

Government of Assam  
ARIAS SOCIETY (ARIASS)

**Proposed World Bank aided Assam Project for Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (APART)**

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

For Hiring of a Consultancy Firm for Environmental and Social Assessment of APART

**No. APART/ESS/32/2016/ 34**

**Dated, Guwahati the 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016**

1. Government of Assam (GoA) through the Government of India has applied for a credit of US\$200 million from the World Bank (W.B.) for implementation of the proposed 'Assam Project for Agribusiness and Rural Transformation' (APART), which is currently under preparatory stage. The proposed Project Development Objective is to 'increase value-added and improve resilience in the production and processing of selected agriculture commodities, focusing on small farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts'. The project inter alia would give thrust on enhancing agglomeration of producers to improve economies of scale in producing, processing and marketing. The project will support agriculture and livestock productivity (including value and incomes) through essential technology transfer in production and improved post-harvest and market operations, and also explore and pilot possible financing modalities to support entrepreneurship and agri-business. APART will leverage the natural resource advantages of the state as well as improve the investment climate and in particular, focus will be on processed food, agribusiness, logistics and infrastructure, MSME finance and insurance. Project beneficiaries will include farmers and entrepreneurs especially in the MSME segment. Others beneficiaries would include farmer producer organizations, sector management agencies/companies, and other value chain participants. For more information please refer to the "Combined Project Information Documents/ Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet concept stage" published at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/docsearch/projects/P155617>.
2. The ARIASS intends to hire a consultancy firm to conduct Environmental Assessment (EA) and Social Assessment (SA) for the Project and preparation of separate management plans and/or framework for managing the potential adverse environmental and social impacts and risks. The assignment is required to be completed within **2** (two) months after award of contract. Interested consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services as indicated in the *Draft* Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed assignment, which may be seen at the website of ARIAS Society [www.arias.in](http://www.arias.in).
3. Interested consulting firms shall furnish the following duly self-certified information in a clear & concise manner:
  - a. Name, complete postal address, fax number, e-mail address along with a note on the core business area;
  - b. Organizational experience for the last **5** years in EA & SA and preparation of management plans and/or framework for managing the potential adverse environmental and social impacts and risks;
  - c. Details of atleast **3** similar assignments executed in the last **5** years (with client references) preferably with public sector agencies in India or projects in India funded by Multilateral/ Bilateral sources;
  - d. Chartered Accountant certified Annual Financial Turnover for each of the last **3** years (2014-15, 2013-14 and 2012-13); from assignments relating to EA & SA and preparation of management plans and/or framework for managing the potential adverse environmental and social impacts and risks, preferably with public sector agencies.
  - e. In-house available expertise with domain knowledge and experience in similar assignments.
4. **The short-listing criteria include:**
  - a. Atleast **5** years of organizational experience as mentioned at para 3.b above;
  - b. Successfully completion of atleast **3** similar assignments in the last **5** years (2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11), as mentioned at para 3.c above.
  - c. Annual Financial Turnover of **Rs.2.5 crore** for each of the last **3** years (2014-15, 2013-14 and 2012-13), from assignments as mentioned at para 3.d above.
  - d. Availability of in-house expertise as mentioned at para 3.e above.
5. The Consultancy firm will be selected in accordance with the 'Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications (CQS)' method set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (January 2011, revised July 2014)" ("Consultant Guidelines" available at [www.worldbank.org/procure](http://www.worldbank.org/procure)). Attention of the interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the Consultant Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment: conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or non-consulting services; conflict among consulting assignments; and relationship with Borrower's staff.
6. Consulting firm may associate with other firms in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or a Sub-Consultancy (with joint and several liabilities) to enhance their qualifications; however this should be stated clearly mentioned in the Expression of Interest (EOI). Further information may be obtained at the address below during 11:00 to 16:00 hours IST. EOI must be delivered in hard copy along with a soft copy in a CD at the address given below on or before 17:00 hrs IST of **24<sup>th</sup> March 2016**.

**The State Project Director, ARIAS Society, Project Coordination Unit, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India); Tel: 0361-2332125; Tele-Fax: 0361-2332564; email: spd@arias.in**