

**World Bank financed**  
**Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART)**

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society  
(An Autonomous Body of the Government of Assam)  
Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**Hiring of Consulting Services for**  
**“Consulting Services for Conducting Mid-term External Environmental Audit for APART”**

No. ARIASS/APART/1137/2021/21-A

Dated Guwahati the 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

1. Government of Assam (GoA), through the Government of India has received a loan of US\$200 million from the World Bank (W.B.) for implementation of the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The Project Development Objective (PDO) of APART is to “add value and improve resilience of selected agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts of the State of Assam”. The targeted districts are Nagaon, Hojai, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Barpeta, Karbi Anglong, West Karbianglong, Kamrup Metro, Kamrup Rural, Dhubri, Mankachar, Golaghat, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Darrang, Cachar, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat, Goalpara, Morigaon and Nalbari.
2. There are four components to the APART. The first component is Enabling Agri Enterprise Development, with sub components being (i) enhancing state capacity to attract private investments, (ii) setting up an Agribusiness Enterprise Development and Promotion Facility (EDPF) (iii) Agribusiness Investment Fund (AIF) support (iv) establishing sector stewardship councils. The second component is Facilitating Agro Cluster Development with subcomponents being- (i) support establishment of cluster level Industry Associations (IAs), (ii) supply chain support (roads, warehouses, markets). The third component is Fostering Market Led Production and Resilience Enhancement with sub components being (i) promoting climate resilient technologies and their adoption (ii) facilitating market linkages through market intelligence and product aggregation (iii) facilitating access to and responsible use of financial services. The fourth component is project Management, Monitoring and Learning. Following table gives an overview of project components, applicability and implications.
3. The State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society now invites eligible consultancy firms/ agencies to submit their Request for proposals (RFPs) for Hiring of consulting Services for “**Conducting Mid-term External Environmental Audit for APART**”. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services as indicated in the RFP for the proposed assignment, which may be seen at the website of ARIAS Society viz <http://www.arias.in/procurements.html>.
4. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers; Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting & Consulting Services, July 2016”, available at [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org). Attention of the interested agencies is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the said Regulations relating to the Conflict of Interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture (JV) or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. However, nature of association i.e. whether JV or Sub-Consultant, must be clearly mentioned in the Proposal.
5. Interested Consultancy Firms/ Agencies must submit their RFPs in written form in **English** language to the address given below on or before **2.00 pm of 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021** in **hard copy as well as a soft copy**. Further information can be obtained at the address of the SPD given below from 11.00 am to 04.00 pm (IST) on all working days.

The State Project Director, ARIAS Society, Agriculture complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-  
781022 (Assam) Tel: 0361-2332125; website: [www.arias.in](http://www.arias.in); email: [spd@arias.in](mailto:spd@arias.in)