

Notice inviting Expression of Interest

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE

The Government of Assam intends to engage Firm/Agency for issue of Soil Health Card to the farmers of the state. The Director of Agriculture , Assam, Khanapara , Guwahati-22 invites application for issue of Soil Health Card to the farmers of Assam as given in the detail terms of reference (TOR), which can be seen & perused at following URL www.rkvyassam.in and in the Soil Health Management Cell of the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Khanapara, Guwahati-22. The interested Firm/ Agency may apply with their credential to the Director of Agriculture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 on or before 2 PM of 09/09/16. They should produce their proposed Action Plan for the said project along with the application. The allocation of the work will be made on the basis of their Action Plan, credentials and experience in dealing with such type of works. The selection of the Firm/Agency will be done by a Technical Committee constituted for the purpose.

(Mr. B.N. Saikia)
Director of Agriculture, Assam
Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Expression of Interest

(Terms of Reference)

Introduction

Soil is a non renewable resource so every step should be taken to enrich it for maintaining the productivity in one hand and to conserve it with minimum degradation for sustaining productivity of the soil. There are about 27 lakh farm families in the state. Soil testing is a tool to get firsthand knowledge about the nutrient status of these farm holding and accordingly the nutrient management can be taken up.

In view of the above, it is proposed to implement soil testing programme in mission mode for 2 years in the form of Soil Health Card Mission by analyzing about 23 lakh soil sample based on grid this year and issuing about 12 lakh Soil Health Card to the farmers.

The main objective of the programme is –

- Issue of Soil Health Card to all farmers of Assam over a period of three years which will be repeated in every three years.
- Develop crop specific nutrient management for enhancing nutrient use efficiency.
- Promotion of Soil Test based nutrient management for higher production.

“**Contract**” means the Contract signed by the Parties, to which these Conditions of Contract are attached, together with all the documents as part of this EoI. Term ‘DoA’ means Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam and ‘Agency’ means work allotted party.

1. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

This Contract, its meaning and interpretation, and the relation between the Parties shall be governed by the Applicable Law and the courts at Guwahati shall have exclusive jurisdiction over matters arising out of or relating to this Agreement.

2 Taxes and Duties

Unless otherwise specified, the Agencies, Sub-Agencies and Personnel shall pay such taxes, duties, fees and other impositions as may be levied under the Applicable Law. DoA shall reimburse only service tax on production of specific proof of payment of service tax.

2.1 Termination of Contract for Failure to Become Effective

If this Contract has not become effective within such time period after the date of the Contract signed by the Parties as shall be specified in the Agreement, either Party may, by not less than 15 days written notice to the other Party, declare this Contract to be null and void, and in the event of such a declaration by either Party, neither Party shall have any claim against the other Party with respect hereto

2.2 No Breach of Contract

The failure of a Party to fulfill any of its obligations hereunder shall not be considered to be a breach of, or default under, this Contract insofar as such inability arises from an event of Force Majeure, provided that the Party affected by such an event has taken all reasonable precautions,

due care and reasonable alternative measures, all with the objective of carrying out the terms and conditions of this Contract.

2.3 Confidentiality

The Agencies, their Sub-Agencies and the Personnel of either of them shall not, either during the term or within 1 (one) year after the expiry of this Contract, disclose any proprietary or confidential information relating to the Project, the Services, this Contract or the DoA,'s operations without the prior written consent of the DoA.

2.4 Agency's liability towards the DoA

The Agencies shall, be liable to the DoA for any direct loss or damage accrued or likely to accrue due to deficiency in Services rendered by it. The Parties hereto agree that in case of negligence or willful misconduct on the part of the Agency or on the part of any person or firm acting on behalf of the Agency in carrying out the Services, the Agency, with respect to damage caused to the DoA's property, shall be liable to the DoA:

(i) for any indirect or consequential loss or damage. And

(ii) for any direct loss or damage DoA shall deduct the money assessed from the Agency's Bill.

(iii).the agencies shall make necessary arrangements to insure labs/lab equipments/key personals against all accidents and natural calamities. This limitation of liability shall not affect the Agency's liability, if any, for damage to Third Parties caused by the Agency or any person or firm acting on behalf of the Agency in carrying out the Services.

2.5. Accuracy of Data

The Agency shall be responsible for accuracy of the Collection of soil samples; Sample coding; Soil analysis; Generation of soil health cards; soil analysis based recommendation; ,it shall indemnify the DoA against any inaccuracy in its work which

might surface during implementation of the Project, if such inaccuracy is the result of any negligence or inadequate due diligence on part of the Agency or arises out of its failure to conform to good industry practice. The Agency shall also be responsible for promptly correcting, at its own cost and risk including any re-samples collection and analysis.

3 Right to Accept or Reject any of the Proposals

3.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in the notice, DoA reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal or to annul the EoI process or reject all Proposals, at any time without any liability or any obligation for such rejection or annulment, without assigning any reasons.

3.2 DoA reserves the right to invite revised Proposals from Agency with or without amendment of Agreement at any stage, without liability or any obligation for such invitation and without assigning any reason.

3.3 DoA reserves the right to reject any Proposal if:

a). at any time, a material misrepresentation is made or discovered, or

b). the Agency does not respond promptly and diligently to requests for supplemental information required for the evaluation of the Proposal.

3.4 Rejection of the Proposal by DoA as aforesaid would lead to the disqualification of the Agency. If such disqualification / rejection occurs after the Proposals have been opened and the Preferred Agency gets disqualified / rejected, then DoA reserves the right to: a. either award the work to next best Agency to carry out the work

OR

b. either invite the next best Agency to match the Proposal submitted by the Preferred Applicant;

OR

c. take any such measure as may be deemed fit in the sole discretion of DoA, including annulment of the EoI process.

3.5 Any relevant information sought by DoA as per the Terms of Reference is not being furnished, Agency will be summarily rejected.

3.6 The DoA reserve the right to distribute the work volume to more than one qualifying Agency.

4. Selected Agency must complete the work as per cost norms shown in the terms of reference. There may be variation of cost among components shown in the cost norms. In no case total expenditure should exceed.

Cost norms for Soil Sample analysis and issue of Soil Health Card (for 10,000 nos Soil sample)

Sl No	Activities/ Component	Annual Expenditure per Soil Testing Laboratory (STL)
1	a) Cost of Sampling materials i.e. Cloth bag + metallic label + tag+ transport @ Rs. 12.00 per sample x10000	120000.00
	b) Honourium for collection of Soil Samplings @ Rs. 10.00 per Sample x10000	100000.00
2	Contractual Services for Soil analysis - Two staff @ Rs 7500.00 per month (Rs. 7500x2x12) + One time training @ Rs 5000.00 (Rs. 5000.00x2)	190000.00
3	a) Cost of analysis of one Sample for pH, Organic Carbon, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Boron, sulfur, calcium & requirement of Lime/Gypsum and Texture - Rs. 75.00x10000	750000.00
	b) Miscellaneous Expenditure like maintenance of Laboratory equipments, Consumable like Glassware, Plastic ware etc	70000.00
4	a) Printing of Soil Health Card @ Rs. 5.00 per Card 5.00 x10cards x10,000 Soil Samples	500000.00
	b) Distribution of Soil Health Card per STL @ Rs. 500.00 per Gaon Panchayat (LS)	55000.00
5	Subsidy on inputs for demonstration in one sample grid of 10 ha	45000.000
	a) Soil amendments @ Rs 500.00 per ha x10 = Rs. 5000.00	
	b) Micronutrients @ Rs.500.00 per ha x 10 = Rs. 5000.00	
	c) Organic inputs @ Rs.500.00 per ha x 10 = Rs 5000.00	
	d) Fertilizer @ Rs.2500.00 per ha x 10 = Rs. 25000.00	
	d) Training (One day) = Rs. 5000.00	
Total Rs. 4000.00/ha = Rs. 45000.00		
6	Awareness creation to be carried out by STL through Print and Electronic media and awareness campaign about Soil Test Based Nutrient application/ Mission Management by STLs	22000.00

7	GPS (Global Positioning System) Equipment for bench mark Soil Samples and visiting same spot to evaluate Soil fertility status after a period of time and also for developing fertility status 5 GPS @ Rs. 6000.00/STL	30000.00
	Fund required per STL of 10000 samples analysing capacity	188200.00
	Expenditure for monitoring by the Dept. of Agriculture (1% expenditure)	18820.00
Total expenditure for 10000 sample Say		190000.00
Say Rs.190.00 per Soil sample		

5. Standard of Performance

The Agencies shall perform the Services and carry out their obligations hereunder with all due diligence, efficiency and economy, in accordance with generally accepted professional techniques and practices, and shall observe sound management practices, and employ appropriate advanced technology and safe and effective equipment, machinery, materials and methods" The Agencies shall always" act, in respect of any matter relating to this Contract or to the Services, as faithful advisers to the DoA, and shall at all times support and safeguard the DoA's legitimate interests in any dealings with Sub- Agencies or Third Parties.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 Soil is a non renewable living resource. Every effort must be made to enrich this natural resource for maximizing its productivity on one hand and to conserve this resource with minimal degradation for the prosperity, sustaining productivity of soil. In Assam, there are 33lakh farm holdings. Soil testing is a tool to assess the available nutrient status of a soil. Interpretation of test results and making recommendation for nutrient management may be appropriate to achieve sustainable yields on long term basis.

.2 In view of above, it is proposed to implement the soil testing programme on a mission mode for three years in the form of Soil Health Mission by analyzing the soil samples based on grid and issuing soil health cards to all the farm holdings covered under the grid with the following objective:

- Ø issue soil health cards to all farmers in Assam over a period of three years, so as to provide a basis to include nutrient deficiencies in fertilizer recommendation
- Ø develop crop specific nutrient management in the districts for enhancing nutrient use efficiency.
- Ø promote soil test based balancing of nutrients to manage fertility related risks for higher production.

3 In pursuance of the above, the DoA has now decided to carry out a bid process for Selection of Agencies for implementation of Soil Health Mission.

The Successful Agency would be required to perform the following task:

1. Collection of soil samples
2. Sample coding
3. Soil analysis
4. Generation of soil health cards
5. Distribution of Soil Health Card.

Objective

The objective of this Implementation of Soil Health Mission in the State of Assam inclusive of but not limited to Creating awareness; Collection of soil samples; Sample coding; Soil analysis; Generation of soil health cards; Providing soil analysis based recommendations.

Scope of Services

The Authority will select the districtwise agency to undertake the implementation of Soil Health Card Mission. The selected agency shall extend their co-operation for the following activities to be undertaken by the department .

a. Creating awareness: Creating awareness among the farmers regarding methodology in collection of the samples and recommendations of crop specific nutrients based on the soil test results. The awareness programmes will be carried out at State /District /village level by the Agency through various mass media methods (using print and electronic media).

:

b Collection of soil samples: Criteria of samples to be taken:

- (i) Irrigated area – at 2.5 ha grid for marginal and small holdings.
- (ii) Irrigated area – one sample each holding for semi-medium, medium & large holdings (Irrigated Area/Av.size).
- (iii) Rainfed area – at 10 ha grid for marginal, small, semi-medium & medium holdings.
- (iv) Rainfed area – one sample each holding for large holdings (Rainfed Area / Av.size).
- (v) samples collected should represent all the farmers holdings in that grid if that grid contains more than one farmer. The sample should be collected from all 4 (four) corners and 1 (one) in the centre of the grid. The Soil samples should be collected in presence of concerned farmer. GPS coordinates should be recorded at the time of soil collection..
- (vi) Soil sample should be collected from 0-15 cm depth. The collected soil samples along with farmers inventory sheet (as per GoI MIS Format) should be transported to the respective soil

testing laboratories. The districtwise and yearwise allocation of soil samples to be drawn is given in Annexure -1.

Annexure -1.

Sl No	Name of District	Net Cropped area (Ha)	Samples to be collected
1	Dhubri	134349	10787
2	Goalpara	80753	5854
3	Sonitpur	165141	6299
4	Biswanath Chariali		12339
5	Lakhimpur	100169	8964
6	Dhemaji	65506	6918
7	Karbi Anglong	126399	4986
8	Dima-Hasao	28171	823
9	Cachar	115386	8163
10	Karimganj	76035	5883
11	Hailakandi	50294	5161
12	Kamrup (R)	177254	11859
13	Darang	103833	6624
14	Kamrup (M)	43317	2455
15	Udalguri	99949	12771
Total		1366556	109886

Biweekly progress report should be submitted to the D.A.O.s with the following details

1. District

2. Subdivision

3. Block

4 Gaonpanchayat

5. Village

{ Farmers name ,Survey No, Gender, Category(SC/ST/General) details also should be included to this code by the Agency}

c. Analysis of soil samples: Soil samples should be analysed by following the standard procedures followed in static and Mobile soil laboratories as per as per Laboratory manual of Department of Agriculture. (Manual will be provided to the successful applicant by the DoA)

I. Qualitative parameters: pH and EC.

II. Major Nutrients: OC., Phosphorous, Potassium

III. Secondary Nutrients: Sulphur.Calcium

IV. Micronutrients : Zinc, , Iron,Copper,Manganese and Boron

After analysis of the soil samples the remaining portion of the sample should be preserved until the third party check.

e. Programme Monitoring Software : The samples are to be tracked right from the date of collection of samples, transportation to lab, analysis of soil sample, generation of soil health card and final distribution of soil health card pertaining to the sample.

d. Providing soil health information: After analyzing of soil samples in Soil testing labs soil health cards should be distributed to all the farmers holdings wise of that particular grid from where the soil samples are collected by the Agency.

3. List of Deliverables

1. Timely progress reports should be submitted in the specified formats provided by the DoA

2. Soil health cards soft copies to be submitted to the concerned District Agril. Officer within the specified time.

3. On expiry or termination of the contract, the DoA labs ,equipments or any other resources of the Authority should be handed over to the Authority in as was form. Any damages to the said properties shall attract penalties in the form of forfeiture of the PBG partially or in whole.

4. Schedule of payment

The Agency shall deliver the above deliverables (the “Deliverables”) during the course of the agreement period as per the formats provided by the authority . Accordingly the activity wise payments shall be as follows. All payments will be made through the DoA.

Key Date No	Description of Deliverables	Timeline	Payment
KD1	Soil sample collection(along with GPS coordinates) , coding of soil samples, packing and transportation to soil testing labs	As per schedule submitted by the selected agency	50% of the amount as per the price finalized by DoA for the purpose of Soil sample collection ,packing , coding of soil samples and transportation of samples to soil testing labs

			will be paid within a short time after the agency submits the detailed work done report on soil sample collection , coding of soil samples, packing and transportation to soil testing labs. Remaining 50% will be paid within short time after obtaining satisfactory the verification / work Completion report.
KD2	Analysis of the soil samples as per terms, data entry & distribution of SHC to farmers	As per schedule submitted by the selected agency	50% of the amount as per the price finalized by DoA for the purpose of soil analysis will be paid within a short time after the agency submits the work done report regarding soil analysis. Remaining 50% will be paid within a short time after obtaining satisfactory verification / work Completion report.

All the deliverables should be submitted as per the formats provided by the authority after signing of Agreement. Further one set of hard copies and soft copies in CDs of all the final Deliverables shall be submitted to the District Agril. Officer as per key dates. Agencies should maintain backup information in electronic form to be kept separately and handed over to the department officials as per further intimation.

5. Completion of Services

1 All the outputs including primary data shall be compiled, classified and submitted by the Agency to the DoA in soft copy apart from the reports indicated in the Deliverables. The study outputs shall remain the property of the DoA and shall not be used for any purpose other than that intended under these Terms of Reference without the permission of the DoA.

2 All activities as per schedule should be performed by the selected agency, if in any Case the agency concerned fails to perform and in case such activities is performed by the DoA, accordingly the payment to the agencies shall be deducted activity wise

How to apply?

(SPECIMEN COPY OF APPLICATION FORM)

Date:

To,

The Director for Agriculture,
Department of Agriculture, Assam
Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Sub: Selection of Agencies for implementation of Soil Health Card in Assam.

Sir,

I/We have reviewed the EoI including Instructions and the Terms of Reference and agree to abide by all the terms and conditions therein. I/We hereby offer my willingness to perform the work as stated in the Instructions and the Terms of Reference.

I/We furnish all the requisite documents along with Action plan with this application.

Yours faithfully,

Signature

(Authorized signatory and designation with seal of the agency)

Details of Agency

1. Name
2. Address of the office(s)
3. Date of incorporation and/or commencement of business.
4. Brief description of the Company including details of its main lines of business.
5. Name, Designation, Address and Phone Numbers of Authorized Signatory of the Applicant:
 - c. Name :
 1. Designation :
 2. Company :
 3. Address :
 4. Telephone Number :
 5. Fax Number :
 6. Mobile Number :
 7. E-Mail Address :
6. Details of individual (s) who will serve as the point of contact / communication for DoA within the Company:
 - d. Name :
 - e. Designation :
 - f. Company :
 - g. Address :
 - h. Telephone Number :
 - i. Fax Number :
 - j. Mobile Number :
 - k. E-Mail Address :

Signature, name and designation
of the authorized signatory with seal

Department of Agriculture will cross check 3% of the entire work both in Field & Laboratory. They have to work under the direction of Director of Agriculture, Assam, and had to follow the Guideline & Instruction given to them from time to time. All the activities to be covered as per cost norms given above. Any increased in the cost the department of Agriculture will not be liable to pay the additional cost. The Director of Agriculture reserve the right to cancel the assign works in case of unsatisfactory performance at any time.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture, Assam,
Khanapara, Guwahati -22