

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Thailand

Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project

Loan No./ Credit No./ Grant No.: IDA-D6220

Assignment Title: Individual Consultant – Climate Impact Expert - Agriculture, Nepal Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan TH-RIMES-381231-CS-INDV)

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) has received/has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (the Services) include an individual consultant – Climate Impact Expert - Agriculture, Nepal who is to support the CARE Component 1 Nepal Team in customizing the Agriculture DSS for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), to respond to stakeholders' requirements.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the primary procurement stage for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest or can be found at the following website: www.rimes.int or via the address given below.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)
2nd Floor, Outreach Building,
Asian Institute of Technology Campus,
Klong Nung, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Thailand

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) now invites eligible individual consultant (Consultants) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CV demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

Knowledge

- At least Master's Degree in Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Climate Science, or a related field
- Knowledge of modelling of weather/climate events/parameters and their impacts on crops/agriculture/generation of agromet advisories
- Knowledge of different components of Operational Agromet Advisory Services System
- Knowledge of climate risk management/reduction concerns in the agriculture sector in Nepal, including vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms vis-à-vis climate hazards/disasters, climate-resilient policies, and others relevant

Experience

- At least 15 years of experience in research on weather/climate impacts on crops/agriculture; experience in modelling of weather/climate impacts on crops/agriculture is preferred

- At least 15 years of experience in working with government and/or development institutions in Nepal in providing operational/development planning guidance in weather/climate-informed planning and decision-making in crops/agriculture
- Publications on weather/climate impacts on crops/agriculture research is an advantage

Skills and abilities

- Demonstrable ability to digest complex technical information and convey them in easy-to-understand forms to a variety of stakeholders
- Strong written and verbal command of Nepali and English languages

Personal qualities

Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills; demonstrable ability to plan and organize work independently; excellent interpersonal and communication skills; high commitment to responsibility and work quality; ability to work effectively and efficiently independently and/or within a multi-cultural team; openness/receptiveness to critique for enhancing work and outputs.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations and to be specifically set out in the Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 17:00 hours Bangkok Standard Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by October 10, 2023.

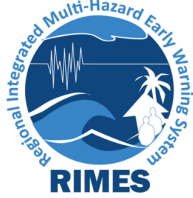
The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

Attn: Dusadee Padungkul, Head, Department of Operational Support
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Tel: +66 (0) 2 516 0120

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E-mail: rimesprocurement@rimes.int



Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System

Program Unit/ Early Warning Facility

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Climate Impact Expert – Agriculture – Nepal

1. About RIMES

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and inter-governmental institution that is owned and managed by its 48 Member and Collaborating States for building capacities in the generation and application of user-relevant multi-hazard early warning information, for resources and risks management. RIMES was established on 30 April 2009 through the signing by collaborating countries of the RIMES regional cooperation agreement. RIMES was registered with the United Nations under Article 102 of the UN Charter on 1 July 2009. RIMES Headquarters operates from its regional early warning center, located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand; country offices have been established strategically.

RIMES' purpose is to provide early warning services according to differing needs and demands of its Member States, for enhanced preparedness and response to, and mitigation of, natural hazards. Its specific objectives are:

- a) Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of core regional observing and monitoring networks to ensure data availability for early warning;
- b) Provide earthquake and tsunami services within the framework of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO);
- c) Support National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for providing localized hydro-meteorological risk information within the framework of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and
- d) Enhance warning response capacities at all levels (national to community) within each national early warning framework.

RIMES provides a portfolio of options for Member States to avail from, or contribute to, any of these objectives.

2. Background

Socio-economic impacts of climate-related hazards in South Asian countries continue to threaten the countries' economic growth, particularly in key sectors such as agriculture, water, and infrastructure. During the 16th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2010, these countries collectively resolved to strengthen climate resilience. The Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) Project, supported by the World Bank, aims to contribute to translating this policy into actions through enhanced regional cooperation and knowledge on climate resilience and adaptation, and development of standards and guidelines to facilitate climate-resilient planning and investments.

Component 1, implemented by RIMES and focused on promoting evidence-based climate-smart policies and investments across South Asia, aims to buttress CARE's PDO through:

- increased access to regional climate data and analytics for climate-informed decision-making;
- national-level decision-making and planning that are better climate risk-informed;
- institutional capacities strengthened to undertake climate-informed policies and planning.

This component involves the development of a regional Resilience Data and Analytics Services (RDAS) for South Asia Region (SAR), and decision-support systems (DSSs) for selected sectors of agriculture, water, transport, planning, and disaster risk management in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Component 1 also includes capacity development of users of these systems and their products, and supports the South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF), for a holistic approach at user-centric generation and application of climate information in plans and decisions.

3. Objective

The objective of this consulting service is to support the CARE Component 1 Nepal Team in customizing the Agriculture DSS for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), to respond to stakeholders' requirements.

4. Scope of Work

The Climate Impact Expert – Agriculture – Nepal will report to the CARE Component 1 Project Director, with technical supervision of the RIMES Climate Applications Specialist and Digital Systems and Data Integrator; and in coordination with RIMES Country Program Lead for Nepal. He/she will work closely with the CARE Component 1's inter-disciplinary Systems Development Team for Nepal, and shall have the following specific tasks:

- Provide a comprehensive analysis of potential impacts of weather/climate conditions, disaggregated parameter-wise, from short to long-term, on different growing stages and yield of priority crops, for customizing the Agriculture DSS for MoALD
- Identify and develop different climate service tools/products under the Agriculture DSS of MoALD, corresponding to the requirements of stakeholders
- Analyze open-source weather/climate-crops models, to determine and finalize the most viable model(s) to be modified/adopted into the Agriculture DSS of MoALD, and provide guidance to the rest of the members of the RIMES Systems Development Team for Nepal in the required model modification/customization, analyses/modeling processes, and adoption of the said most viable model(s) into the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- Identify, confirm, and collect weather/climate and agriculture information requirements to refine the climate-informed products from, and/or fully operationalize, the Agriculture DSS of MoALD for priority areas. These information requirements may include, but are not limited to:
 - historical weather/climate impacts on crops, at their various stages
 - optimum, sub-optimum, and unproductive weather/climate thresholds for different growing stages of priority crops
 - courses of remedial action, for various potential weather/climate conditions during the different growing stages of crops, while integrating other relevant on-ground conditions (irrigation, pests, markets, etc.)
- Provide guidance to the RIMES System Development Team and MoALD, in translating realised weather and weather forecast, at different temporal and spatial resolution, into agromet advisories for major crops in Nepal.
- Provide guidance in the integration of MoALD's agricultural management information system with the Agro-Meteorological Advisory System, especially in generating advisories on application of irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides.

- Assist the RIMES System Development Team and the MoALD in developing sensitivities (algorithms/threshold level) of crops to the weather and climate of pilot province(s) in Nepal, for generating weather/climate-informed tactical and strategic decisions.
- Assist the RIMES System Development Team and MoALD in developing weather/climate-informed forewarning models to manage pest and disease incidence on major crops.
- Assist the RIMES System Development Team and MoALD in preparing crop weather calendars, pests and diseases weather calendars for major crops, and create soil, pest, and disease panels.
- As part of the inter-disciplinary Systems Development Team for Nepal, collaborate with others in the team, and with government partners and experts, to evolve/refine location-specific actionable climate resilience strategies of different temporal scales for various stakeholders in priority areas, for adoption into the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- Evaluate existing agriculture risk management practices and systems, in Nepal and globally, to identify vulnerabilities and opportunities for agriculture risk management/resilience in DSS priority areas in Nepal
- As necessary, provide expert inputs/guidance to farmers, operational agriculture officers, policy makers, and other relevant decision makers/stakeholders on climate-resilient/climate-informed practices in agriculture, including, but not limited to:
 - decision-making within a risk management framework
 - resource-efficient agriculture risk management/reduction technologies/techniques
 - sustainable farming activities
- As necessary, provide inputs/guidance to the Systems Development Team for Nepal on the latest research, technologies, and advancements in weather/climate hazard impacts management and agriculture risk management/reduction/resilience, that could be prioritized/integrated into the development of the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- In coordination with the rest of the Systems Development Team for Nepal, ensure that the information products from the Agriculture DSS of MoALD are regularly tested, and pertinent feedbacks from stakeholders are integrated for tool/products refinement
- In coordination with the relevant members of the Systems Development Team for Nepal, and partner government institutions, screen and prioritize stakeholders' feedback/recommendations for phased refinement of the Agriculture DSS of MoALD and its products
- Provide inputs, as relevant, in the Operations and Maintenance Manual of the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- As necessary, participate and provide inputs in discussions, meetings, trainings, workshops, and other project-relevant activities
- Provide inputs to information/knowledge materials and develop outreach program(s) to popularize the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- Assist in developing a mechanism to understand users/stakeholders' satisfaction level/index in regard to agromet advisories generated/to be generated under the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- Provide guidance on use of open source remote sensing data in developing of agromet advisories
- Provide guidance in the economic assessment of the Agromet Advisory Services.
- Provide relevant inputs in the technical documentation of the Agriculture DSS of MoALD
- Others, as may be required by CARE Component 1

5. Qualifications

Knowledge:

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- Knowledge of different components of Operational Agromet Advisory Services System
- Knowledge of climate risk management/reduction concerns in the agriculture sector in Nepal, including vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms vis-à-vis climate hazards/disasters, climate-resilient policies, and others relevant

Experience:

- At least 15 years of experience in research on weather/climate impacts on crops/agriculture; experience in modelling of weather/climate impacts on crops/agriculture is preferred
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Skills and abilities:

- Demonstrable ability to digest complex technical information and convey them in easy-to-understand forms to a variety of stakeholders
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Personal qualities:

Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills; demonstrable ability to plan and organize work independently; excellent interpersonal and communication skills; high commitment to responsibility and work quality; ability to work effectively and efficiently independently and/or within a multi-cultural team; openness/receptiveness to critique for enhancing work and outputs.

6. Deliverables

Activity	Month												Deliverables	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Analysis of weather/climate impacts on priority crops growing stages and yield	X													Report on parameter-wise weather/climate impacts on different stages, and yield, of priority crops
Finalize models to be modified/adopted into the DSS		X												Report on analysis and prioritization of inclusive DSS model(s), and analyses/modelling processes required
Identify, confirm, and collect weather/climate and agriculture data/information for refining model outputs			X											Detailed decision tree providing weather/climate thresholds for optimum, sub-optimum, and uncondusive

													conditions for various crops stages of priority crops, and corresponding courses of remedial actions
Test DSS products and assess stakeholders' feedback				X	X		X		X				Report on outcomes of DSS products testing and analysis of stakeholders' feedback
Screen and prioritize stakeholders' feedback for integration into the DSS					X		X		X			X	Report on prioritization of stakeholders' feedback and status of integration in the DSS
Provide inputs to DSS trainings												X	Documentation of inputs to DSS Operations and Maintenance Manual, and Technical Design Document of the DSS

7. Contract Duration

The contract will be for 1 year, subject to a 4-month probationary period, and annual performance review.