Invitation (Second) for Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Baseline Survey of Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture Activity

The Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture (BCSA) project of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Asia Division is inviting an EOI for a "Baseline Survey of Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture Activity." From the intending Bangladeshi companies/firms engaged in this type of work. The Scope of Work is detailed below.

The interested companies/firms are requested to submit their proposals, in PDF format on January 18, 2024 within 12:00 to 15:00 hours to the IFDC e-mail: <u>ifdcbangladesh@ifdc.org</u>, address to **The Chief of Party, Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture** (BCSA) Project, IFDC Asia Division, Bangladesh. Along with the proposal the intending company/farm shall also submit the information/documents mentioned at annexure 1 and 2.

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Scope of Work:

Baseline Survey of Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture Activity

1. Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) a Cost-Type Public International Organization Agreement (CA No. 72038823IO00001) on April 26, 2023. With its sub-awardee, U.S.-based Action for Enterprise (AFE), IFDC is collaborating with smallholder farmers and small and large agriculture enterprises for resilient, inclusive, sustainable productivity growth, despite increasing shocks and stresses from climate change and geopolitical crisis, such as the Russia-Ukraine war that has prevailed since 2022.

The CSA aims to strengthen, reorient, and transform agricultural production systems using climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices in Bangladesh. The project will diffuse CSA technologies to farmers; build farmers' capacity to sustainably intensify their farm production; advocate for seed and mechanization policy reform; strengthen vertical market linkages between farmers, small agriculture sales and service enterprises, and large agriculture input companies; and facilitate whole farm community development through model villages. The prime aim of the model villages will be to promote cropping pattern-based CSA technologies and practices by engaging youth and women, with a focus on bringing in 100% of farms in the village. A village area group may seek advice on how to set up and operate an agriculture cooperative that would service area farmers with CSA input supply and sales of crops at harvest by linking farmer members to buyers. The project is expected to achieve an immediate impact on improved yields and increase farmers' income due to improved resource use efficiency. The project's focus is market oriented and thus will engage and build linkages with private sector actors both from the input market and the output market to ensure that the produce will be managed and marketed well.

2. Project Objective

The Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate-Smart Agriculture Activity Objective is "sustainably improve the food security and nutritional status of the rural population, decrease the incidence and severity of poverty among the rural poor, and reduce the negative impacts of crop agriculture on climate change".

The Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate-Smart Agriculture Activity has adopted the USAID definition of resilience: "the ability of people, households, communities, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and induces inclusive growth." The activity seeks to contribute directly to achieving the following IRs and Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results (CCIRs), as defined in the GFSS:

- IR 1: Increased availability of climate-resilient varieties, including rice, legumes, oilseeds, and other diversified crops through seed system strengthening
- IR2: Enhanced market delivery of climate-adapted innovations of agro-inputs, including seeds, practices, and climate info services.

- IR3: Increased smallholder farmer application of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices
- CCIR 4: Enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation
- CCIR 5: Improved natural resource management

IR 1 has been specially designed to enhance the seed system, especially rice, legumes, oilseeds, and vegetables; thus, IR 1 will mostly rely on the public sector institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). IR 2 has been designed with a special focus on strengthening the existing market system so that all sorts of climate-resilient agricultural inputs will be offered, and the supply side will be able to cater for the seasonal demand on time with better service modality for the small-holder farmers. IR 3 has been designed with special emphasis on the smallholder farmers to ensure they have access to CSA technologies and services.

2.1 Project Location and Targeted Population

IFDC is implementing the Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture Activity in the 21 districts of USAID Feed the Future's Zone of Influence (ZOI), with the potential for geographic shifts once the new Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) Bangladesh Country Plan is finalized in late 2023 (Figure 1). The geographic area includes a high incidence of poverty, food insecurity, and predominance of agriculture as the main livelihood activity. The south and southwest districts are highly vulnerable to climate-related impacts. Agriculture in the south, particularly the southwest districts, is challenged and threatened with cyclones, storm surges, and seasonal flooding during the monsoon season.

2.2 Project Duration

The project will be implemented for a period of five years starting from April 26, 2023 through April 25, 2028.

2.3 Project Result Framework

The Feed the Future Bangladesh Climate-Smart Agriculture Activity TOC is as follows: if the environment for CSA technologies is strengthened to maximize the respective roles of the public and private sectors to develop and adapt suitable CSA technologies/practices and robust services, and if the ability of various actors to develop and deliver consistently high-quality CSA products and services at scale is improved, and if public and private sector information pathways for CSA technologies/practices effectively reach farmers, and if the farmers actually adopt the CSA technologies/practices, then a better performing market and delivery system will evolve and improved farmer outcomes will occur. At each level, value (or the expectation of value/profit) must be realized to effect change.

IR 1 has been specially designed to enhance the seed system, especially rice, legumes, oilseeds, and vegetables; thus, IR 1 will mostly rely on the public sector institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). IR 2 has been designed with a special focus on strengthening the existing market system so that all sorts of climate-resilient agricultural inputs will be offered, and the supply side will be able to cater for the seasonal demand on time with better service modality for the small-holder farmers. IR 3 has been designed with special emphasis on the smallholder

IR resili oii	1: Increased availal ent varieties, includi lseeds, and other di <u>wouch sood system</u>	bility of climate- ng rice, legumes, versified crops	IR 2: Enhanced market delivery of climate-adapted innovations of agro-inputs, including coods, practices		IR 3: Increased smallholder farmer application of climate- smart agriculture technologies
Outcomes	Sub-IR 1.1: Strengthened capacity of public and private sector actors to develop, multiply, and Sub-IR 1.2: Enhanced relationships between seed sector actors, i.e., the public and the private sectors as well		Sub-IR 2.1: Improved private sector capacity to adapt, efficiently distribute, and deliver quality agriculture inputs and		Sub-IR 3.1: Increased producer access to information and training on climate-resilient practices and climate information
	Sub-IR 1.3: Enhanced private sector engagement and partnering with national/international public organizations in the development and		Sub-IR 2.2: Improved private sector capacity to link smallholders	Sub-IR 2.3: Improved access to climate/weather information	Sub-IR 3.2: Enhanced use of evidence on Sub-IR 3.3: Increased reach and quality of
	Sub-IR 1.4: Strengthen seed certification system to ensure more certified high-quality seed		with output markets, reduce	systems and digital tools	public and private agricultural extension and advisory services
	Improved service delivery to farmers. Increased role of private sector in seed distribution.		Improved business management, climate-smart products/practices and customer service of agricultural input companies, buyers, and equipment suppliers. Ensured availability of sufficient knowledge and material regarding the		Increased number of farmers adopt quality CSA technologies, practices, and inputs and obtain greater productivity and net incomes.
	Strengthened relationship between the private and public sectors.				Increased trust of farmers toward private sector providers of CSA inputs.
ntion	Increased capacity of DAE and the private sector to deliver high-quality trainings and seminars.		CSA inputs/technologies sold at agro- input wholesale/retail outlets.		Increased area under CSA technologies.
Interve	Increased awareness of farmers, service providers, input dealers and buyers on input and crop prices in local, regional, and		Expanded private sector production and distribution of quality CSA technologies/inputs.		Increased yield of rice, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, and other crops.
	Improved planning of input (seed) purchase timing based on the price seasonality.		increased commercial activity for agro- input enterprises.		Increased sales volume and value of farmers' produce.
	Improved knowledge of farmers, service providers, agro-input dealers, and buyers on the availabilitv of qualitv climate-smart		Sector production and distribution. Strengthened pathway on the use of reapers transplanters and harvesting		
nption	Entrepreneurs are effectively and properly identified and supported.		There exists a close coordination among GOB and policy-formulating		Farmers are effectively and properly identified and supported.
Assun	Effective training and technical guidance provided.		agencies and private sector for CSA input market development.		Effective training and technical guidance provided.
<u> </u>	Public Sector Actors		Private Sector Actors		Smallholder Farmers
Actor	BADC, DAE, SCA, BARI, BRRI and other government institutions		Ag input companies (seed, fertilizer, CPPs) and buyers of		Smallholder farmers, lead farmers

farmers to ensure they have access to CSA technologies and services. Below shown proposed result framework of CSA.

3. Purpose of Baseline Survey

The purpose of the baseline survey for the project is to assess the current state of the project prior to its implementation. This survey will serve as a vital reference point for initiating the project and will play a crucial role in evaluating the project's outcomes upon its completion. The baseline survey will primarily focus on two key objectives.

Firstly, it will involve gathering and analyzing pre-intervention data concerning the project's Indicators.

Secondly, it will capture a comprehensive snapshot of the indicators designed in the log frame. By establishing this baseline, the survey will provide a solid foundation for assessing the project's progress, achievements, and impacts by comparing the "before-after" scenario. Additionally, the baseline study will offer valuable insights into the existing project scenario through content analysis, enabling the project's management to determine priorities and revise the operational plan if necessary. Moreover, the study will serve as the basis for result-based monitoring and evaluation, as well as impact assessment of the project interventions, focusing on relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. The findings of the baseline survey will establish a benchmark for lifting the impoverished population out of poverty. Furthermore, the survey will evaluate the targeting accuracy of the project, validate the success of the project participants' selection process, and document any lessons learned, including challenges faced.

4. Scope of Work

The CSA project will conduct a baseline study to identify the prevailing conditions of the various indicators under the project and to know the existing farming practices of the farmer. This will outline the situation, attitude, and behaviors of farmers and other actors (private enterprises/company) in the current farming system, production practices, observed yields, and the willingness of actors to promote, accept and adopt the improved CSA technologies and services, business growth and network that will be introduced under the project. The baseline assessment will be used to refine the indicators, identify existing gaps, and validate the stated outcome targets under each indicator. The baseline data shall serve as a reference upon which the effectiveness and impact of the project shall be evaluated, helping to determine the level of changes in the indicators attributable to the various project interventions.

4.1 Methodology

Baseline survey will be conducted using a quasi-independent model having an array of heterogeneous groups of stakeholders ranging from smallholder farmers to SMEs to Lead Firms and even various entities under the Ministry of Agriculture. In such, mix of qualitative and quantitative data collection and making models of intra and inter-institutional networking to achieve various targets for the defines set of indicators will be key. A list of approved indicators has been provided at the end of the ToR. The survey method will incorporate individual farmer and private enterprises surveys, Focus Group Discussion, Key Informants Interview, and Indepth Interview method for both qualitative and quantitative data collection. In-depth Interview or case studies will be collected to explain local issues in depth.

Quantitative Methods: The individual survey will use a structured questionnaire to collect data in relation to areas associated with results framework and ToC. The survey will use appropriate sampling techniques to ensure that the sample is representative of the target population.

Qualitative Methods: The survey will use key informant interviews, IDI (In-depth Interview) and focus group discussions to collect qualitative data from private enterprises, private companies, government service providers, communities, and other relevant stakeholders. IDI will be used to dig out issues in depth for further understanding.

4.2 Desk Review

The survey team will conduct a desk review of relevant secondary documents to complement the findings of the primary source. Besides, the survey team will review the result framework to align the data plan with indicators set for the project. Moreover, the plan and policies in relation to climate change, climate resilient focused intervention will be reviewed, and it will give scope to review compliance practices by duty bearers.

4.3 Sampling Strategy

It is recommended to apply a sampling strategy considering the CSA results framework, and USAID population-based sampling guidelines. The proposed approach entails determining a representative sample size, considering the project's total number of households, location, and respondents for the quantitative survey.

For the qualitative component of the study, relevant stakeholders will be identified, and a reasonable number of tools will be suggested, including Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), In-depth Interviews (IDIs), and case studies. The samples for KIIs, IDIs, and case studies will be selected using purposive sampling techniques to cover each project area adequately. While the specific numbers for these samples may be arbitrary, the intention is to ensure comprehensive representation across different areas.

4.4 Data Analysis

The survey data will be analyzed using appropriate statistical software, and the qualitative data will be analyzed using thematic analysis. The quantitative data also needs to be analyzed with descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and econometric modelling as appropriate. The survey team will triangulate quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current situation of the beneficiaries in relation to the project components and results framework indicators. The survey team will also provide a summary of the survey findings and recommendations for the design of the project's interventions.

4.5 Quality Control

The study team will ensure the quality of the data by using rigorous sampling techniques, pretesting the survey tools, and training the data collectors on ethical principles and data collection techniques. The survey team will also conduct regular quality control checks to ensure that the data collected is accurate and reliable. The survey team will document any challenges encountered during the survey process and provide solutions to address them.

4.6 Ethical Issues

It is mandatory to maintain ethical issues to implement this study. The study needs to be performed with appropriate clearance and consent from both the institutional and individual levels. Data collection without informed consent is strictly prohibited.

Individuals who agree to participate in the study must be fully informed about the purpose, procedures, potential risks, benefits, and their rights as research subjects. Consent should be obtained voluntarily, without coercion or manipulation, and individuals should have the freedom to withdraw from study at any point without facing repercussions.

Confidentiality measures must be implemented to protect the privacy of the collected data, ensuring that sensitive information remains strictly confidential and is only accessible to authorized personnel involved in the study.

Furthermore, the study team must uphold transparency and accountability throughout the research process. They should maintain accurate records of the consent obtained and have mechanisms in place to address any concerns or questions raised by participants during the study.

5. Deliverables/ Reporting

The baseline survey will be the key documents for the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Sharing (MELS) team to determine the annual targets for each of the indicators. Thus, it is expected that the selected consulting firm will be giving a detailed report on how the progression for each year (for all 5 years) for each of the indicators will be determined. The team will also suggest the MELS team on the mid-term evaluation and end line evaluation of the project. However, at the end of the consultancy, CSA Activity will be looking forward to receiving the following:

- After final selection, an inception report and revised work plan shall be submitted.
- Data collection tools (Documentation of the baseline survey methodology including methods and survey tools, questionnaires, sampling, tools, and final analysis)
- Draft Baseline Survey report shall present the main findings with Indicators and include recommendations based on learning from the CSA.
- A PowerPoint presentation on the draft report should be in English.
- Two copies of the final report (hard copy) and a soft copy of the final report including annexes and references.
- One copy of the final PowerPoint presentation (in soft copy) in English.
- Data sets of quantitative and qualitative analysis and other relevant documents should be submitted.
- Images captured during the baseline study should be incorporated into the draft report and submitted.

6. Team Composition

The proposed consultant team will have a qualified academic background, knowledge, experience, and capacity to manage the survey. The team to be comprised should have a strong background in conducting baseline surveys and research. Apart from this, the key team members will have specialization in climate change and gender, seed system, fertilizer market, soil health, water management, plant protection product, agriculture mechanization, private sector, Agriinput business network, poverty analysis, and sound experience in administrating participatory methods and tools at the field level. The key team members will recruit the other necessary human resources for data collection, data management and data analysis.

7. Time Frame

The consultant will submit a proposed work plan with key milestones within a week of signing the contract. This work plan will be reviewed and approved by CSA Management. The questionnaires both qualitative and quantitative anticipated to be shared with CSA and CSA will review and provide input which will be incorporated in consultation with the CSA team. Below provided anticipated timeframe

Major Activities	Start Date	End Date
Technical and Financial		January 18, 2024
proposal		
Signing of Contract		January 31, 2024
Sharing of Methodology	February 6, 2024	February 08, 2024
Finalization of	February 11, 2024	February 20, 2024
Questionnaires and survey		
tools		
Survey conduction	February 22, 2024	March 03, 2024
Data processing and	March 04, 2024	March 10, 2024
analyzing		
First draft on baseline		March 18, 2024
findings		
First draft of baseline report		March 24, 2024
Presentation on the Baseline		March 27, 2024
Final report submission		March 31, 2024

8. Checklist for Proposal Submission

The agency/consultant will submit a detailed proposal for the assignment. The proposal must reflect the methodology, tools, analysis plan and reporting formats in detail. The proposal should be divided into two parts i.e. technical and financial.

The technical part will contain the following sections.

- Background
- Literature review
- Understanding and conceptualizing the assignment
- Detailed methodology including a proposed framework.
- Detailed timeframe (including dates for submission of the first draft and final report).
- Detailed CV of the team members containing experience on relevant issues and/or profile of the organization (in case of an organization).
- Sample of previous works of a similar nature undertaken.
- A consulting firm profile (if applicable) and TIN certificate.

The financial part will describe the estimated cost in detail. It should be given in a separate worksheet.

9. Payment Modality

As per IFDC standard policy and guidelines.

10. Supporting Documents

- Geo-location of CSA Project
- Theory of Change
- List of Model Village
- List of Indicators with PIRS
- Project Brief

Interested candidates are requested to communicate with Mr. Bishnu Rup Chowdhury to get further details and relevant supporting documents <u>bchowdhury@ifdc.org</u>. Cell: 880 1714216177

Annex -1 **Vendor Information Form**

Please provide the following information and enclose <u>documentary evidence</u>.

Information Required	Information provided by the vendor	Remarks
Name of the Company/Firm		
Registration authority of the		
company/firm in Bangladesh		
RJSC Reg. No. (if any)		
IDRA Reg. No.		
City Corporation/Municipal body issued		
Trade license number. And up-do-date		
renewal		
Registration with other related bodies,		
like chambers of commerce or other		
professional body (if any)		
Taxpayers Identification Number (TIN)		
Latest tax return acknowledgment slip		
BIN/VAT Registration Number		
Name of the banker		
Bank Account number		
Bank Account name and title		
Bank Branch Name		
Routing number		
Swift number		
Name of the Managing Director/Chief		
Executive Officer/Proprietor of the		
company/firm		
NID/Passport number and Cellphone		
number and e-mail of		
MD/CEO/Proprietor		
Name and Designation of the Company		
representative/contract person with		
whom IFDC will contact time-to-time		
Provide the NID, telephone, and e-mail		
of the representative/contact person		
Any Agency you assigned for this		
purpose, please provide their details		
Signature :		
Name :		
Title :		
Date :		

[Seal of the Company/Firm]

Annex -2 Previous Relevant Experience Form

Description of Work	Contract Identification and Title and Contact details of Client (Name, Address, telephone, email, fax)	Period of services provided	

Certified that the information provided in this section is true and we are ready to provide the evidence on demand.

Signature	:
Name :	:
Title :	:
Date	:

[Seal of the Company/Firm]