta, chips & crisps, Bread, Papad, Khakhra, Ice creams, extruded snacks, sweet & savor snacks.
4	Mixes	Dosa, Idli, upma, Pongal & khichdi, Chakli mixes, soup.
5	RTD Beverages	Millet based Instant Drink Mix (Powdered/ liquid)

PLISMBP: Evaluation Criteria

Category of Applicant-Large Entity: The eligible applicants will be evaluated on the following parameters and criteria:					
Sl.No.	Parameters	Max. Marks	Criteria	Marks	Supporting Documents required to be submitted by the Applicant

1.	Average Domestic Sales of all Food Products in last 3 years (FY2018-19 to FY2020-21)	40	More than zero & up to ₹100 crore	10	Independent CA Certificate or Statutory Auditor Certificate as per the format given in Annexure 8
			More than ₹100 crore & up to ₹250 crore	20	
			More than ₹250 crore & up to ₹500 crore	30	
			More than ₹500 crore	40	
2.	Average of Export Sales of all Food Products in last 3 years (FY2018-19 to FY2020-21)	40	More than zero and upto ₹50 crore	10	
			More than ₹50 crore & upto ₹150 crore	20	
			More than ₹150 crore & up to ₹250 crore	30	
			More than ₹250 crore	40	
3.	Average Sale of eligible food products in last 3 years (FY2018-19 to FY2020-21)	20	More than zero & upto ₹10 Crore	10	

			More than ₹10 crore & up to ₹25 crore	15	
			More than ₹25 crore	20	
		100			

Category of Applicant-MSME: The eligible applicants will be evaluated on the following parameters and criteria:

Sl.No.	Parameters	Max. Marks	Criteria	Marks	Supporting Documents required to be submitted by the Applicant
1.	Domestic Sales of all Food Products in Base year FY2020-21	40	More than zero & up to ₹ 5 crore	10	Independent CA Certificate or Statutory Auditor Certificate as per the format given in Annexure 8
			More than ₹ 5 crore & up to ₹ 15 crore	20	
			More than ₹ 15 crore & up to ₹ 25 crore	30	
			More than ₹ 25 crore	40	
2.	Export Sales of all Food Products in Base Year FY2020-21	40	More than zero and upto ₹ 2 crore	10	

			More than ₹ 2 crore & up to ₹ 5 crore	20	
			More than ₹ 5 crore & up to ₹ 10 crore	30	
			More than ₹ 10 crore	40	
3.	Sales of eligible food products in Base year FY2020-21	20	More than zero and upto ₹ 1 crore	10	
			More than ₹ 1 crore & up to ₹ 3 crore	15	
			More than ₹ 3 crore	20	
		100			

Annexure D

Category wise Applicants and Beneficiaries

Category	Segment	Selected Applicants	Unique Beneficiaries
1	Processed F & V	25	19
	Marine Products	9	9
	Mozzarella Cheese	4	3
	RTC/ RTE Foods	12	10
2	Organic	13	8
	Innovative ¹²	2	0
3	Branding &Marketing	70	17
Millet	Large Entities	8	7
	MSME	21	11
Total		164	84

State-wise Investments in Category 1 (PLISFPI)

¹² No beneficiaries under the Innovative Product segment of Category II have received incentives to date.

Investment (In Crore)	State
1000+	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
600-1000	Madhya Pradesh, Bihar
300-600	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan
100-300	Keralam, Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana
0-100	Jharkhand, J&K, Assam

State-wise Applicants and Beneficiaries

S.No.	State	No. of Applicants	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	7
2.	Delhi	19	11
3.	Goa	1	0
4.	Gujarat	21	9
5.	Haryana	1	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
7.	Karnataka	8	4
8.	Kerala	8	2
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0
10.	Maharashtra	28	14
11.	Nagaland	1	0
12.	Punjab	1	1
13.	Rajasthan	3	1
14.	Tamil Nadu	7	2
15.	Telangana	8	4
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1
17.	Uttarakhand	1	0
18.	West Bengal	9	6
	Grand Total	129	64

Disbursal Year	Category	Segment	PLI Beneficiary #
2022-23	1	F&V	7

2022-23	1	Marine	8
2022-23	1	Moz Cheese	3
2022-23	1	RTE/RTC	8
2022-23	2	Organic	3
2023-24	1	F&V	23
2023-24	1	Marine	3
2023-24	1	Moz Cheese	2
2023-24	1	RTE/RTC	11
2023-24	1	Organic	5
2023-24	Millet	LE	2
2023-24		MSME	7
2024-25	1	F&V	5
2024-25	1	Marine	1
2024-25	1	Moz Cheese	-
2024-25	1	RTE/RTC	4
2024-25	2	Organic	1
2024-25	Millet	LE	4
2024-25	Millet	MSME	7
2025-26	1	F&V	15
2025-26	1	Marine	10
2025-26	1	Moz Cheese	4
2025-26	1	RTE/RTC	9
2025-26	2	Organic	5
2025-26	3	B&M	33
2025-26	Millet	LE	6
2025-26	Millet	MSME	6

Segment-wise State-wise Applicants

	No. of Applicants													
	Category 1				Category 2		Category 3					Millet		Total
State	F & V	Marine Products	Moz Cheese	RTE/RTC	Innovative	Organic	B & M	F & V	Marine Products	Moz Cheese	RTE/RTC	LE	MSME	
Andhra Pradesh		6							1				1	8
Delhi	4			2		2	8				2	1	2	21
Goa							1							1
Gujarat	2		1	2		1	16				1		4	27
Haryana	1													1
Himachal Pradesh						1							1	2
Karnata	2					2	4						1	9

ka														
Kerala	2	1			1		4		1					9
Madhya Pradesh				1									1	2
Maharashtra	10	1	3	3	1	3	5	4		2	1	2	4	39
Nagaland													1	1
New Delhi							2							2
Punjab												1		1
Rajasthan				1			2				1			4
Tamil Nadu	1					1	2	1					3	8
Telangana							5					2	2	9
Uttar Pradesh						2	1							3
Uttarakhand						1	1						1	3
West Bengal	3	1		3		1	3	1			1	2		15
Grand Total	25	9	4	12	2	14	54	6	2	2	6	8	21	165

Annexure E

Evaluation Matrix Format

Evaluation Objectives	Key Questions	Specific Sub-Question	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods	Methods for Data Analysis	Mapping of questions with the Evaluation Objectives (to be included after framing of the questionnaire)

Schedule 2: Form of Agreement

(See Clause 2.1.3)

AGREEMENT

FOR

EVALUATION STUDY OF PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

CONTENTS

1. General

- 1.1 Definitions and Interpretation
- 1.2 Relation between the Parties
- 1.3 Rights and Obligations
- 1.4 Governing law and jurisdiction
- 1.5 Language
- 1.6 Table of contents and headings
- 1.7 Notices
- 1.8 Location
- 1.9 Authority of Member-in-Charge
- 1.10 Authorised representatives
- 1.11 Taxes and duties
- 1.12 Communications

2. Commencement, Completion and Termination of Agreement

- 2.1 Effectiveness of Agreement
- 2.2 Commencement of Services
- 2.3 Termination of Agreement for failure to commence Services
- 2.4 Expiry of Agreement
- 2.5 Entire Agreement
- 2.6 Modification of Agreement
- 2.7 Force Majeure
- 2.8 Suspension of Agreement
- 2.9 Termination of Agreement

3. Obligations of the Consultant

- 3.1 General
- 3.2 Conflict of Interest
- 3.3 Confidentiality
- 3.4 Liability of the Consultant
- 3.5 Insurance to be taken out by the Consultant
- 3.6 Accounting, inspection and auditing
- 3.7 Consultant's actions requiring the Authority's prior approval
- 3.8 Reporting obligations
- 3.9 Documents prepared by the Consultant to be the property of the Authority
- 3.10 Providing access to the Project Office and Personnel
- 3.11 Accuracy of Documents

4. Consultant's Personnel

- 1.1 General
- 1.2 Deployment of Personnel
- 1.3 Approval of Personnel
- 1.4 Substitution of Key Personnel
- 1.5 Working hours, overtime, leave etc.
- 1.6 Team Leader and Project Manager

5. Obligations of the Authority

- 5.1 Assistance in clearances etc.
- 5.2 Access to land and property
- 5.3 Payment

6. Payment to the Consultant

- 6.1 Cost estimates and Agreement Value
- 6.2 Currency of payment
- 6.3 Mode of billing and payment

7. Liquidated damages and penalties

- 7.1 Performance Security
- 7.2 Liquidated Damages
- 7.3 Penalty for deficiency in Services

8. Fairness and Good Faith

- 8.1 Good Faith
- 8.2 Operation of the Agreement

9. Settlement of Disputes

- 9.1 Amicable settlement
- 9.2 Dispute resolution
- 9.3 Conciliation
- 9.4 Arbitration

ANNEXES

- Annex-1: Terms of Reference Annex-
- 2: Deployment of Personnel
- Annex-3: Estimate of Personnel Costs
- Annex-4: Cost of Services
- Annex-5: Payment Schedule

Annex-6: Bank Guarantee for Performance Security

AGREEMENT

Consultancy for Evaluation Study of

This AGREEMENT (hereinafter called the “Agreement”) is made on the day of the month of 20..., between, on the one hand, the President of India acting through Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (hereinafter called the “Authority” which expression shall include their respective successors and permitted assigns, unless the context otherwise requires) and, on the other hand, (hereinafter called the “Consultant” which expression shall include their respective successors and permitted assigns).
 WHEREAS

- (A) The Authority vide its Request for Proposal for conducting an Evaluation Study (hereinafter called the “Consultancy”) for the Evaluation Study of (hereinafter called the “Project”);
 - (B) the Consultant submitted its proposals for the aforesaid work, whereby the Consultant represented to the Authority that it had the required professional skills, and in the said proposals the Consultant also agreed to provide the Services to the Authority on the terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP and this Agreement; and
 - (C) the Authority, on acceptance of the aforesaid proposals of the Consultant, awarded the Consultancy to the Consultant vide its Letter of Award dated (the “LOA”); and
 - (D) in pursuance of the LOA, the parties have agreed to enter into this Agreement.
- NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1. General

1.1 Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1.1 The words and expressions beginning with capital letters and defined in this Agreement shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:
- a) “Agreement” means this Agreement, together with all the Annexes;
 - b) “Agreement Value” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 6.1.2](#);
 - c) “Applicable Laws” means the laws and any other instruments having the force of law in India as they may be issued and in force from time to time;
 - d) “Confidential Information” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 3.3](#);
 - e) “Conflict of Interest” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 3.2](#) read with the provisions of RFP;
 - f) “Dispute” shall have the meaning set forth in [Clause 9.2.1](#);
 - g) “Effective Date” means the date on which this Agreement comes into force and effect pursuant to [Clause 2.1](#);
 - h) “Government” means the Government of.....;
 - i) “INR, ₹ or Rs.” means Indian Rupees;
 - j) “Member”, in case the Consultant consists of a joint venture or consortium of more than one entity, means any of these entities, and “Members” means all of these entities;
 - k) “Party” means the Authority or the Consultant, as the case may be, and Parties means

both of them;

- l) “Personnel” means persons hired by the Consultant as employees and assigned to the performance of the Services or any part thereof;
- m) “RFP” means the Request for Proposal document in response to which the Consultant’s proposal for providing Services was accepted;
- n) “Services” means the work to be performed by the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement, as described in the Terms of Reference hereto;
- o) “Third Party” means any person or entity other than the Government, the Authority, the Consultant.

All terms and words not defined herein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning assigned to them in the RFP.

- 1.1.2 The following documents along with all addenda issued thereto shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as integral parts of this Agreement and in case of any contradiction between or among them the priority in which a document would prevail over another would be as laid down below beginning from the highest priority to the lowest priority:

- a) Agreement;
- b) Annexes of Agreement;
- c) RFP; and
- d) Letter of Award.

1.2 Relation between the Parties

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as establishing a relation of master and servant or of agent and principal as between the Authority and the Consultant. The Consultant shall, subject to this Agreement, have complete charge of Personnel performing the Services and shall be fully responsible for the Services performed by them or on their behalf hereunder.

1.3 Rights and obligations

The mutual rights and obligations of the Authority and the Consultant shall be as set forth in the Agreement, in particular:

- (a) the Consultant shall carry out the Services in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement; and
- (b) the Authority shall make payments to the Consultant in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

1.4 Governing law and jurisdiction

This Agreement, its meaning and interpretation, and the relation between the parties shall be governed by the Laws of India for the time being in force. Irrespective of the place of delivery, the place of performance or the place of payments under the agreement, the agreement shall be deemed to have been made at the place from which the Letter of Award (LoA or Agreement, in absence of LoA) has been issued. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, the courts of such a place shall alone have jurisdiction to decide any dispute arising out or in respect of the agreement.

1.5 Language

All notices required to be given by one Party to the other Party and all other communications, documentation and proceedings which are in any way relevant to this Agreement shall be in writing and in English language.

1.6 Table of contents and headings

The table of contents, headings or sub-headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not be used in, and shall not affect, the construction or interpretation of this Agreement.

1.7 Notices

Any notice or other communication to be given by any Party to the other Party under or in connection with the matters contemplated by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall:

- a) in the case of the Consultant, be given by e-mail and by letter delivered by hand to the address given and marked for attention of the Consultant's Representative set out below in [Clause 1.10](#) or to such other person as the Consultant may from time to time designate by notice to the Authority; provided that notices or other communications to be given to an address outside the city specified in Sub-clause (b) below may, if they are subsequently confirmed by sending a copy thereof by registered acknowledgement due, air mail or by courier, be sent by e-mail to the number as the Consultant may from time to time specify by notice to the Authority;
- b) in the case of the Authority, be given by e-mail and by letter delivered by hand and be addressed to the Authority with a copy delivered to the Authority Representative set out below in [Clause 1.10](#) or to such other person as the Authority may from time to time designate by notice to the Consultant; provided that if the Consultant does not have an office in the same city as the Authority's office, it may send such notice by e-mail and by registered acknowledgement due, air mail or by courier; and
- c) any notice or communication by a Party to the other Party, given in accordance herewith, shall be deemed to have been delivered when in the normal course of post it ought to have been delivered and in all other cases, it shall be deemed to have been delivered on the actual date and time of delivery; provided that in the case of e-mail, it shall be deemed to have been delivered on the working days following the date of its delivery.

1.8 Location

The Services shall be performed at the site of the Project in accordance with the provisions of RFP and at such locations as are incidental thereto, including the offices of the Consultant.

1.9 Authority of Member-in-charge

In case the Consultant consists of a consortium of more than one entity, the Parties agree that the Lead Member shall act on behalf of the Members in exercising all the Consultant's rights and obligations towards the Authority under this Agreement, including without limitation the receiving of instructions and payments from the Authority.

1.10 Authorised Representatives

- 1.1.3 Any action required or permitted to be taken, and any document required or permitted to be executed, under this Agreement by the Authority or the Consultant, as the case may be, may be taken or executed by the officials specified in this [Clause 1.10](#). The Authority may, from time to time, designate one of its officials as the Authority Representative. Unless otherwise notified, the Authority Representative shall be:

.....

.....

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

- 1.1.4 The Consultant may designate one of its employees as Consultant's Representative. Unless otherwise notified, the Consultant's Representative shall be:

.....

.....

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

1.11 Taxes and duties

Unless otherwise specified in the Agreement, the Consultant shall pay all such taxes, duties, fees and other impositions as may be levied under the Applicable Laws and the Authority shall perform such duties in regard to the deduction of such taxes as may be lawfully imposed on it.

1.12 Communications

All communications under the agreement shall be served by the parties to each other in writing, in the agreement's language, and served in a manner customary and acceptable in business and commercial transactions. The effective date of such communications shall be either the date when delivered to the recipient or the effective date mentioned explicitly in the communication, whichever is later. No communication shall amount to an amendment of the terms and conditions of the agreement, except a formal letter of amendment of the agreement expressly so designated.

2. Commencement, Completion and Termination of Agreement

2.1 Effectiveness of Agreement

This Agreement shall come into force and effect on the date of this Agreement (the "Effective Date").

2.2 Commencement of Services

The Consultant shall commence the Services within a period of 7 (seven) days from the Effective Date, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

2.3 Termination of Agreement for failure to commence Services

If the Consultant does not commence the Services within the period specified in [Clause 2.2](#) above, the Authority may, by not less than 2 (two) weeks' notice to the Consultant, declare this Agreement to be null and void, and in the event of such a declaration, the Authority reserves the right to take action as per the Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration Form.

2.4 Expiry of Agreement

Unless terminated earlier according to [Clauses 2.3](#) or [2.9](#), this Agreement will expire under two conditions (i) 90 (ninety) days after delivering the final report (refer to [Clause 6.3](#) (d) of the Terms of reference) to the Authority. or (ii) three years from the effective date, whichever occurs first, unless extended by mutual consent of the parties.

2.5 Entire Agreement

- 2.5.1 This Agreement and the Annexes together constitute a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the agreement between the Parties on the subject hereof,

and no amendment or modification hereto shall be valid and effective unless such modification or amendment is agreed to in writing by the Parties and duly executed by persons especially empowered in this behalf by the respective Parties. All prior written or oral understandings, offers or other communications of every kind pertaining to this Agreement are abrogated and withdrawn; provided, however, that the obligations of the Consultant arising out of the provisions of the RFP shall continue to subsist and shall be deemed to form part of this Agreement.

- 2.5.2 Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of [Clause 2.5.1](#), on matters not covered by this Agreement, the provisions of RFP shall apply.

2.6 Modification of Agreement

There shall be no modification in the terms and conditions of this Agreement unless the reasons are beyond the control of both parties i.e. the Applicant and the Authority. In no circumstances, the cost should be higher than the agreement cost due to modifications in the terms and conditions.

2.7 Force Majeure

2.7.1 Definition

- a) For the purposes of this Agreement, “Force Majeure” means an event which is beyond the reasonable control of a Party, and which makes a Party’s performance of its obligations hereunder impossible or so impractical as reasonably to be considered impossible in the circumstances, and includes, but is not limited to, war, riots, civil disorder, earthquake, fire, explosion, storm, flood or other adverse weather conditions, strikes, lockouts or other industrial action (except where such strikes, lockouts or other industrial action are within the power of the Party invoking Force Majeure to prevent), confiscation or any other action by government agencies.
- b) Force Majeure shall not include (i) any event which is caused by the negligence or intentional action of a Party or such Party’s agents or employees, nor (ii) any event which a diligent Party could reasonably have been expected to both (A) take into account at the time of the conclusion of this Agreement, and (B) avoid or overcome in the carrying out of its obligations hereunder.
- c) Force Majeure shall not include insufficiency of funds or failure to make any payment required hereunder.

2.7.2 No breach of Agreement

The failure of a Party to fulfill any of its obligations hereunder shall not be considered to be a breach of, or default under, this Agreement insofar as such inability arises from an event of Force Majeure, provided that the Party affected by such an event has taken all reasonable precautions, due care and reasonable alternative measures, all with the objective of carrying out the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2.7.3 Measures to be taken

- a) A Party affected by an event of Force Majeure shall take all reasonable measures to remove such Party’s inability to fulfill its obligations hereunder with a minimum of delay.
- b) A Party affected by an event of Force Majeure shall notify the other Party of such event as soon as possible, and in any event not later than 14 (fourteen) days following the occurrence of such event, providing evidence of the nature and cause of such event, and shall similarly give notice of the restoration of normal conditions as soon as possible.
- c) The Parties shall take all reasonable measures to minimise the consequences of any event of Force Majeure.

2.7.4 Extension of time

Any period within which a Party shall, pursuant to this Agreement, complete any action

or task, shall be extended for a period equal to the time during which such Party was unable to perform such action as a result of Force Majeure.

2.7.5 Consultation

Not later than 30 (thirty) days after the Consultant has, as the result of an event of Force Majeure, become unable to perform a material portion of the Services, the Parties shall consult with each other with a view to agreeing on appropriate measures to be taken in the circumstances.

2.8 Suspension of Agreement

The Authority may, by written notice of suspension to the Consultant, suspend all payments to the Consultant hereunder if the Consultant shall be in breach of this Agreement or shall fail to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement, including the carrying out of the Services; provided that such notice of suspension

(i) shall specify the nature of the breach or failure, and (ii) shall provide an opportunity to the Consultant to remedy such breach or failure within a period not exceeding 21 (twenty one) days after receipt by the Consultant of such notice of suspension.

2.9 Termination of Agreement

2.9.1 By the Authority

The Authority may, by not less than 21 (twenty) days' written notice of termination to the Consultant, such notice to be given after the occurrence of any of the events specified in this Clause 2.9.1, terminate this Agreement if:

- a) the Consultant fails to remedy any breach hereof or any failure in the performance of its obligations hereunder, as specified in a notice of suspension pursuant to [Clause 2.8](#) hereinabove, within 21 (twenty-one) days of receipt of such notice of suspension or within such further period as the Authority may have subsequently granted in writing;
- b) the Consultant becomes insolvent or bankrupt or enters into any agreement with its creditors for relief of debt or take advantage of any law for the benefit of debtors or goes into liquidation or receivership whether compulsory or voluntary;
- c) the Consultant fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration proceedings pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof;
- d) the Consultant submits to the Authority a statement which has a material effect on the rights, obligations or interests of the Authority and which the Consultant knows to be false;
- e) any document, information, data or statement submitted by the Consultant in its Proposals, based on which the Consultant was considered eligible or successful, is found to be false, incorrect or misleading;
- f) as the result of Force Majeure, the Consultant is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than 60 (sixty) days; or
- g) the Authority, in its sole discretion and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate this Agreement.

2.9.2 By the Consultant

The Consultant may, by not less than 30 (thirty) days' written notice to the Authority, such notice to be given after the occurrence of any of the events specified in this Clause 2.9.2, terminate this Agreement if:

the Authority fails to pay any money due to the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement and not subject to dispute pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof within 45 (forty-five) days after receiving written notice from the Consultant that such payment is overdue; the Authority is in material breach of its obligations pursuant to this Agreement and has

not remedied the same within 45 (forty-five) days (or such longer period as the Consultant may have subsequently granted in writing) following the receipt by the Authority of the Consultant's notice specifying such breach;
as the result of Force Majeure, the Consultant is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than 60 (sixty) days; or
the Authority fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof.

2.9.3 Cessation of rights and obligations

Upon termination of this Agreement pursuant to [Clauses 2.3](#) or [2.9](#) hereof, or upon expiration of this Agreement pursuant to [Clause 2.4](#) hereof, all rights and obligations of the Parties hereunder shall cease, except (i) such rights and obligations as may have accrued on the date of termination or expiration, or which expressly survive such Termination; (ii) the obligation of confidentiality set forth in [Clause 3.3](#) hereof; (iii) the Consultant's obligation to permit inspection, copying and auditing of such of its accounts and records set forth in [Clause 3.6](#), as relate to the Consultant's Services provided under this Agreement; and (iv) any right or remedy which a Party may have under this Agreement or the Applicable Law.

2.9.4 Cessation of Services

Upon termination of this Agreement by notice of either Party to the other pursuant to [Clauses 2.9.1](#) or [2.9.2](#) hereof, the Consultant shall, immediately upon dispatch or receipt of such notice, take all necessary steps to bring the Services to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and shall make every reasonable effort to keep expenditures for this purpose to a minimum. With respect to documents prepared by the Consultant they shall proceed as provided respectively by [Clauses 3.9](#) hereof.

2.9.5 Payment upon Termination

Upon termination of this Agreement pursuant to [Clauses 2.9.1](#) or [2.9.2](#) hereof, the Authority shall make the following payments to the Consultant (after offsetting against these payments any amount that may be due from the Consultant to the Authority):

- a) remuneration pursuant to [Clause 6](#) hereof for Services satisfactorily performed prior to the date of termination;
- b) reimbursable expenditures pursuant to [Clause 6](#) hereof for expenditures actually incurred prior to the date of termination; and
- c) except in the case of termination pursuant to sub-clauses (a) through (e) of [Clause 2.9.1](#) hereof, reimbursement of any reasonable cost incidental to the prompt and orderly termination of the Agreement including the cost of the return travel of the Consultant's personnel.

2.9.6 Disputes about Events of Termination

If either Party disputes whether an event specified in [Clause 2.9.1](#) or in [Clause 2.9.2](#) hereof has occurred, such Party may, within 30 (thirty) days after receipt of notice of termination from the other Party, refer the matter to arbitration pursuant to [Clause 9](#) hereof, and this Agreement shall not be terminated on account of such event except in accordance with the terms of any resulting arbitral award.

3. Obligations of the Consultant

3.1 General

3.1.1 Standards of Performance

The Consultant shall perform the Services and carry out its obligations hereunder with all due diligence, efficiency and economy, in accordance with generally accepted professional techniques and practices, and shall observe sound management practices,

and employ appropriate advanced technology and safe and effective equipment, machinery, materials and methods. The Consultant shall always act, in respect of any matter relating to this Agreement or to the Services, as a faithful adviser to the Authority, and shall at all times support and safeguard the Authority's legitimate interests in any dealings with Third Parties.

3.1.2 Terms of Reference

The scope of services to be performed by the Consultant is specified in the Terms of Reference (the "TOR") at [Annex-1](#) of this Agreement. The Consultant shall provide the Deliverables specified therein in conformity with the time schedule stated therein.

3.1.3 Applicable Laws

The Consultant shall perform the Services in accordance with the Applicable Laws and shall take all practicable steps to ensure that any Personnel and agents of the Consultant, comply with the Applicable Laws.

3.2 Conflict of Interest

3.2.1 The Consultant shall not have a Conflict of Interest and any breach hereof shall constitute a breach of the Agreement.

3.2.2 Consultant and Affiliates not to be otherwise interested in the Project

The Consultant agrees that, during the term of this Agreement and after its termination, the Consultant or any Associate thereof and any entity affiliated with the Consultant shall be disqualified from providing goods, works, services, loans or equity for any project resulting from or closely related to the Services and any breach of this obligation shall amount to a Conflict of Interest; provided that the restriction herein shall not apply after a period of one and a half years from the completion of this assignment or to consulting assignments granted by banks/ lenders at any time; provided further that this restriction shall not apply to consultancy/ advisory services provided to the Authority in continuation of this Consultancy or to any subsequent consultancy/ advisory services provided to the Authority in accordance with the rules of the Authority. For the avoidance of doubt, an entity affiliated with the Consultant shall include a partner in the Consultant's firm or a person who holds more than 5% (five per cent) of the subscribed and paid up share capital of the Consultant, as the case may be, and any Associate thereof.

3.2.3 Prohibition of conflicting activities

Neither the Consultant nor its Personnel of either of them shall engage, either directly or indirectly, in any of the following activities:

- a) during the term of this Agreement, any business or professional activities which would conflict with the activities assigned to them under this Agreement;
- b) after the termination of this Agreement, such other activities as may be specified in the Agreement; or
- c) at any time, such other activities as have been specified in the RFP as Conflict of Interest.

3.2.4 Consultant not to benefit from commissions, discounts, etc.

The remuneration of the Consultant pursuant to [Clause 6](#) hereof shall constitute the Consultant's sole remuneration in connection with this Agreement or the Services and the Consultant shall not accept for its own benefit any trade commission, discount or similar payment in connection with activities pursuant to this Agreement or to the Services or in the discharge of its obligations hereunder, and the Consultant shall use its best efforts to ensure that its Personnel and agents shall not receive any such additional remuneration.

- 3.2.5 The Consultant and its Personnel shall observe the highest standards of ethics and shall not have engaged in and shall not hereafter engage in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, anti-competitive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, the Authority shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement forthwith by a communication in writing to the Consultant, without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Consultant, if it determines that the Consultant has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in any Prohibited Practices in the Selection Process or before or after entering into of this Agreement. In such an event, the Authority shall forfeit and appropriate the performance security, if any, as mutually agreed genuine pre-estimated compensation and damages payable to the Authority towards, inter alia, the time, cost and effort of the Authority, without prejudice to the Authority's any other rights or remedy hereunder or in law.
- 3.2.6 Without prejudice to the rights of the Authority under [Clause 3.2.5](#) above and the other rights and remedies which the Authority may have under this Agreement, if the Consultant is found by the Authority to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any Prohibited Practices, during the Selection Process or before or after the execution of this Agreement, the Consultant shall not be eligible to participate in any tender or RFP issued during a period of 2 (two) years from the date the Consultant is found by the Authority to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any Prohibited Practices.
- 3.2.7 For the purposes of [Clauses 3.2.5](#) and [3.2.6](#), the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:
- a) "corrupt practice" means making an offer, solicitation or acceptance of a bribe, reward or gift or any material benefit in exchange for an unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or to otherwise influence the Procurement Process
 - b) "fraudulent practice" means any omission or misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefits may be obtained or an obligation avoided. Such practices include a false declaration or false information for participation in a Procurement Process or to secure a Contract, or in the execution of the agreement;
 - c) "coercive practice" means harming or threatening to harm persons or their property to influence their participation in the Procurement Process or affect the execution of the agreement
 - d) "Anti-competitive practice" means any collusion, Proposal-rigging or anti-competitive arrangement, or any other practice including cartels coming under the purview of the Competition Act, 2002, between two or more Applicants, with or without the knowledge of the Authority, that may impair the transparency, fairness, and the progress of the Procurement Process or to establish Proposal prices at artificial, non-competitive levels
 - e) "Conflict of interest" means participation by a bidding firm or any of its affiliates who are either involved in the Consultancy Contract to which this procurement is linked; if they are part of more than one Proposal in the procurement; or if their personnel have a relationship or financial or business transactions with any official of Authority who are directly or indirectly related to tender or execution process of contract; or improper use of information obtained by the (prospective) Applicant from the Authority with an intent to gain unfair advantage in the Procurement Process or for personal gain
 - f) "Obstructive practice" means materially impede Authority's investigation into allegations of one or more of the above-mentioned prohibited practices either by

deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering; or concealing evidence material to the investigation; or by making false statements to investigators and/ or by coercive practices mentioned above, to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or by impeding the Authority's rights of an audit or access to information.

3.3 Confidentiality

- 3.3.1 The Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them shall not, either during the term or within two years after the expiration or termination of this Agreement disclose any proprietary information, including information relating to reports, data, drawings, design software or other material, whether written or oral, in electronic or magnetic format, and the contents thereof; and any reports, digests or summaries created or derived from any of the foregoing that is provided by the Authority to the Consultant, and its Personnel; any information provided by or relating to the Authority, its technology, technical processes, business affairs or finances or any information relating to the Authority's employees, officers or other professionals or suppliers, customers, or contractors of the Authority; and any other information which the Consultant is under an obligation to keep confidential in relation to the Project, the Services or this Agreement ("Confidential Information"), without the prior written consent of the Authority. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, the Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them may disclose Confidential Information to the extent that such Confidential Information:
- a) was in the public domain prior to its delivery to the Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them or becomes a part of the public knowledge from a source other than the Consultant, its Sub-Consultants and the Personnel of either of them;
 - b) was obtained from a third party with no known duty to maintain its confidentiality;
 - c) is required to be disclosed by Applicable Laws or judicial or administrative or arbitral process or by any governmental instrumentalities, provided that for any such disclosure, the Consultant, and its Personnel of either of them shall give the Authority, prompt written notice, and use reasonable efforts to ensure that such disclosure is accorded confidential treatment; and
 - d) is provided to the professional advisers, agents, auditors or representatives of the Consultant or its Personnel of either of them, as is reasonable under the circumstances; provided, however, that the Consultant or its Personnel of either of them, as the case may be, shall require their professional advisers, agents, auditors or its representatives, to undertake in writing to keep such Confidential Information, confidential and shall use its best efforts to ensure compliance with such undertaking.

3.4 Liability of the Consultant

- 3.4.1 The Consultant's liability under this Agreement shall be determined by the Applicable Laws and the provisions hereof.
- 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 or likely to accrue due to deficiency in Services rendered by it.
- 3.4.3 The Parties hereto agree that in case of negligence or wilful misconduct on the part of the Consultant or on the part of any person or firm acting on behalf of the Consultant in carrying out the Services, the Consultant, with respect to damage caused to the Authority's property, shall not be liable to the Authority:

- a) for any indirect or consequential loss or damage; and
 - b) for any direct loss or damage that exceeds (a) the Agreement Value set forth in [Clause 6.1.2](#) of this Agreement, or (b) the proceeds the Consultant may be entitled to receive from any insurance maintained by the Consultant to cover such a liability in accordance with [Clause 3.5.1](#), whichever of (a) or (b) is higher.
- 3.4.4 This limitation of liability specified in [Clause 3.4.3](#) shall not affect the Consultant's liability, if any, for damage to Third Parties caused by the Consultant or any person or firm acting on behalf of the Consultant in carrying out the Services subject, however, to a limit equal to 3 (three) times the Agreement Value.

3.5 Insurance to be taken out by the Consultant

- 3.5.1 The Consultant shall, for the duration of this Agreement, take out and maintain, at its own cost, but on terms and conditions approved by the Authority, insurance against the risks, and for the coverages, as stipulated in the contract or any applicable law including Labour Codes; and at the Authority's request, shall provide evidence to the Authority showing that such insurance has been taken out and maintained and that the current premiums have been paid.

3.6 Accounting, inspection and auditing

The Consultant shall:

- a) keep accurate and systematic accounts and records in respect of the Services provided under this Agreement, in accordance with internationally accepted accounting principles and in such form and detail as will clearly identify all relevant time charges and cost, and the basis thereof (including the basis of the Consultant's costs and charges); and
- b) permit the Authority or its designated representative periodically, and up to one year from the expiration or termination of this Agreement, to inspect the same and make copies thereof as well as to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Authority.

3.7 Consultant's actions requiring the Authority's prior approval

The Consultant shall obtain the Authority's prior approval in writing before taking any of the following actions:

- a) appointing such members of the Professional Personnel as are not listed in [Annex-2](#).
- b) any other action that is specified in this Agreement.

3.8 Reporting obligations

The Consultant shall submit to the Authority the reports and documents specified in the Agreement, in the form, in the numbers and within the time periods set forth therein.

3.9 Documents prepared by the Consultant to be property of the Authority

- 3.9.1 All plans, drawings, specifications, designs, reports and other documents (collectively referred to as "Consultancy Documents") prepared by the Consultant (or by the Sub-Consultants or any Third Party) in performing the Services shall become and remain the property of the Authority, and all intellectual property rights in such Consultancy Documents shall vest with the Authority. Any Consultancy Document, of which the ownership or the intellectual property rights do not vest

with the Authority under law, shall automatically stand assigned to the Authority as and when such Consultancy Document is created and the Consultant agrees to execute all papers and to perform such other acts as the Authority may deem necessary to secure its rights herein assigned by the Consultant.

- 3.9.2 The Consultant shall, not later than termination or expiration of this Agreement, deliver all Consultancy Documents to the Authority, together with a detailed inventory thereof. The Consultant may retain a copy of such Consultancy Documents. The Consultant, or a Third Party shall not use these Consultancy Documents for purposes unrelated to this Agreement without the prior written approval of the Authority.
- 3.9.3 The Consultant shall hold the Authority harmless and indemnified for any losses, claims, damages, expenses (including all legal expenses), awards, penalties or injuries (collectively referred to as 'Claims') which may arise from or due to any unauthorised use of such Consultancy Documents, or due to any breach or failure on part of the Consultant or a Third Party to perform any of its duties or obligations in relation to securing the aforementioned rights of the Authority.

3.10 Providing access to Project Office and Personnel

The Consultant shall ensure that the Authority, and officials of the Authority having authority from the Authority, are provided unrestricted access to the Project Office and to all Personnel during office hour. The Authority's official, who has been authorised by the Authority in this behalf, shall have the right to inspect the Services in progress, interact with Personnel of the Consultant and verify the records relating to the Services for his satisfaction.

3.11 Accuracy of Documents

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 indemnify 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.

4. Consultant's Personnel

4.1 General

The Consultant shall employ and provide such qualified and experienced Personnel as may be required to carry out the Services.

4.2 Deployment of Personnel

- 4.1.1 The designations, names and the estimated periods of engagement in carrying out the Services by each of the Consultant's Personnel are described in [Annex-2](#) of this Agreement. The estimate of Personnel costs and person day rates are specified in [Annex-3](#) of this Agreement.
- 4.1.2 Adjustments with respect to the estimated periods of engagement of Personnel set forth in the aforementioned [Annex-3](#) may be made by the Consultant by written notice to the Authority, provided that: (i) such adjustments shall not alter the

originally estimated period of engagement of any individual by more than 20% (twenty per cent) or one week, whichever is greater, and (ii) the aggregate of such adjustments shall not cause payments under the Agreement to exceed the Agreement Value set forth in [Clause 6.1.2](#) of this Agreement. Any other adjustments shall only be made with the written approval of the Authority.

4.3 Approval of Personnel

- 4.3.1 The Professional Personnel listed in [Annex-2](#) of the Agreement are hereby approved by the Authority. No other Professional Personnel shall be engaged without prior approval of the Authority.
- 4.3.2 If the Consultant hereafter proposes to engage any person as Professional Personnel, it shall submit to the Authority its proposal along with a CV of such person in the form provided at [Appendix-I \(Form-6\)](#) of the RFP. The Authority may approve or reject such proposal within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt thereof. In case the proposal is rejected, the Consultant may propose an alternative person for the Authority's consideration. In the event the Authority does not reject a proposal within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of receipt thereof under this Clause 4.3, it shall be deemed to have been approved by the Authority.

4.4 Substitution of Key Personnel

The Authority will not normally consider any request of the Selected Applicant for substitution of Key Personnel as the ranking of the Applicant is based on the evaluation of Key Personnel and any change therein may upset the ranking. Substitution will, however, be considered only based on the Consultant's written request and due to compelling or unavoidable situations outside the reasonable control of the consultant, including but not limited to resignation, death or medical incapacity. The substitution shall be subject to the provision of equivalent or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. Such substitution shall be limited to not more than two Key Personnel subject to equally or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. As a condition to such substitution, a sum equal to 10% (ten per cent) of the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the payments due to the Consultant from the date of replacement till the completion of contract. In the case of a second substitution hereunder, such deduction shall be 20% (twenty per cent) of the remuneration specified for the original Key Personnel shall be deducted from the payments due to the Consultant from the date of replacement till the completion of contract. Any further substitution may lead to disqualification of the Applicant or termination of the Agreement

4.5 Working hours, overtime, leave, etc.

The Personnel shall not be entitled to be paid for overtime nor to take paid sick leave or vacation leave except as specified in the Agreement, and the Consultant's remuneration shall be deemed to cover these items. All leave to be allowed to the Personnel is excluded from the person days of service set forth in [Annex-2](#). Any taking of leave by any Personnel for a period exceeding 7 (seven) days shall be subject to the prior approval of the Authority, and the Consultant shall ensure that any absence on leave will not delay the progress and quality of the Services.

4.6 Team Leader and Project Manager

The person designated as the Team Leader of the Consultant's Personnel shall be responsible for the coordinated, timely and efficient functioning of the Personnel. In

addition, the Consultant shall designate a suitable person as Project Manager (the “Project Manager”) who shall be responsible for day to day performance of the Services.

5. Obligations of the Authority

5.1 Assistance in clearances etc.

Unless otherwise specified in the Agreement, the Authority shall make best efforts to ensure that the Government shall:

- a) provide the Consultant, its Personnel with work permits and such other documents as may be necessary to enable the Consultant, and its Personnel to perform the Services;
- b) facilitate prompt clearance through customs of any property required for the Services; and
- c) issue to officials, agents and representatives of the Government all such instructions as may be necessary or appropriate for the prompt and effective implementation of the Services.

5.2 Change in Applicable Law

If, after the date of this Agreement, there is any change in the Applicable Laws with respect to taxes and duties which increases or decreases the cost or reimbursable expenses incurred by the Consultant in performing the Services, by an amount exceeding 2% (two per cent) of the Agreement Value specified in [Clause 6.1.2](#), then the remuneration and reimbursable expenses otherwise payable to the Consultant under this Agreement shall be increased or decreased accordingly by agreement between the Parties hereto, and corresponding adjustments shall be made to the aforesaid Agreement Value.

5.3 Payment

In consideration of the Services performed by the Consultant under this Agreement, the Authority shall make to the Consultant such payments and in such manner as is provided in [Clause 6](#) of this Agreement.

6. Payment to the Consultant

6.1 Cost estimates and Agreement Value

- 6.1.1 An abstract of the cost of the Services payable to the Consultant is set forth in Annex-4 of the Agreement.
- 6.1.2 Except as may be otherwise agreed under [Clause 2.6](#), the payments under this Agreement shall not exceed the agreement value specified herein (the “Agreement Value”). The Parties agree that the Agreement Value is ₹ (Rupees.)

6.2 Currency of payment

All payments shall be made in Indian Rupees. The Consultant shall be free to convert Rupees into any foreign currency as per Applicable Laws.

6.3 Mode of billing and payment

Billing and payments in respect of the Services shall be made as follows:

- a) No mobilisation Advance shall be paid to the consultant. The payment shall be made as per the Annexure 5 Payment Schedule of the RFP.
- b) The Consultant shall be paid for its services as per the Payment Schedule at Annex-5 of this Agreement, subject to the Consultant fulfilling the following conditions:
- c) No payment shall be due for the next stage till the Consultant completes, to the

satisfaction of the Authority, the work pertaining to the preceding stage.

- d) The Authority shall pay to the Consultant, only the undisputed amount.
- e) The Authority shall cause the payment due to the Consultant to be made within 45 (forty-five) days after the receipt by the Authority of duly completed bills with necessary particulars (the “Due Date”).
- f) The final payment under this Clause shall be made only after the final report and a final statement, identified as such, shall have been submitted by the Consultant and approved as satisfactory by the Authority. The Services shall be deemed completed and finally accepted by the Authority and the final deliverable shall be deemed approved by the Authority as satisfactory upon expiry of 90 (ninety) days after receipt of the final deliverable by the Authority unless the Authority, within such 90 (ninety) day period, gives written notice to the Consultant specifying in detail, the deficiencies in the Services. The Consultant shall thereupon promptly make any necessary corrections and/or additions, and upon completion of such corrections or additions, the foregoing process shall be repeated. The Authority shall make the final payment upon acceptance or deemed acceptance of the final deliverable by the Authority.
- g) Any amount which the Authority has paid or caused to be paid in excess of the amounts actually payable in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement shall be reimbursed by the Consultant to the Authority within 30 (thirty) days after receipt by the Consultant of notice thereof. Any such claim by the Authority for reimbursement must be made within 1 (one) year after receipt by the Authority of a final report in accordance with Clause 6.3 (d). Any delay by the Consultant in reimbursement by the due date shall attract simple interest @ 10% (ten per cent) per annum.
- h) 30% (thirty per cent) of the Agreement Value has been earmarked as Final Payment to be made to the Consultant upon completion of Services. In the event of non-completion of Services within 2 (two) years of the Effective Date, the Final Payment shall not become due to the Consultant, save and except the costs incurred for meeting its reimbursable expenses during the period after expiry of 24 (twenty-four) months from the Effective Date, including travel costs and personnel costs, at the agreed rates.
- i) All payments under this Agreement shall be made to the account of the Consultant as may be notified to the Authority by the Consultant.

7. Liquidated Damages and Penalties

7.1 Performance Security

- 7.1.1 The Authority shall retain by way of performance security (the “Performance Security”), 3% (three per cent) of all the amounts due and payable to the Consultant, to be appropriated against breach of this Agreement or for recovery of liquidated damages as specified in [Clause 7.2](#). The balance remaining out of the Performance Security shall be returned to the Consultant at the end of 3 (three) months after the expiry of this Agreement pursuant to [Clause 2.4](#) hereof. For the avoidance of doubt, the parties hereto expressly agree that in addition to appropriation of the amounts withheld hereunder, in the event of any default requiring the appropriation of further amounts comprising the Performance Security, the Authority may make deductions from any subsequent payments due and payable to the Consultant hereunder, as if it is appropriating the Performance Security in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 7.1.2 The Consultant may, in lieu of retention of the amounts as referred to in Clause 7.1.1 above, furnish a Bank Guarantee substantially in the form specified at [Annex-6](#)

of this Agreement.

7.2 Liquidated Damages

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 consequential 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 10% (ten 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 10% (ten 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.

7.2.3 Encashment and appropriation of Performance Security

The Authority shall have the right to invoke and appropriate the proceeds of the Performance Security, in whole or in part, without notice to the Consultant in the event of breach of this Agreement or for recovery of liquidated damages specified in this Clause 7.2.

7.3 Penalty for deficiency in Services

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, other penal action including debarring for a specified period may also be initiated as per policy of the Authority.

8. Fairness and Good Faith

8.1 Good Faith

The Parties undertake to act in good faith with respect to each other's rights under this Agreement and to adopt all reasonable measures to ensure the realisation of the objectives of this Agreement.

8.2 Operation of the Agreement

The Parties recognise that it is impractical in this Agreement to provide for every contingency which may arise during the life of the Agreement, and the Parties hereby agree that it is their intention that this Agreement shall operate fairly as between them, and without detriment to the interest of either of them, and that, if during the term of this Agreement either Party believes that this Agreement is operating unfairly, the Parties will use their best efforts to agree on such action as may be necessary to remove the cause or causes of such unfairness, but failure to agree on any action pursuant to this Clause shall not give rise to a dispute subject to arbitration in accordance with Clause 9 hereof.

9. Settlement of Disputes

9.1 Amicable settlement

The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or the interpretation thereof.

9.2 Dispute resolution

- 9.2.1 Any dispute, difference or controversy of whatever nature howsoever arising under or out of or in relation to this Agreement (including its interpretation) between the Parties, and so notified in writing by either Party to the other Party (the “Dispute”) shall, in the first instance, be attempted to be resolved amicably in accordance with the conciliation procedure set forth in [Clause 9.3](#).
- 9.2.2 The Parties agree to use their best efforts for resolving all Disputes arising under or in respect of this Agreement promptly, equitably and in good faith, and further agree to provide each other with reasonable access during normal business hours to all non-privileged records, information and data pertaining to any Dispute.

9.3 Conciliation

In the event of any Dispute between the Parties, either Party may call upon CEO, NITI Aayog and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Consultant or a substitute thereof for amicable settlement, and upon such reference, the said persons shall meet no later than 10 (ten) days from the date of reference to discuss and attempt to amicably resolve the Dispute. If such meeting does not take place within the 10 (ten) day period or the Dispute is not amicably settled within 15 (fifteen) days of the meeting or the Dispute is not resolved as evidenced by the signing of written terms of settlement within 30 (thirty) days of the notice in writing referred to in [Clause 9.2.1](#) or such longer period as may be mutually agreed by the Parties, either Party may refer the Dispute to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of [Clause 9.4](#).

9.4 Arbitration

- 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 Rules of Arbitration of the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, New Delhi (the “Rules”), or such other rules as may be mutually agreed by the Parties, and shall be subject to 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, and in the event of disagreement between the two arbitrators, the appointment¹⁰¹³ shall be made in accordance with the Rules.
- 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 Consultant and the Authority agree that an Award may be enforced against the Consultant and/or the Authority, as the case may be, and their respective assets wherever situated.
- 9.4.5 This Agreement and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall remain in full force

¹³ Where the Agreement Value specified in Clause 6.1.2 of this Agreement is expected to be less than ₹ 2 crores, the provision for a sole arbitrator shall be retained and where the Agreement Value is likely to be more than ₹ 2 crores, the provision for a Board shall be retained.

and effect, pending the Award in any arbitration proceedings hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND
DELIVERED

For and on behalf
of
Consultant:

(Signature)
(Name)
(Designation)
(Address)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

For and on behalf
of
Authority

(Signature)
(Name)
(Designation)
(Address)

In the presence of:

1.

2.

Annex-1: Terms of Reference

*(Refer [Clause 3.1.2](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)
(Reproduce Schedule-1 of RFP)*

Annex-2: Deployment of Personnel

*(Refer [Clause 4.2](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)
(Reproduce as per Form-9 of Appendix-I)*

Annex-3: Estimate of Personnel Costs

*(Refer [Clause 4.2](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement)
(Reproduce as per Form-3 of Appendix-II)*

Annex-4: Cost of Services

(Refer [Clause 6.1](#) of Schedule 2 Form of Agreement))
(Reproduce as per Form-2 of Appendix-II)

Annex-5: Payment Schedule

The payment schedule linked to the specified deliverables above is given below:

Key Deliverable	Description	Payment
KD-1	Approval of Inception Report	20%
KD-2	Approval of Mid-Term Progress Report	20%
KD-3	Completion of field survey and approval of data repository	10%
KD-4	Approval of Draft Evaluation Report	30%
KD-5	Approval of Final Evaluation Report and all final supporting materials	20%
Total		100%

Annex-6: Bank Guarantee for Performance Security

(Refer [Clause 7.1.2](#) of Schedule 2)

To

[The President of India /Governor of.....] acting through

.....
.....
.....

In consideration of acting on behalf of the [President of India/Governor of] (hereinafter referred as the “Authority”, which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its successors, administrators and assigns) awarding to , having its office at (hereinafter referred as the “Consultant” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its successors, administrators, executors and assigns), vide the Authority’s Agreement no. dated valued at ₹ (Rupees), (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) the assignment for consultancy services in respect of the Project, and the Consultant having agreed to furnish a Bank Guarantee amounting to ₹ (Rupees) to the Authority for performance of the said Agreement.

We,.....(hereinafter referred to as the “Bank”) at the request of the Consultant do hereby undertake to pay to the Authority an amount not exceeding ₹ (Rupees) against any loss or damage caused to or suffered or would be caused to or suffered by the Authority by reason of any breach by the said Consultant of any of the terms or conditions contained in the said Agreement.

2. We, (indicate the name of the Bank) do hereby undertake to pay the amounts due and payable under this Guarantee without any demur, merely on a demand from the Authority stating that the amount/claimed is due by way of loss or damage caused to or would be caused to or suffered by the Authority by reason of breach by the said Consultant of any of the terms or conditions contained in the said Agreement or by reason of the Consultant’s failure to perform the said Agreement. Any such demand made on the bank shall be conclusive as regards the amount due and payable by the Bank under this Guarantee. However, our liability under this Guarantee shall be restricted to an amount not exceeding ₹ (Rupees).

3. We, (indicate the name of the Bank) do hereby undertake to pay to the Authority any money so demanded notwithstanding any dispute or disputes raised by the Consultant in any suit or proceeding pending before any court or tribunal relating thereto, our liability under this present being absolute and unequivocal. The payment so made by us under this bond shall be a valid discharge of our liability for payment thereunder and the Consultant shall have no claim against us for making such

payment.

4. We, (indicate the name of Bank) further agree that the Guarantee herein contained shall remain in full force and effect during the period that would be required for the performance of the said Agreement and that it shall continue to be enforceable till all the dues of the Authority under or by virtue of the said Agreement have been fully paid and its claims satisfied or discharged or till the Authority certifies that the terms and conditions of the said Agreement have been fully and properly carried out by the said Consultant and accordingly discharges this Guarantee. Unless a demand or claim under this Guarantee is made on us in writing on or before a period of one year from the date of this Guarantee, we shall be discharged from all liability under this Guarantee thereafter.

5. We, (indicate the name of Bank) further agree with the Authority that the Authority shall have the fullest liberty without our consent and without affecting in any manner our obligations hereunder to vary any of the terms and conditions of the said Agreement or to extend time of performance by the said Consultant from time to time or to postpone for any time or from time to time any of the powers exercisable by the Authority against the said Consultant and to forbear or enforce any of the terms and conditions relating to the said Agreement and we shall not be relieved from our liability by reason of any such variation, or extension being granted to the said Consultant or for any forbearance, act or omission on the part of the Authority or any indulgence by the Authority to the said Consultant or any such matter or thing whatsoever which under the law relating to sureties would, but for this provision, have the effect of so relieving us.

6. This Guarantee will not be discharged due to the change in the constitution of the Bank or the Consultant(s).

7. We,.....(indicate the name of Bank) lastly undertake not to revoke this Guarantee during its currency except with the previous consent of the Authority in writing.

8. For the avoidance of doubt, the Bank's liability under this Guarantee shall be restricted to ₹ crore (Rupees crore) only. The Bank shall be liable to pay the said amount or any part thereof only if the Authority serves a written claim on the Bank in accordance with Paragraph 2 hereof, on or before [..... (indicate the date falling 365 days after the date of this Guarantee)].

For

Name of Bank:

Seal of the Bank:

Dated, theday of, 20.....

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

NOTES:

- i. *The Bank Guarantee should contain the name, designation and code number of the officer(s) signing the Guarantee.*
- ii. *The address, telephone no. and other details of the Head Office of the Bank as well as of issuing Branch should be mentioned on the covering letter of issuing Branch.*

Schedule 3: Guidance Note on Conflict of Interest

(See Clause 1.5)

1. This Note further explains and illustrates the provisions of Clause 1.5 of the RFP and shall be read together therewith in dealing with specific cases.
2. Consultants should be deemed to be in a conflict of interest situation if it can be reasonably concluded that their position in a business or their personal interest could improperly influence their judgment in the exercise of their duties. The process for selection of consultants should avoid both actual and perceived conflict of interest.
3. Conflict of interest may arise between the Authority and a consultant or between consultants and present or future contractors. Some of the situations that would involve conflict of interest are identified below:
 - a) Authority and consultants:
 - i. Potential consultant should not be privy to information from the Authority which is not available to others;
 - ii. Potential consultant should not have defined the project when earlier working for the Authority;
 - iii. Potential consultant should not have recently worked for the Authority overseeing the project.
 - b) Consultants and contractors:
 - i. No consultant should have an ownership interest or a continuing business interest or an on-going relationship with a potential contractor save and except relationships restricted to project-specific and short-term assignments; or
 - ii. no consultant should be involved in owning or operating entities resulting from the project; or
 - iii. no consultant should bid for works arising from the project.
 - iv. The participation of companies that may be involved as investors or consumers and officials of the Authority who have current or recent connections to the companies involved, therefore, needs to be avoided.
4. The normal way to identify conflicts of interest is through self-declaration by consultants. Where a conflict exists, which has not been declared, competing companies are likely to bring this to the notice of the Authority. All conflicts must be declared as and when the consultants become aware of them. The principle of Uberrimae Fidei will be applicable to the voluntary disclosure of the applicant regarding conflict of interest which has to ensure the highest standard of good faith during the disclosure of all material facts that could influence the decision of the other party.

5. Another approach towards avoiding a conflict of interest is through the use of “Chinese walls” to avoid the flow of commercially sensitive information from one part of the consultant’s company to another. This could help overcome the problem of availability of limited numbers of experts for the project. However, in reality effective operation of “Chinese walls” may be a difficult proposition. As a general rule, larger companies will be more capable of adopting Chinese walls approach than smaller companies. Although, “Chinese walls” have been relatively common for many years, they are an increasingly discredited means of avoiding conflicts of interest and should be considered with caution. As a rule, “Chinese walls” should be considered as unacceptable and may be accepted only in exceptional cases upon full disclosure by a consultant coupled with provision of safeguards to the satisfaction of the Authority.
6. Another way to avoid conflicts of interest is through the appropriate grouping of tasks. For example, conflicts may arise if consultants drawing up the terms of reference or the proposed documentation are also eligible for the consequent assignment or project.
7. Another form of conflict of interest called “scope–creep” arises when consultants advocate either an unnecessary broadening of the terms of reference or make recommendations which are not in the best interests of the Authority but which will generate further work for the consultants. Some forms of contractual arrangements are more likely to lead to scope-creep. For example, lump-sum contracts provide fewer incentives for this, while time and material contracts provide built-in incentives for consultants to extend the length of their assignment.
8. Every project contains potential conflicts of interest. Consultants should not only avoid any conflict of interest but should also report any present/ potential conflict of interest to the Authority at the earliest. Officials of the Authority involved in development of a project shall be responsible for identifying and resolving any conflicts of interest. It should be ensured that safeguards are in place to preserve fair and open competition and measures should be taken to eliminate any conflict of interest arising at any stage in the process.
9. Without limiting the generality of the above and Section 1.5, an Applicant shall be deemed to have a Conflict of Interest affecting the Selection Process, if:
 - a) **Conflicting Associations:**
 - directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with another Applicant; or
 - receives or has received any direct or indirect subsidy/ financial stake from another Applicant; or
 - has the same correspondence address or same legal representative/ agent as another applicant for purposes of this proposal; or
 - has a relationship with another applicant, directly or through common third

parties, that puts it in a position to have access to information about or influence the Proposal of another applicant or influence the decisions of the Authority regarding this Procurement Process; or

- b) **Unfair Competitive Advantage and Conflicting Activities:** had (or any of its Affiliates) been engaged by the Authority to provide goods, works, or services for a project, shall be disqualified from providing consulting services resulting from or directly related to those goods, works, or services. Conversely, a firm (or any of its Affiliates) hired to provide consulting services for the preparation or implementation of a project shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods or works or services resulting from or directly related to the consulting services for such preparation or implementation or
- c) **Conflicting Assignments:** would (including its Experts or any of its Affiliates) be or are providing consultancy services in another assignment for the same or another Authority that, by its nature, may conflict with this assignment.
- d) **Commissions and Gratuities:** The Applicant shall disclose any commissions or fees that may have been paid or are to be paid to agents, representatives, or commission agents concerning the selection process or execution and performance of the resulting Contract. The information disclosed must include the name and address of the agent, representative, or commission agent, the amount and currency, and the purpose of the commission or fee.; or
- e) **Conflicting Relationships:** has close business/ family relationship with a staff of the Authority who are/ would be directly/ indirectly involved in any of the following activities:
 - Preparation of the RFP document or ToR of the procurement process
 - Evaluation of Proposals or Award of Contract, or
 - Implementation/supervision of the resulting contract
- f) For purposes of this RFP, Associate means, in relation to the Applicant, a person who controls, is controlled by, or is under the common control with such Applicant (the “Associate”). As used in this definition, the expression “control” means, with respect to a person which is a company or corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% (fifty per cent) of the voting shares of such person, and with respect to a person which is not a company or corporation, the power to direct the management and policies of such person by operation of law or by contract.
- g) Conflict of interest, for the process of determination, shall include presence of conflict, potential or actual, during one year preceding the last date of bid submission and shall include the factual conspectus related to the personnel specifically indicated as the lead professional of the project team termed as Team Lead/Principal Investigator.

Appendices

Appendix-I: Technical Proposal

(See Clause 1.2.2)

Form-1: Letter of Proposal

(On Applicant's letterhead)

(Date and Reference)

To,

.....

.....

.....

Subject: Consultancy Services for “Evaluation Study of
_____”

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to your RFP Document dated _____, I/ we, having examined all relevant documents and understood their contents, hereby submit our Proposal for selection as Consultant for the.....Project. The proposal is unconditional and unqualified.

1. All information provided in the Proposal and in the Appendices is true and correct and all documents accompanying such Proposal are true copies of their respective originals.
2. This statement is made for the express purpose of appointment as the Consultant for the aforesaid Project.
3. I/We shall make available to the Authority any additional information it may deem necessary or require for supplementing or authenticating the Proposal.
4. I/We acknowledge the right of the Authority to reject our application without assigning any reason or otherwise and hereby waive our right to challenge the same on any account whatsoever.
5. I/We certify that in the last three years, we or any of our Associates have neither failed to perform on any contract, as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant, nor been expelled from any project or contract by any public authority nor have had any contract terminated by any public authority for breach on our part.
6. I/We declare that:

- a) I/We have examined and have no reservations to the RFP Documents, including any Addendum issued by the Authority;
 - b) I/We do not have any Conflict of Interest in accordance with Clause 1.5 of the RFP Document;
 - c) I/We have not directly or indirectly or through an agent engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, anti-competitive practice, coercive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice, as defined in Clause 5.3 of the RFP document, in respect of any tender or request for proposal issued by or any agreement entered into with the Authority or any other public sector enterprise or any government, Central or State; and
 - d) I/ We hereby certify that we have taken steps to ensure that in conformity with the provisions of Section 5 of the RFP, no person acting for us or on our behalf will engage in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, anti-competitive practice, coercive practice, conflict of interest, obstructive practice.
7. I/We understand that you may cancel the Selection Process at any time and that you are neither bound to accept any Proposal that you may receive nor to select the Consultant, without incurring any liability to the Applicants in accordance with Clause 1.9 of the RFP document.
 8. I/We declare that we/any member of the consortium, are/is not a Member of a/any other Consortium applying for Selection as a Consultant.
 9. I/We certify that in regard to matters other than security and integrity of the country, we or any of our Associates have not been convicted by a Court of Law or indicted or adverse orders passed by a regulatory authority which would cast a doubt on our ability to undertake the Consultancy for the Project or which relates to a grave offence that outrages the moral sense of the community.
 10. I/We further certify that in regard to matters relating to security and integrity of the country, we have not been charge-sheeted by any agency of the Government or convicted by a Court of Law for any offence committed by us or by any of our Associates.
 11. I/We further certify that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending either against us or against our Associates or against our CEO or any of our Directors / Managers / employees.
 12. 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 Consultant or in connection with the Selection Process itself in respect of the above mentioned Project.
 13. The Bid Security or Bid Security Declaration Form is attached, in accordance with the RFP document.
 14. I/We agree and understand that the proposal is subject to the provisions of the RFP document. In no case, shall I/we have any claim or right of whatsoever nature if the Consultancy for the Project is not awarded to me/us or our proposal is not opened or rejected.

15. I/We agree to keep this offer valid for 90 (ninety) days from the Proposal Due Date specified in the RFP.
16. A Notarised Power of Attorney in favour of the authorized signatory to sign and submit this Proposal and documents is attached herewith in Appendix I Form-4.
17. In the event of my/our firm/ consortium being selected as the Consultant, I/we agree to enter into an agreement in accordance with the form at Schedule-2 of the RFP. We agree not to seek any changes in the aforesaid form and agree to abide by the same.
18. I/We have studied RFP and all other documents carefully. We understand that except to the extent as expressly set forth in the Agreement, we shall have no claim, right or title arising out of any documents or information provided to us by the Authority or in respect of any matter arising out of or concerning or relating to the Selection Process including the award of Consultancy.
19. The Financial Proposal is being submitted in a separate cover. This Technical Proposal read with the Financial Proposal shall constitute the Application which shall be binding on us.
20. I/We specifically undertake to abide by Clause 1.1 and Clause 1.2 of the RFP Document. Without any demur.
21. I/We agree and undertake to abide by all the terms and conditions of the RFP Document. In witness thereof, I/we submit this Proposal under and in accordance with the terms of the RFP Document.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)
(Name and seal of the Applicant / Lead Member)

APPENDIX-I

Form-2: Particulars of the Applicant

1.1	Title of Consultancy: Evaluation Study for Government Scheme/Program
1.2	Title of Project: Evaluation Study of _____
1.3	State whether applying as Sole Firm or Lead Member of a consortium:
1.4	State the following: i. Details of the Applicant Name of Company or Firm: Legal status (e.g. incorporated private company, unincorporated business, partnership etc.): Country of incorporation: Registered address: Year of Incorporation: Year of commencement of business: Principal place of business: Brief description of the Company including details of its main lines business ii. Details of the Authorized Representative of the Applicant Name: Designation: Company: Address: Phone No.:

	E-mail address:
1.5	If the Applicant is Lead Member of a consortium, state the following for each of the other Member Firms: (i) Name of Firm: (ii) Legal Status and country of incorporation (iii) Registered address and principal place of business.
1.6	For the Applicant, (in case of a consortium, for each Member), state the following information: (i) In case of non-Indian Firm, does the Firm have business presence in India? If so, provide the office address(es) in India. Yes/No (ii) Has the Applicant or any of the Members in case of a consortium been penalized by any organization for poor quality of work or breach of contract in the last five years? Yes/No (iii) Has the Applicant/ Member ever failed to complete any work awarded to it by any public authority/ entity in last five years? Yes/No (iv) Has the Applicant or any member of the consortium been blacklisted by any Government department/Public Sector Undertaking in the last five years? Yes/No (v) Has the Applicant or any of the Members, in case of a consortium, suffered bankruptcy/insolvency in the last five years? Yes/No Note: If answer to any of the questions at (ii) to (v) is yes, the Applicant is not eligible for this consultancy assignment.
1.7	(i) Does the Applicant's firm/company (or any member of the consortium) combine functions as a consultant or adviser along with the functions as a contractor and/or a manufacturer? Yes/No (ii) If yes, does the Applicant (and other Member of the Applicant's consortium) agree to limit the Applicant's role only to that of a consultant/ adviser to the Authority and to disqualify themselves, their Associates/ affiliates, subsidiaries and/or parent organization subsequently from work on this Project in any other capacity? Yes/No/Not Applicable

1.8	(i) Does the Applicant intend to borrow or hire temporarily, personnel from contractors, manufacturers or suppliers for performance of the Consulting Services? Yes/No
	(ii) If yes, does the Applicant agree that it will only be acceptable as Consultant, if those contractors, manufacturers and suppliers disqualify themselves from subsequent execution of work on this Project (including tendering relating to any goods or services for any other part of the Project) other than that of the Consultant? Yes/No/Not Applicable (iii) If yes, have any undertakings been obtained (and annexed) from such contractors, manufacturers, etc. that they agree to disqualify themselves from subsequent execution of work on this Project and they agree to limit their role to that of consultant/ adviser for the Authority only? Yes/No/Not Applicable It is certified that the aforesaid information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. (Signature, name and designation of the 121authorized signatory) For and on behalf of

Appendix-I

Form-3: Statement of Legal Capacity

(Applicable only in the case of a consortium, individual applicants are not required to fill out this form)

(On Applicant's letter head)

Date:, Reference

To,

.....

.....

.....

Dear Sir,

Sub: RFP for Evaluation Study of _____

I/We hereby confirm that we, the Applicant (along with other members in case of consortium, the constitution of which has been described in the Proposal[2]), satisfy the terms and conditions laid down in the RFP document.

I/We have agreed that (insert Applicant's name) will act as the Lead Member of our consortium.

I/We have agreed that (insert individual's name) will act as our Authorised Representative/ will act as the Authorised Representative of the consortium on our behalf and has been duly authorized to submit our Proposal. Further, the authorised signatory is vested with requisite powers to furnish such proposal and all other documents, information or communication and authenticate the same.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory) For

and on behalf of

Appendix-I

Form-4: Power of Attorney

(Refer to Clause 1.4.4 and Clause 1.12.3)

Know all men by these presents, we, (name of Firm and address of the registered office) do hereby constitute, nominate, appoint and authorise

Mr / Ms..... son/daughter/wife and presently residing at , who is presently employed with us and holding the position of as our true and lawful attorney (hereinafter referred to as the “**Authorised Representative**”) to do in our name and on our behalf, all such acts, deeds and things as are necessary or required in connection with or incidental to submission of our Proposal for and selection as the **Consultant for Evaluation Study of**

..... sector proposed to be developed by the (the “**Authority**”) including but not limited to signing and submission of all applications, proposals and other documents and writings, participating in pre-bid and other conferences and providing information/ responses to the Authority, representing us in all matters before the Authority, signing and execution of all contracts and undertakings consequent to acceptance of our proposal and generally dealing with the Authority in all matters in connection with or relating to or arising out of our Proposal for the said Project and/or upon award thereof to us till the entering into of the Agreement with the Authority.

AND, we do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts, deeds and things lawfully done or caused to be done by our said Authorised Representative pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred by this Power of Attorney and that all acts, deeds and things done by our said Authorised Representative in exercise of the powers hereby conferred shall and shall always be deemed to have been done by us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE, THE ABOVE-NAMED PRINCIPAL HAVE EXECUTED THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY ON THIS DAY OF, 20.....

For

(Signature, name, designation and address)

Witnesses:

1.

2.

Notarised

Accepted

.....

(Signature, name, designation and address of the Attorney)

Notes:

- *The mode of execution of the Power of Attorney should be in accordance with the procedure, if any, laid down by the applicable law and the charter documents of the executant(s) and when it is so required the same should be under common seal affixed in accordance with the required procedure. The Power of Attorney should be executed on a non-judicial stamp paper of ₹ 100 (hundred) and duly notarised by a notary public.*
- *Wherever required, the Applicant should submit for verification the extract of the charter documents and other documents such as a resolution/power of attorney in favour of the person executing this Power of Attorney for the delegation of power hereunder on behalf of the Applicant.*
- *For a Power of Attorney executed and issued overseas, the document will also have to be legalised by the Indian Embassy and notarised in the jurisdiction where the Power of Attorney is being issued. However, Applicants from countries that have signed the Hague Legislation Convention 1961 need not get their Power of Attorney legalised by the Indian Embassy if it carries a conforming Apostille certificate.*

Appendix-I

Form-5: Financial Capacity of the Applicant (Refer to Clause 1.4.2 (C))

S. No.	Financial Year	Annual Revenue (₹)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor^s

This is to certify that _____ (name of the Applicant) has the annual revenue shown above against the respective years.

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm Date:

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

^s In case the Applicant does not have a statutory auditor, it shall provide the certificate from its chartered accountant that ordinarily audits the annual accounts of the Applicant.

Note: Please do not attach any printed Annual Financial Statement. In case relevant extracts of duly audited Annual Financial Statements containing the requisite details are provided, duly countersigned by the authorised signatory, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary in respect of Clause 1.4.3.

[1]^s In case the Applicant is unable to provide the certification specified in Paragraph 12, it may precede the Paragraph by the words viz. —Except as specified in Schedule hereto. The exceptions to the certification or any disclosures relating thereto

may be clearly stated in a Schedule to be attached to the Application. The Authority will consider the contents of such Schedule and determine whether or not the exceptions/disclosures are material to the suitability of the Applicant for pre-qualification hereunder.

[2]^s Please strike out whichever is not applicable

Appendix-I

Form-5: Financial Capacity of the Applicant (Refer [Clause 1.4.2 \(C\)](#))

S. No.	Financial Year	Annual Revenue (₹)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor^{\$}

This is to certify that (name of the Applicant) has the annual revenue shown above against the respective years.

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm Date:

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

^{\$} In case the Applicant does not have a statutory auditor, it shall provide the certificate from its chartered accountant that ordinarily audits the annual accounts of the Applicant.

Note: Please do not attach any printed Annual Financial Statement. In case relevant extracts of duly audited Annual Financial Statements containing the requisite details are provided, duly countersigned by the authorised signatory, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary in respect of Clause 1.4.3.

Appendix-I
Form-6: Particulars of Key Personnel

A) Details of Key Personnel

1	Designation	
2	Name	
3	Date of Birth	
4	Nationality	
5	Educational Qualification¹¹ (clearly mentioning the subject)	

6	Employment Record/ Professional experience <i>(Starting with present position, list in reverse chronological order every employment held)</i>			
S N o	Name of Firm	Designation	Start Date	End Date
1				
2				
3				
..				
..				

7	Details of Relevant Experience					
S No	Name of Firm	Designation	Start Date (MM/Y Y)	End Date (MM/ YY)	Role (in not more than 1000 characte rs)	Sector
1						

¹¹ For degrees obtained from the accredited foreign Boards/universities, the applicant shall furnish a self-declaration on the academic equivalence to the 'Minimum Educational Qualifications' as defined in Annexure A of the RFP.

7	Details of Relevant Experience					
S No	Name of Firm	Designation	Start Date (MM/Y Y)	End Date (MM/YY)	Role (in not more than 1000 characters)	Sector
2						
3						
..						
..						

Certification:

- a) I am willing to work on the Project and I will be available for the entire duration of the Project assignment as required.
- b) I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV correctly describes me, my qualifications and my experience.

Place.....

(Signature and name of the Key Personnel)

(Signature and name of the authorized signatory of the Applicant)

Appendix-I

Form-7: Proposed Methodology and Work Plan

The proposed methodology and work plan shall be described as follows:

1. Understanding of TOR (not more than two pages):

The Applicant shall clearly state its understanding of the TOR and also highlight its important aspects. The Applicant may supplement various requirements of the TOR and also make precise suggestions if it considers this would bring more clarity and assist in achieving the Objectives laid down in the TOR.

2. Methodology and Work Plan (not more than six pages):

The Applicant will submit its methodology for carrying out this assignment, outlining its approach toward achieving the Objectives laid down in the TOR, including approach, methodology, sampling, criteria for State/UT selection etc. The Applicant will submit the following:

- i. A brief write up on its proposed team and organization of personnel explaining how different areas of expertise needed for this assignment have been fully covered by its proposal. In case the Applicant is a consortium, it should specify how the expertise of each firm is proposed to be utilised for this assignment. The Applicant should specify the sequence, locations and timelines of important activities in the form of a Gantt chart, and provide a quality assurance plan for carrying out the Consultancy Services. It may be noted that the following broad topics should be covered by the consultant team during the presentation:
- ii. Survey methodology, Methodology for carrying out the assignment including the approach used towards achieving the objectives laid down in the TOR
- iii. Sampling Plan,
- iv. Criteria for selection of required sample size
- v. Field movement plan including details of field team composition/ details of engagement with survey agency, if any
- vi. Plan for ensuring data quality while conducting the primary survey
- vii. Measures to be adopted for ensuring the quality in the report
- viii. Data analysis tool (both for qualitative and quantitative data
- ix. Data Analysis Plan- The ways of translating findings from data analysis into recommendations
- x. Detailed timelines for carrying out the assignment
- xi. Any other relevant information
- xii. All the proposed team members (Key Personnel) only must attend and make the presentation.

3. Collaboration with Academic Institutions** (not more than 2 pages):

The Applicant will submit on how it plans to involve and collaborate with academic

institutions while designing and delivering on the Project. The idea is to strengthen industry-academia-government linkages and foster a collective culture of research, innovation and advancement of knowledge.

*** (Universities/academic institutions (hereunder referred to as universities/institutions) should be recognized by University Grant Commission or any State or the Central Government.*

Note: Marks can be deducted for writing lengthy and out-of-context responses.

Appendix-I

Form-8: Eligible Assignments of the Applicant

(Refer Clause 4.2)

A) Eligible Assignments of the Applicant *

S N o	Name of the Assignm ent	Brief Descripti on of the Assignm ent (in not more than 1000 characte rs)	Is the Assignm ent a study related to o standard of living paramete rs (includin g but not restricted to _____ _____ ?)	Is the research/evalua tion study for Union/State Government/ government, regulatory commission, tribunal, multilateral agencies, statutory authorities, public sector entities etc (Yes/No)	Sample size of the assignme nt (No. of responde nts)	Nam e of the Client & Addre ss	Clint Catego ry (as define d in Claus e 3.1.5)	Name & Telephone no. of Client's representat ive	Value of assignme nt as per the contract / work order/ agreeme nt of the Assignm ent (in ₹)	Start Date of the Assignm ent	End Date of the Assignm ent	Descripti on of Services performe d by the applicant (in not more than 1000 characters)
(1)	(2)	(3.1)	(3.2)	(3.3)	(3.5)	(4.1)	(4.2)	(5)	(6)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1												
...												

** The Applicant shall provide requisite supporting documents such as copies of contracts, agreements etc. The value 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.*

Appendix-I
Form-9: Deployment of Professional Personnel

S.No .	Designati on	Na me	Person Days (PD)		Person-Days by Week Numbers																											
			On- fiel d	In Offic e	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	...							
1.																																
2.																																
3.																																
4.																																
5.																																
6.																																
7.																																
8.																																
9.																																
		Total Person days																														

Appendix-I
Form-10: Support Personnel

S.No.	Item of Work/Activity	To be carried out by		Person-Days by Week Numbers																			
		Name	Designation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.																							
2.																							
3.																							
4.																							
5.																							
6.																							
7.																							
8.																							
9.																							

Appendix-I

Form-11¹⁴: Bid Security Declaration Form (On Applicant's letter head)

(Date and Reference) To,

.....

.....

Subject: Bid Security Declaration for Evaluation Study of _____

Dear Sir,

I/We, the undersigned, declare that:

I/We understand that, according to your conditions, proposals must be supported by a Bid Security Declaration.

I/We accept that I/We may be disqualified from bidding for any contract with you for a period of one year from the date of notification if I am /We are in a breach of any obligation under the bid conditions, because I/We

- a) have withdrawn/modified/amended, impairs or derogates from the tender, my/our proposal during the period of proposal validity specified in the RFP; or
- b) having been notified of the acceptance of our proposal by the Authority during the period of proposal validity (i) fail or refuse to execute the Agreement, if required, or (ii) fail or refuse to furnish the Performance Security, in accordance with the Instructions to the Applicants.

I/We understand that this Bid Security Declaration shall cease to be valid if I am/we are not the successful Bidder, either upon the earlier of (i) receiving of your notification of the name of the successful Bidder's name; or (ii) thirty days after the expiration of the validity of my/our Proposal.

Yours faithfully,
(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)
(Name and seal of the Applicant/Lead Member)

¹⁴ Applicable as per Clause 1.16.2

Appendix-I
Form-12^[1]: Letter of Intent for Technical Collaboration
(Applicable only in the case of a collaboration / consortium / partnership with Universities/Academic Institutions)

(On Applicant's letterhead)

(Date and Reference) To,

.....

.....

.....

Subject: Agreement for technical collaboration for Evaluation Study of

Dear Sir,

With reference to your RFP Document dated I/ we, have entered into a technical partnership for the Evaluation Study of scheme. I/we, hereby, agree to collaborate and ensure direct involvement of the university/institution in carrying out the following activities^[2]:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Details of Previous Experience of the academic institution^[3] (Maximum 3)

S. No	Name of Project	Project Undertaken For	Total Value of Project	Sample Size Involved	Duration of Project	Date of Completion of Project
(i)						
(ii)						

(iii)						
-------	--	--	--	--	--	--

I/We shall make available to the Authority any additional information it may deem necessary or require for supplementing or authenticating details related to the collaboration.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

(Name and seal of the Applicant / Lead Member)

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

(Name and seal of representative of university/ academic institution)

**Appendix-II: Financial Proposal
Form-1: Covering Letter
(On Applicant's letter head)**

(Date and Reference) To,

.....

.....

.....

Dear Sir,

Subject: Consultancy Services for Evaluation Study of scheme
I/We, (Applicant's name) herewith enclose the Financial Proposal for selection
of my/our firm as Consultant for above.

I/We agree that this offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 (ninety) days from the Proposal Due Date or
such further period as may be mutually agreed upon.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

Note: The Financial Proposal is to be submitted strictly as per forms given in Appendix-II (Form 1, 2,3) of
the RfP.

Appendix-II
(See Clause 2.1.6)
Form-2: Financial Proposal

Item No.	Description	Amount (₹)
A.	PERSONNEL COSTS	
1	Remuneration for Professional Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)	
2	Remuneration for Support Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)	
	Subtotal (A):	
B.	LOCAL COSTS	
1	Office Rent	
2	Office Consumables like stationery, communication etc.	
3	Office Furniture and Equipment (Rental)	
4	Reports and Document Printing	
5	Surveys & Investigations	
6	Miscellaneous Expenses	
	Subtotal (B):	
C.	SUBTOTAL OF A+B	
D.	OVERHEAD EXPENSES @. % of (C)	

E.	GOODS AND SERVICES TAX	
F.	TOTAL (including taxes) (C+D+E) (in ₹) In Indian Rupees (in figures) (in words)	

Note:

1. *Estimate of Costs for Item A-I and A-II shall be as per Form-3.*
2. *Miscellaneous Expenses in Item B (VI) shall not exceed 15% (fifteen per cent) of the total amount in Item D.*
3. *No escalation on any account will be payable on the above amounts.*
4. *All other charges not shown here and all insurance premia are considered included in the person day rate/ overhead/ miscellaneous expenses.*
5. *All payments shall be made in Indian Rupees and shall be subject to applicable Indian laws withholding taxes if any.*

Appendix-II
Form-3: Estimate of Personnel Costs

ID No.	Position	Name	Person-Days (₹)	Total Person-Days	Amount (₹)
A1 (I). Remuneration for Professional Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)					
Total					
A2 (II). Remuneration for Support Personnel (inclusive of all personal allowances)					
Total					
Total:					

Appendix-III

List of Bid-Specific Provisions^[4]

A. Clauses with currency-based footnotes

1. Introduction.
2. Clause 1.4.1: Conditions of Eligibility of Applicants.
3. Clause 1.11: Amendment of RFP.

Note: The above footnotes marked — “\$” shall be retained in the RFP for guidance of the Applicants while submitting their respective Proposals.

B. Schedules with non-numeric footnotes

All non-numeric footnotes marked — “\$” in the Schedules shall be retained in the respective Schedules for guidance of the Applicants while submitting their respective Proposals.

C. Appendices with non-numeric footnotes

All non-numeric footnotes in the Appendices shall be retained in the respective Appendices for guidance of the Applicants. These shall be omitted by the Applicants while submitting their respective Proposals.

D. Schedules and Appendices with blank spaces

All blank spaces in the Schedules and Appendices shall be retained in the RFP. These shall be filled up when the format of the respective Schedule or Appendix is used.

[1] Separate signed LOIs to be submitted for each collaboration at the technical proposal submission stage and hard copies to be submitted prior to the award of contract.

[2] Indicative activities for involvement of academic institutions: Report writing, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Field Work, Data Quality assurance mechanism, Independent Referee for the evaluation report, etc.

[3] This information is sought by DMEQ to understand the existing level of M&E capacity of the academic institution. In the longer run, DMEQ intends to strengthen the core M&E ecosystem of which the Universities/Academic Institutions are critical stakeholders.

[4] This Appendix-III contains a list of Clauses, Schedules and Appendices that would need to be suitably modified for reflecting bid-specific provisions. This Appendix-III may, therefore, be included in the RFP document to be issued to prospective Applicants