

TENDER 10018814-Integrated Support for Regenerative Red Chilli Cultivation and Women-Led Enterprise Development in Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka, RFQ Nr. 7000014622

S.No	Clause & Page / Reference	Content of RFP Seeking Clarification	Clarification Requested		
1.	ToR Section 1.2 & 2, Pages 4-5 (Assignment area and WP1)	Implementation in selected clusters of Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh and Raichur, Karnataka; mobilization of 1,000 smallholder red chilli farmers including 30% women.	We understand that the exact list of districts, blocks, gram panchayats, villages and target clusters will materially affect deployment, travel, mobilization effort and costing. Requesting you to please share the proposed cluster-wise geography, including village list, estimated farmer count per village.	The assignment includes identifying the specific villages and farmer mobilization in collaboration with the project partners.	
2.	ToR Section 2, Page 4 (Farmer mobilization and stakeholder onboarding)	Identification, mobilization and onboarding of farmers, women entrepreneurs and community stakeholders.	We understand that initial community acceptance is critical for timely onboarding. Kindly confirm whether GIZ / project partners will provide an initial list of target farmers, existing SHGs/FPOs/producer groups, women entrepreneurs, and local institutional contacts, or whether the contractor is expected to identify all beneficiaries from scratch.	The assignment includes identifying suitable partners and actors. GIZ and the project partners will support in identifying the same. Therefore, it is essential for the contractor to have prior experience in the project regions.	
3.	ToR Section 2, Pages 7-10 (Milestones) and Section 4, Pages 16-17 (Specification of inputs)	Milestone deadlines include July 2026 / October 2026 / December 2026 / May 2027 / December 2027 / March 2028; specification of inputs mentions September 2026 / January 2026 / October 2027 / May 2028.	We note apparent inconsistencies in milestone dates, including 'January 2026' appearing before the assignment start date, and final report dates stated as March 2028 and May 2028 in different sections. Kindly confirm the final milestone schedule to be followed for implementation, costing and payment.	Milestones/partial works	Deadline
				Project Inception and Baseline assessment completed	July 2026
				Farmer Mobilisation and Initial Capacity Building commenced	September 2026
				IPM++ Trainings initiated, Demonstration plots and Bio-input resource centres (BRCs) established	January 2027
				IPM++ Package of Practice developed and demonstrated and BRCs operationalised	May 2027
				Regenerative agricultural practices demonstrated, adopted; decentralised BRC ecosystem operational	October 2027
				Final report submitted	May 2028
4.	ToR WP1, Page 5	Sensitization on IPM++ regenerative agriculture, GHG reduction, biodiversity, pesticide residue-free / MRL-compliant produce and EU standards.	We understand that the contractor is expected to only sensitize farmers and develop training material, or also undertake formal compliance support, residue testing, traceability and readiness assessment against GFSI/FSSC/ESA requirements. Please clarify and confirm.	The contractor is expected to sensitise farmers, develop training materials as well as support the farmers and partners with compliance reporting, residue testing, traceability and other assessments.	

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5.	ToR WP1, Page 5	Support development of IPM++ Package of Practices for red chilli with validation through field demonstrations and alignment with market and sustainability standards.	Please confirm whether an existing draft IPM++ Package of Practices will be provided by GIZ and the implementation partners, or whether the contractor is expected to develop it from first principles.	The contractor is expected to support the development of the IPM++ package of practice.
6.	ToR WP1, Page 5	Structured trainings will cover IPM++, soil health restoration, biodiversity, climate-resilient practices, post-harvest handling, quality requirements and business planning.	Kindly confirm the expected number of training modules, batch size, duration per training and the standard training templates / IEC formats are prescribed by GIZ.	Such details of the trainings are subject to on-ground conditions, seasonality, capacity needs and availability of farmers. It can only be specified once the initial mobilization is done. The templates and IEC formats will be shared once the contractor is onboarded.
7.	ToR WP1, Page 5 and Milestones, Pages 8-10	Demonstration plots to showcase at least five regenerative agriculture practices; milestone evidence refers to 10 plots, 10 new plots and geo-locations.	Please clarify the total number of demonstration plots expected over the assignment, their state-wise split, minimum plot size, farmer selection criteria, and whether the contractor must bear costs for plot inputs, labour, crop compensation or signage or the cost for setting up the demonstration plot will be borne by the client.	The contractor will be responsible only for identifying locations and handholding farmers in implementing regenerative agriculture practices in the demonstration plots. A target of 30 demonstration plots have been mentioned in the ToR.
8.	ToR WP1, Page 5	Demonstration plots to include seed treatment, IPM++ practices, intercropping systems, green manure, cover crops and agroforestry-based approaches.	Kindly clarify whether all five or more practices are required on every plot, or whether practices can be selected based on agro-climatic suitability, farmer readiness, plot size and seasonality.	Five or more practices are required for each plot. Practices can be selected based on agro-climatic suitability, farmer readiness, plot size and seasonality.
9.	ToR WP1, Page 5	Procure and facilitate distribution of IPM and regenerative agriculture input kits.	Based on the objective of this assignment, we understand the contractor's role to be strictly focused on facilitating demand aggregation, establishing distribution mechanisms, and providing technical handholding/training on the usage of these kits, whereas the direct cost of procurement, supply, and logistics of the actual IPM and regenerative agriculture input kits will be borne directly by GIZ/joint-implementing partners (Verstegen and Growcoms). Kindly confirm if our understanding is correct.	The contractor's role will be to facilitate and also to procure the kits, handle the supply and logistics of the same. Some cost may be borne by the project implementing partners on case-to-case basis.

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10.	ToR WP1, Page 5	Formation / strengthening of farmer groups for collective learning with lead farmers acting as community-level trainers.	Kindly clarify whether the project expects formation of new formal groups, strengthening existing groups, or informal learning groups only.	It is expected to strengthen existing groups, and form new formal groups, as and when required.
11.	ToR WP2, Page 6	Spatial and demand-based assessment for identifying optimal BRC locations considering farmer concentration, cropping intensity, accessibility, infrastructure and women entrepreneurs.	Kindly confirm whether the contractor is expected to conduct a primary survey for all clusters, and whether GIZ will provide baseline data, farmer maps, cropping intensity data, FPO/SHG lists and existing infrastructure information.	GIZ will provide a baseline assessment. However, the contractor is expected to conduct a survey, identify the FPOs/SHGs and existing institutional information.
12.	ToR WP2, Page 6	Facilitate setting up of 30 Bio-input Resource Centres and aggregation facilities.	Please clarify whether the target is 30 BRCs in total or 30 BRCs plus separate aggregation facilities. Kindly confirm state-wise distribution, minimum functional criteria for each BRC, and whether all 30 centres must be newly established. Also, we understand the cost for establishing the BRC will be borne by the client.	The target is to establish 30 new BRCs and aggregation facilities as and when required. The cost for physical infrastructure will be borne by the project. The assignment will include developing a model for BRC operations in collaboration with knowledge partners and agriculture institutions.
13.	ToR WP2, Page 6	BRCs are to be women-led and women-run where possible.	Kindly clarify the minimum number or percentage of BRCs expected to be women-led/women-run, criteria for selection of women entrepreneurs, and whether SHGs/FPOs will be formally designated by project partners.	The target is to make all BRCs women-led. The selection criteria for the same will be determined based on the on-ground situations. The SHGs and FPOs can be formally registered with support from the project partners.
14.	ToR WP2, Page 6	Quality assurance and basic requirements for bio-input production, storage and application.	Please confirm whether formal licenses, regulatory registration, lab testing, microbial count testing or certification is required for BRC products. If yes, kindly specify the applicable standards and whether related costs should be budgeted by the contractor or it will be borne by the client.	There is no such requirement as of now.
15.	ToR WP2, Page 6	Develop supply mechanisms including production planning, inventory management, last-mile delivery and preferably digital tracking of supply and sales.	Kindly clarify whether digital tracking is mandatory or optional. If mandatory, please specify whether an existing platform will be provided or whether the contractor must develop/procure a digital tool, including hosting, maintenance and data ownership.	Digital tracking is mandatory and the project partners will support with providing the required tools and platforms.
16.	ToR WP2, Page 6	Support development and management of Common Facility Centres including warehouses and storage facilities for raw materials, bio-inputs and farm implements.	Please clarify the expected number, location and scale of CFCs/warehouses, whether they are separate from BRCs.	One Common Facility Centre for each location. However, this will be based on the cluster requirements. The physical infrastructure cost to be incurred will be borne by the project partners.
17.	ToR Section 2, Page 4 and WP3, Page 7	Engagement with local institutions, NGOs, Panchayats, KVKs, line departments and value chain actors.	We assume GIZ and project partners will facilitate initial introductions and institutional letters for local stakeholder engagement. Kindly confirm whether this understanding is correct.	Yes. GIZ and project partners will facilitate initial introductions for local stakeholder engagement.

18.	ToR Section 1, Page 3 and Section 2, Page 4	GIZ, Verstegen and Growcoms Pvt. Ltd. will jointly implement the project; contractor to coordinate with GIZ and partners.	Please clarify the respective roles, responsibilities and decision rights of GIZ, Verstegen, Growcoms and the contractor, particularly for farmer selection, training content validation, procurement approvals, BRC locations and market-compliance guidance.	GIZ, Verstegen, Growcoms will reserve the final decision rights for farmer selection, training content validation, procurement approvals, BRC locations and market-compliance guidance. The insights and recommendations from the contractor will form the basis for the decision making.
19.	ToR WP3, Page 7	Exposure visits, peer-learning exchanges and cross-cluster interactions.	Kindly confirm the expected number of exposure visits, likely destinations, participants per visit, duration, cost inclusions, approval process and whether inter-state travel should be budgeted.	The contractor is free to propose the number of exposure visits, likely destinations, participants per visit, duration. The boarding, lodging and travel cost of the participants to be incurred during the visit will be borne by the project.
20.	ToR WP3, Page 7	Procure and facilitate distribution and demonstration of farm equipment/tools, including solar traps and tarpaulins for frying red chilli.	Regarding the physical farm equipment (such as solar traps and tarpaulins), we understand that the contractor's role is strictly confined to advisory support, technical demonstrations, and facilitating beneficiary distribution, while the actual physical procurement and capital costs of these tools will be directly funded by GIZ/joint-implementing partners. Kindly confirm if our understanding is correct or clarify if the contractor is expected to budget for the physical purchase of this equipment in their financial bid.	The contractor's role will be to facilitate and also to procure smaller tools (e.g., small hand tools, solar traps), handle the supply and logistics of the same. Some cost for bigger and expensive tools may be borne by the project partners on case-to-case basis.
21.	ToR Section 1.2, Page 3 and WP3, Page 7	Aflatoxin contamination and post-harvest quality are noted; post-harvest handling and market readiness are part of scope.	Please clarify whether the contractor is required to undertake aflatoxin/MRL testing, drying yard assessment, storage assessment, or only deliver trainings and advisory support on improved post-harvest practices.	The contractor is supposed to provide advisory support to these activities and undertake assessments as and when necessary, depending on the in-house expertise.

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22.	ToR Milestone s, Pages 7-10	Acceptance criteria require baseline reports, training reports, attendance sheets, geo-locations, photo documentation, user directories, beneficiary lists and case studies.	Kindly provide the prescribed formats/templates for each deliverable, including geo-tagged photo standards, attendance-sheet format, beneficiary database fields, training report template and case study format.	The specific templates and formats will be provided only after the contractor is onboarded.
23.	ToR, Section 4, Page 16	"No separate travel expense needs to be furnished. No air travel is envisaged for this assignment... The team leader, field officers and Cluster managers will largely be based in the project locations."	Since the project spans both Andhra Pradesh (Srikakulam) and Karnataka (Raichur), field team travel will be frequent. Are per-diem and accommodation allowances to be fully integrated as a fixed component of the milestone lumpsums, or is there a reimbursable travel limit against actual receipts up to GIZ standard tax guidelines.	Per-diem and accommodation allowances to be fully integrated as a fixed component of the milestone lumpsums. The field officers are expected to be based out of the project locations or near to project locations for the duration of the assignment.
24.	ToR Personnel Concept, Pages 13-15	Cluster Managers and Field Officers require Telugu/Kannada language proficiency depending on state.	Please clarify the expected state-wise allocation of the six Field Officers, and whether each field officer must be proficient in both English and the relevant state language, or whether language capability can be met at team level.	Each Cluster Manager and Field Officer should fulfil the required criteria mentioned in the ToR. The short-term expert pool is expected to be equally distributed across two locations.
25.	ToR Personnel Concept, Pages 14-15	Average qualifications of all six short-term experts will be calculated; CV is required for each pool member.	Kindly confirm whether all six field officer CVs must be named at bid submission stage, or whether a pool approach with indicative profiles and later mobilization of equivalent profiles is acceptable.	All six field officer CVs must be named at bid submission stage.
26.	Bidding Conditions, Pages 2-3 and ToR Page 11	Consortium applications are allowed and encouraged; consortium agreement to define technical and financial arrangements.	Kindly confirm that consortium participation is permitted for this assignment. Please also confirm the maximum number of consortium partners, whether foreign entities can participate as partners, and whether the lead partner must be the contracting and invoicing entity.	Consortium participation is not permitted for this assignment.
27.	General	-	We request the client to kindly allow scanned signature of the authorized personnel for this assignment	-

28.	Grid for assessing the eligibility Technical eligibility assessment	2 reference projects in farmer mobilisation and training on regenerative agriculture	We understand 2 reference projects in farmer mobilisation/ training on regenerative agriculture/IPM. Please clarify	Evidence of 2 reference projects in farmer mobilization and capacity development, implemented by the contractor will have to be furnished.	
29.	Grid for assessing the eligibility Technical experience	Evidence of experience in handling red chilli supply chain	We understand evidence of experience in handling chilli supply chain/spice supply chain. Please clarify	Evidence of experience in handling red-chilli supply chain must be furnished.	
30.	Grid for assessing the eligibility Technical experience	Minimum 3 years of experience in implementing regenerative agriculture or IPM practices	We understand minimum 3 years of experience in implementing regenerative agriculture/IPM practices/natural farming/organic farming/ climate resilient farming practices. Please clarify	Evidence of minimum 3 years of experience in implementing regenerative agriculture or IPM practices will have to be furnished.	
31.	RFP Document Work Package 1: Farmer Mobilisation, Capacity Building, and Adoption of Regenerative Practices	Key Activities: Undertake mobilisation of 1000 smallholder red chilli farmers (including 30% women) in the identified clusters in Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh and Raichur in Karnataka through stakeholder consultations, awareness meetings, and engagement with local institutions.	We understand that the clusters are already identified and will be shared by GIZ. Please clarify	The assignment includes identifying the specific clusters, villages and farmers in collaboration with the project partners.	
32.	RFP Document Work Package 2: Bio-input Resource Centres and Livelihood Enterprise Development	Key Activities: Support development and management of Common Facility Centres, including warehouses and storage facilities for raw materials, bio-inputs, and farm implements, to improve efficiency and reduce post-production losses while enabling smooth distribution.	We clarify on the number of such facilities to be developed and managed.	One Common Facility Centre for each location. However, this will be based on the cluster requirements.	
33.	RFP Document Work Package 3: Farmer Well-being, Ecosystem Strengthening, and Market Readiness	Key Activities: Support distribution and demonstration of appropriate health and safety kits and measures (e.g., gloves, masks, protective clothing, boots) along with training on	We understand that the kits cost will not be borne by the bidders. Please clarify	It will be borne by the project partners.	

		proper usage, maintenance, and replacement cycles while ensuring accessibility and usability for women farmers.		
34.	RFP Document Work Package 3: Farmer Well-being, Ecosystem Strengthening, and Market Readiness	Key Activities: Support in conducting periodic exposure visits, peer-learning exchanges, and cross cluster interactions to promote knowledge sharing on regenerative practices, women led enterprises, and BRC management models.	We understand that the exposure visits/events cost will not be borne by the bidders. Please clarify	The contractor is free to propose the number of exposure visits, likely destinations, participants per visit, duration. The boarding, lodging and travel cost of the participants to be incurred during the visit will be borne by the project.
35.	RFP Document Resources	Specific professional experience (2.2.4): 3 years of experience in red-chilli supply chain	We understand 3 years of experience in spice supply chain. Please clarify	Evidence of experience in handling red-chilli supply chain must be furnished.
36.	RFP Document Specification of inputs	Man days	Please clarify on the total experts' man days. We understand that it is 415 days. Please clarify.	A total of 1702 for one team leader, two cluster managers and short term pool of six field officers.
37.	Submission Deadline Extension		We request to extend the submission deadline by one week.	The assignment needs to be commenced soon, thus extended the deadline is not possible