

Draft Indicative Terms of Reference (ToR) for engagement of Seed Production Technical Managers (SPTMs) for Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd. under Seed Vertical of APART

(A) BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

1. The Government of Assam (GoA) through Government of India (GoI) has received a loan from the World Bank for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society is the apex coordinating and monitoring agency at state level for the Project. ARIAS Society in association with Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd. (ASCL) now intends to hire **9 Seed Production Technical Managers (SPTMs)** on contractual basis. **The incumbents will be initially positioned at the seed farms under Assam Seeds Corporation Limited (ASCL) at District level.**
2. The development objective of APART is *“add value and improve resilience of selected agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs and to advance Assam’s COVID-19 response”*.
3. There are four components of APART. **The first component-A 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. **The second component-B is Facilitating Agro Cluster Development** with subcomponents being (i) support establishment of cluster level Industry Associations (IAs), (ii) supply chain support. **The third component-C 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-D is project Management, Monitoring and Learning.**
4. **The Project will achieve the PDO by:** (i) promoting investments in agri-enterprises, reducing the business and transaction costs, facilitating access to finance for agribusiness entrepreneurs, and, where appropriate, push for process, regulatory and/or policy change; (ii) supporting the development of a modern agri supply chain; improved information communication technologies (ICT) based farm information and intelligence services, and alternative marketing channels; and (iii) improving producers’ access to knowledge, technologies and infrastructure so that they are better able to respond to market opportunities and climate variability.
5. The objective of sub-component C-1 of APART is to support sustainable increase in production and productivity of the priority value chains, and promote the adoption of climate resilient solutions. This is being achieved by geographically targeted approach for the integrated development of these value chains and making key investments in the production clusters of prioritized value chains. On the crop production side the implementing agencies include Assam Agricultural University (Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Research Stations at District level) and Directorate of Agriculture and Directorate of Horticulture & Food Processing (Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at District level) with the technical support of international

agencies like International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Potato Centre (CIP), World Vegetable Centre (WVC) and national knowledge partner Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Directorate of Rapeseed and Mustard Research (DRMR).

6. Good quality seed is the basis of a good crop and good yields. Strengthening seed systems is an important activity under APART as well as a priority area for Government of Assam (GoA). In order to advance the State Govt's efforts to make Assam self sufficient in seeds of key crops, a Seed Vertical has been set up under APART. The activities under the Seed Vertical are mainly led by the Assam Seeds Corp Limited (ASCL). In order to produce the foundation seeds in the farms of Assam Seeds Corporation Ltd (ASCL)& Directorate of Agriculture (DoA) farms handed over to ASCL and for optimal utilization of the available resources of the seed farms, ASCL through APART requires **9 Seed Production Technical Managers (SPTMs) to be posted at the Seed Farms at under ASCL** at the District level and liable to be transferred anywhere in the State of Assam.

(B) OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND SCOPE OF POSITION

7. The scope of position for **Seed Production Technical Managers (SPTMs)** mainly involves support to production and processing of quality (mainly foundation) seeds from the farms of the Assam Seed Corporation Limited (ASCL). SPTMs will also provide mentoring and hand holding support to the Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and individual growers, taking up certified seed production in their respective districts or in the vicinity of their allotted seed farms, as the case may be.
8. *The key job responsibilities of Seed Production Technical Managers (SPTMs) include*
 - a. **SPTMs** will plan for the seeds production program in the respective farms as per allotted target and the plan will be submitted to the ASCL Head quarter for necessary approval. Planning should be made well ahead of time and shall follow the crop calendar as prepared by the Head office.
 - b. **SPTMs** shall provide the crop variety requirement as per the agro-climatic zone of the allotted district(s) in consultation with knowledge partners under APART like International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Potato Centre (CIP), World Vegetable Centre (CIP) and also Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Directorate of Rapeseed and Mustard Research (DRMR) and Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR).
 - c. **SPTMs** shall prepare a cost estimate before taking the production program and will send for due approval of the competent authority. It will be the responsibility of the **SPTMs** for maintenance of quality up to bagging of the seeds.
 - d. **SPTMs** will make regular visits to FPCs and individual seed growers in their allotted areas to monitor the certified seed production activities and guide for quality seed production.
 - e. **SPTMs** will liaison with the respective local Assistant Seed Certification Officer (ASCO) for quality seed production & certification.
 - f. The **SPTMs** will carry out post harvest supervision along with the concerned ASCO.
 - g. The **SPTMs** will monitor the harvested stocks of seed crop for certification as per prescribed norms with concerned ASCO.
 - h. The **SPTMs** will assist the concerned ASCOs during the process of seed certification including collection of seed samples etc.
 - i. The **SPTMs** will be instrumental in training and capacity building of the FPCs and individual seed growers in their allocated area.
 - j. The **SPTMs** shall be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the assets including machinery

etc in their allotted seed farms.

- k. The **SPTMs** will contribute to strengthening of the seed farms as per the Annual Work Plan (AWP) under APART or Annual Action Plan (AAP) under ASCL as the case may be.
- l. Any other task assigned by the Reporting Officer.
- m. **Travel Requirements:** The **SPTMs** will be required to take up need based travel with the approval of Reporting Officer.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE, AGE ETC

- 9. **Educational Qualification:** Bachelors in Agriculture from a recognized University/ institute.
- 10. **Working Experience:** Minimum **two years** of experience in seed production & related activities. *Fresh candidates with Masters in Seed Science/ Plant Breeding & Genetics may also be considered for interview, in case sufficient candidates with experience as mentioned above are not available.*
- 11. **Computer Skills:** Must have proficiency in the use of Internet based applications, Graphics, MS Word, MS Excel and MS Power Point and other related applications.
- 12. **Language:** Fluency in English & Hindi. Knowledge of other local languages will be an advantage.
- 13. **Age:** Age of the candidate should not be more than **35 years** as on **1st September, 2023.**

(D) DURATION OF THE CONTRACT, NOTICE PERIOD ETC

- 14. The tenure of the **SPTMs** is intended for entire duration of the project and co-terminus with the project i.e. September 2024. However, continuity of the **SPTMs** beyond **eleven (11) months** from the date of signing the agreement and joining the position will depend upon his/her performance. The assignment is purely contractual in nature and shall not, under any circumstance, be extended beyond the APART's closing date, without thereby incurring any liability to the GoA/ASCL/ARIAS Society etc. The contract with **SPTMs** may be terminated by either side at any point of time during the contractual period by serving a 30 days' notice without assigning any reason and without thereby incurring any liability to the GoA/ASCL/ARIAS Society etc. Further, GoA/ARIAS Society/ASCL shall not undertake any responsibility for subsequent deployment of the Consultant.
- 15. The **SPTMs** shall not assign or sub-contract, *in whole or in part*, his/her obligations except with the Reporting Officer's prior written consent. The **SPTMs** will have to serve the project on full time basis. He/she will provide services from to the **concerned Seed Farm or District Office of ASCL or from the HQ as directed.**

(E) REMUNERATION, PAYMENT TERMS & LEAVE

- 16. Depending on the qualifications, experience, competency, and also the remuneration/pay package of the last assignment, the consolidated fixed remuneration of the **SPTMs** will be determined and mutually agreed, which could be in the range of **Rs. 3.60 lakhs to Rs. 4.20 lakhs per year**. This annual rate shall be inclusive of all taxes, health/service related insurance, all allowances, cost of accommodation and food, conveyance to attend the office etc.
- 17. Travelling, Boarding & Lodging expenses for approved official tours outside HQ will be reimbursed as per prevailing Project rules.
- 18. The remuneration will be given in equal monthly installments and the performance-linked-incentive will be given quarterly based on the performance and achievement against the mutually agreed deliverables by the **SPTMs**. Taxes as applicable shall be dealt with as per applicable laws.
- 19. The provisions of leave would be as per prevailing Project rules.

(F) REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- 20. The **SPTMs** will report to the **Team Leader- Seed Vertical** or any other official as authorized by

MD, ASCL. The performance of the **SPTMs** will be reviewed accordingly on quarterly basis.

(G) FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED

21. Access to all the required documents, correspondence, and any other information associated with the project, as deemed necessary and shared office space at ASCL/District office of ASCL or concerned Seed Farm under ASCL, along with necessary facilities like computer, printer, scanner, etc.

Notes:

1. *ARIAS Society is an equal opportunity employer & strongly encourages women candidates to apply.*
2. *This is a draft ToR and SPD, ARIAS Society reserves the right to modify the ToR, including increasing or reducing the number of positions any time before the recruitment process is completed.*
