**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**TO PARTNER WITH UDDOKTA PROJECT**

**Applications will be screened on a rolling basis.**

**SUBJECT:** Call for Expressions of Interest to partner with the Uddokta Project in Sylhet Region

The Uddokta project is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from private companies engaged in agricultural mechanization, agricultural inputs (seed and feed), agriculture production, renewable energy and WASH sector to partner with the project. In particular, the project is seeking to partner with firms that are interested in expanding their operations to the Sylhet region and expanding their market share to reach communities in the Upazilas of **Sylhet Sadar, Nabiganj, Sreemangal and Kamalganj**. . The project anticipates signing grant agreements with one or more successful partner(s), subject to alignment with Uddokta priorities, due diligence, and agreement on terms. Only registered private companies with established offices and businesses should apply for this support.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Uddokta – *empowering entrepreneurs* is a partnership between Chevron and iDE under the Bangladesh Partnership Initiative (BPI). Under the BPI, Uddokta seeks to amplify Chevron’s investments made in Bangladesh to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural communities through an increased focus on empowering local entrepreneurs and building inclusive market systems that link smallholder producers to more rewarding opportunities.

Uddokta will provide support to 1,100 micro, medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) to seed, incubate and/or accelerate their businesses in diverse sectors including agriculture and livestock production, agricultural mechanization, renewable energy, water and sanitation and direct-to-doorstep sales of household consumer goods. Through this EOI, the project will seek to leverage co-investments from the private sector totalling USD 1.5M dollars in loans, and increased sales of quality inputs and improved technologies.

**PRIORITY AREAS OF INTEREST**

Uddokta project is looking to work with ag machinery, ag inputs (seed and feed), renewable energy and WASH companies who are operating in the **Sylhet Sadar, Sreemangal, Kamalganj and Nabiganj Upazila** of the Sylhet Division or looking to expand their business into the region. The project can provide support with technical assistance, training, cost-sharing logistics costs, facilitating links to financial services, and supporting you in accessing new markets for your products. Areas of interest for collaboration include but are not limited to:

* Establishment of new dealerships or sales centers for the sale of agricultural machinery, ag inputs (seed and feed), renewable energy and WASH products in the Uddokta working areas
* New or improved ideas for advertising, sales and marketing of ag machinery, ag inputs (seed and feed), renewable energy and WASH, in particular, those that target youth and/or women of the Uddokta working areas.
* Pilot a Sales Agent model targeting women and youth through recruitment, training, and deployment of “local service providers (LSPs)” as commission-based agents for the provision of input supply (Ag and WASH), machinery service, crop insurance, and crop procurement services etc..
* Capacity development of **100 local service providers under mechanization, 15 Latrine Producers, 20 seed retailers, 20 paravets, 20 Farm Business Advisors and 30 Women Sales Agents,** including supporting them to organize community level sales sessions in **nine Unions of the mentioned four Upazila**.
* For the Ag Mechanization sector, expansion of machinery mechanic services, after-sales service and sales of spare parts into new or existing dealerships.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**The Expression of Interest Information should:**

* Be in English, **no more than 2 pages in length**, and no smaller than **12 point font**;
* Be submitted electronically in pdf format;
* Include a short summary of your organization's history and current business activities and capacity
* Short description of the proposed idea, concept, and activities. Indicate the impact this will have on your business and how you think it would benefit farmers in the Sylhet region
* Indicate why you cannot implement these ideas and activities without project support.
* Details of current or past work (if any) with projects funded other development programs
* Notional budget for the proposed activities, including an estimated contribution to the budget from the applicant. Follow below table:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of activity | Target quantity for 2021 and 2022 | Unit Rate- BDT | Total Budget- BDT | Cash contribution from Company (BDT) | In-kind contribution from Company (BDT)  | Requested contribution from iDE- BDT\* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**\* Must be a minimum 1: 1 match. That is the company must contribute 1 taka minimum for each BDT taka from iDE**

**Documents required:**

* **Organizational Profile:** This will include your organization's objectives, management capacity, networks, national or international affiliations, product categories and technologies, and information on your operations and management systems. Not to exceed 10 pages.
* **Legal registration documents:** This should include your organization's registration in Bangladesh, under the appropriate department, tax registration documents, and any other documents that relate to your functioning in Bangladesh.

Please submit your application to bangladesh.procurement@ideglobal.org with the subject line ‘**Uddokta Expression of Interest**’. The submission deadline is **31st December 2020** at 5 PM Bangladesh Standard Time. Any queries regarding the EOI should be sent to Mr. Ashfike Khalaque (ashfike.khalaque@ideglobal.org),

Phone +88 01717 675100.

Only shortlisted firms will be contacted for the next round of the selection process.