REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)

WorldFish Bangladesh

Asia - Africa BlueTech Superhighway (AABS) project

Rapid situational analysis for coastal and marine aquaculture in Bangladesh

A. Background

WorldFish is an international, not-for-profit research organization that works to reduce hunger and poverty by improving fisheries and aquaculture. It collaborates with numerous international, regional, and national partners to deliver transformational impacts to millions of people who depend on fish for food, nutrition, and income in the developing world.

Headquartered in Penang, Malaysia and with regional offices across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, WorldFish is a member of CGIAR, the world's largest global partnership on agriculture research and innovation for a food secure future.

Asia - Africa BlueTech Superhighway (AABS):

The Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway (AABS) project, backed by the UK's COAST program under the Blue Planet Fund, aims to help communities adapt to climate change and sustainably manage marine and coastal resources. This will enhance food and nutritional security and create employment and income opportunities. Implemented over seven years in two phases, Phase 1 will begin in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Tanzania.In Bangladesh, AABS will introduce Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), which combines different species in a symbiotic farming system. This enhances productivity and utilizes waste from one species as inputs for another, promoting marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Led by WorldFish, AABS is a two-continent program transforming aquatic food systems in Africa and Asia, aiming to benefit over 300,000 primary beneficiaries (50% women and youth) and over 400,000 secondary beneficiaries. The project leverages South-South collaboration to scale evidence-based models for impact.
AABS comprises four work packages:

WP1:Digital Coasts

WP2:Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (IMTA)

WP3:Climate-Smart Technologies for Reducing Aquatic Food Waste and Loss

WP4:Incentives for Marine Conservation and Fisheries Management

In Bangladesh, WP2 and WP4 will transform aquatic food systems from 2023 to 2027. WP2 focuses on IMTA, promoting sustainable farming of different species to enhance productivity, resource efficiency, and economic benefits for local farmers. WP2's objectives include:

- Conducting a comprehensive analysis of IMTA contexts.
- Developing or improving IMTA systems through research and innovation.
- Validating context-specific IMTA business models.
- Scaling IMTA systems within and beyond project countries.

Working area:
Coastal region of Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, and Satkhira districts in Bangladesh.

B. Objective of the RFP

A rapid situation analysis for coastal and marine aquaculture involves assessing various factors that influence the development, management, and sustainability of aquaculture activities in coastal and marine environments. The request for proposal aims to conduct a

rapid situation analysis on marine and coastal aquaculture, focusing on current practices, challenges, and opportunities in the study areas. Objectives include assessing environmental impacts, economic viability, community involvement, technological needs, and policy frameworks to inform sustainable development and management strategies for the sector and SWOT analysis on coastal and marine aquaculture in Bangladesh.

C. Scope of work

The rapid situation analysis aims to provide a holistic understanding of the coastal and marine aquaculture sector in Bangladesh, highlighting both current challenges and future opportunities. This will support the development of informed strategies for sustainable growth and management of the sector.

The scope of work for conducting a situation analysis on coastal and marine aquaculture in Bangladesh involves comprehensive assessment and evaluation activities designed to inform sustainable development and management strategies. The analysis will cover the following key areas:

Current Coastal and marine aquaculture practices:

- Identify and document existing coastal and marine aquaculture practices in Bangladesh.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of these practices.

Environmental Assessment:

- Examine the environmental issues for aquaculture activities, including water quality, marine ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Economic Viability:

- Analyze the economic performance of the aquaculture sector, including profitability, cost structures, and market dynamics.
- Assess the potential for economic growth and development within the sector.
- Identify economic barriers and opportunities for investment.

Community Involvement and Social Aspects:

- Evaluate the level of community involvement in aquaculture activities.
- Assess the social impacts, including benefits and challenges faced by local communities.
- Propose measures to enhance community participation and social equity in aquaculture projects.

Technological Needs:

- Identify current technological practices and innovations in the aquaculture sector.
- Assess the need for new technologies or improvements in existing ones to enhance productivity and sustainability.
- Recommend potential technological solutions and innovations that could be adopted.

Policy and Regulatory Framework:

- Review existing policies, regulations, and governance structures related to coastal and marine aquaculture.
- Assess the effectiveness of these frameworks in promoting sustainable aquaculture practices.
- Identify gaps and propose recommendations for policy and regulatory improvements.

Market and Value Chain Data:

- Gather and analyze data on market demand, supply chains, and distribution networks for aquaculture products in the coastal regions.
- Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of existing value chains, including the roles of producers, processors, distributors, and retailers.
- Assess market access and competitiveness of aquaculture products, both domestically and internationally.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Identify key challenges facing the coastal and marine aquaculture sector, such as environmental concerns, resource limitations, and market access issues.
- Explore opportunities for development, including emerging markets, new species, and innovative practices.

SWOT Analysis:

- Conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis specific to the coastal and marine aquaculture sector in Bangladesh.
- Use the SWOT analysis to inform strategic planning and decision-making.

Recommendations for Sustainable Development:

- Based on the findings from the situation analysis, provide actionable recommendations for promoting sustainable development in the coastal and marine aquaculture sector.
- Suggest strategies for improving environmental sustainability, economic viability, community engagement, technological advancement, and policy support.

To effectively address the key areas outlined in the scope of work, the following data requirements need to be considered:

Data Type	Parameter	Data points
Environmental Data	Water Quality Parameters	pH, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity
	Hydrodynamics	Currents, tides, and water flow patterns
	Climate Data	Temperature ranges, seasonal variations, precipitation
	Ecosystem Health	Status of local ecosystems, including biodiversity, presence of protected areas, and ecosystem services.
Geospatial Data	Site Location	Geographic coordinates of coastal and marine area
	Bathymetry	Depth profiles and seabed characteristics
	Land Use	Current and planned land uses in coastal areas
	Proximity to Infrastructure	Distance to markets, processing facilities, and transportation networks
	GIS analysis	Map sites
	Habitat suitability	Site suitability identifications
Economic Data	Production Volumes	Quantity of aquaculture produce harvested annually
	Market Prices	Current and historical prices of aquaculture products
	Economic Contribution	Contribution of aquaculture to local, regional, and national economies

Data Type	Parameter	Data points
	Cost Analysis	Detailed breakdown of production costs, including feed, labor, and infrastructure
Social and Community Data	Demographics	Age, gender, education level, and socio-economic status of those involved in aquaculture
	Employment	Number of people employed directly and indirectly by the aquaculture sector
	Community Impact	Economic and social benefits of aquaculture for local communities
	Health and Safety	Health conditions and occupational safety in aquaculture operations
Technical and Operational Data	Aquaculture Practice	Current aquaculture techniques and technologies used in the project countries
	Resource Availability	Availability of inputs like feed, seed, aquainputs and equipment
	Technical Expertise	Level of local expertise and training in aquaculture practices
Regulatory and Policy Data	Regulatory Framework	Existing laws and regulations governing aquaculture, environmental protection, and coastal management
	Zoning Regulations	Designated areas for aquaculture and restrictions on certain activities
	Permitting and licences Processes	Requirements for obtaining permits for aquaculture operations
Market and Value Chain Data (coastal region)	Supply Chains	Structure and efficiency of fish supply chains from production to market
	Market Access	Access to local, regional, and international fish markets
	Value Addition	Levels of processing and value addition to aquaculture products
	Trade Data	Import and export statistics for aquaculture products
Technological and Innovation Data (coastal region)	Research and Development	Current R&D activities and innovations in the sector
	Technology Adoption	Rate of adoption of new technologies and best practices
	Infrastructure	Quality and availability of infrastructure supporting aquaculture activities
Risk and Disaster Management Data (coastal region)	Natural Disasters	Historical data on natural disasters affecting aquaculture
	Risk Management Plans	Existing disaster risk management and contingency plans
	Climate Resilience	Strategies for enhancing resilience to climate variability and change
Cultural and Traditional Knowledge Data (coastal region)	Local Practices	Traditional aquaculture practice , better managemnt practices
	Cultural Significance	Cultural importance of aquaculture activities and species to local communities.

Sample and data collection tools:

The firm or contractor should provide a comprehensive survey sampling plan, including the

sample size for each stakeholder type along with appropriate data collection tools.

D. Methodology

The hired Consulting firm /institution will have to apply statistically acceptable qualitative and quantitative methods to conduct the study. The consulting firm/institution needs to consider the following aspects in designing the study-

- Survey area
- Sampling design both qualitative and quantitative
- Survey/data collection tools development like questionnaire, check list etc as required
- Training for data collection team
- Field work plan
- Data collection method, management and analysis
- Reporting

E. Target audience

Target audiences for In depth Interview (IDI), Focus group discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII) interviews in coastal aquaculture include stakeholders involved in the coastal aquaculture and mariculture of fish, shrimp/prawn, crab, seaweed, and mussels.

Key stakeholders:

Producer- fish, shrimp/prawn, crab, seaweed, and mussels' farmers

Input producers: fish seed and feed producers, input traders, input sellers, service providers, processors, exporters, and buyers operating in coastal regions.

Government: Department of Fisheries (DoF), (Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute(BFRI), relevant government institutions, policymakers

Research & Development: Universities and aquaculture research institutions.

Private Sector: Enterprises and companies involved in the aquaculture sector.

F. Deliverables

The firm is expected to deliver the following key deliverables:

- Prepare a comprehensive report (hard copies and soft copies) detailing the findings, analysis, and recommendations from the situation analysis.
- KII report
- FGD report
- All types of data both raw and clean set
- A comprehensive presentation with the findings and a manuscript for submission to a peer review journal

G. Requirements from Consulting firm/institutions:

Profile of consulting firm's project team

- Socio-Economist/Fisheries as Team leader: PhD/Masters in Agricultural Economics/Economics/Social science/Statistics/Fisheries and any other relevant background discipline from a recognized university obtained in Bangladesh or abroad. The candidate to be considered should have 8-10 years of experience working on baseline/impact studies.

- Fisheries/Aquaculture Expert Team members: Masters from recognized university in the relevant discipline of Fisheries/Aquaculture and should have at least 5 years of experience working with baseline/impact evaluation studies. Experienced in assessment on marine and coastal aquaculture will be an advantage to the team composition.
- Data Management Expert: Graduation from relevant subject with 3-5 years of experience in analyzing survey data using relevant software's such as, STATA, Minitab, Gen Stat and SPSS. A team member should have solid understanding about data quality.

H. Working Experience

- Experience in conducting survey/research in aquaculture and fisheries
- Experience to work with paper and electronic based data capture, monitoring and evaluation tools

I. Contract length and time period for deliverables

Start date and duration: The firm will carry out the tasks within **70 working days** from signing of agreement.

J. Evaluation

Interested firms/institutions need to submit both technical and financial proposals.

1) Technical proposal parameters

In order to be considered for this opportunity, proposals must include the following:

- Organization background & strength of the proposed team;
- Past record of implementing similar assignments.
- Past record of research, impact assessment and/or consultancy.
- Study methodology, sampling plan
- Data collection tool/s

2) Financial Proposal

Agencies/firms need to submit a financial proposal that includes separate pricing breakdown. The pricing must include applicable tax and vat rates. Required documentation.

K. Required documentation

It is mandatory for bidding organizations to submit documentary evidence demonstratingtheir legal, taxation and financial status. This includes:

- A certificate of incorporation (for individual companies, a trade license);
- Joint stock registration certificate (if applicable);
- An organizational organogram of key personnel, inclusive of the names of suchpersonnel, profile and experience
- Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- VAT registration number;
- Proof of a bank account (providing the name and address of such an account);
- Other valid papers (provided by government institutions).

L. Submission details

M. The bidders must submit One (1) copy of each of the Technical and Financial proposal in 2 (two) separate flies clearly marked on the document titled as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" and "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL". Please mention RFP

reference as subject line of mail by xx August, 2024 b**efore 5:00 pm to procurement.wfbd@worldfishcenter.org.**

N. Care must be taken to ensure that the technical proposal does not give any information relating to the financial proposal; otherwise, the submission will be rejected. Upon delivery, applicants may request a stamped receipt confirming timely submission. Please note that incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

O.
Tax & Vat

The Financial Proposal shall specify a total delivery amount (in BDT) including mentioning taxes & Vat. Tax and VAT shall be deducted from the contract amount according to the Government Rules and Regulations.

Questions and Clarifications
All questions and/or clarifications regarding this RFP must be submitted via email to m.bhuyain@cgiar.org, no later than xx August, 2024. All correspondence and/or inquiries regarding this solicitation shall reference the RFP number in the subject line. No phone calls or in-person inquiries will be entertained; all questions and inquiries must be through email communication.