

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
(QCBS – Lump Sum)**

**RFP No.:**

**Project Name**

**National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP),  
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**

**Country: INDIA**

**LOAN No. 8776 IN**

**Issued on:**

***Hiring Consultancy Services to “Prepare a Model DPR to achieve top 200 global rankings within the next three years and for IARI as candidate Institute”***



## Terms of Reference

*Hiring Consultancy Services to “Prepare a model DPR to achieve top 200 global rankings within the next three years and for IARI as candidate Institute”*

### 1. Background:

The ICAR is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The ICAR has its headquarters at New Delhi. The Council is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. With over 110 ICAR institutes and 75 agricultural universities spread across the country. This is one of the largest National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) in the world. The mandate of ICAR/DARE includes promotion and coordination of education in agriculture, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, home science and allied sciences in the country. ICAR, through series of efforts over years strove and brought about uniformity in norms and standards in academics, governance and finance management, quality and relevance of education, and policies on human resource development in the country. ICAR is now embarking upon an ambitious step in further strengthening the National Agricultural Education system in the country through National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) with financial assistance of the World Bank by investing on infrastructure, competency and commitment of faculty, and attracting talented students in agriculture.

The World Bank aided National Agricultural Higher Education Project has been started with an objective to support Participating Agricultural Universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students. The project aims to address majority of these concerns by conceptualizing a number of important reforms under two broad categories, i.e. focusing on the working mechanism of the AUs and raising the standard of campus teaching and learning in more non-conventional ways. The objective of the project is to support Participating Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes providing more relevant and higher quality education to Agricultural University students. The total budget of NAHEP is US\$ 165 million, the World Bank is funding US\$ 82.5 million as credit and US\$ 82.5 million is the contribution of the Government of India. The project became effective on 03/08/2017 and is scheduled to close on 30/11/2022.

There are three components to the project, the first component being support to agricultural universities. This component includes three subcomponents: support to AUs, centers for advanced agricultural science and technology, and ICAR innovation grants to AUs. The second component is the investment in ICAR leadership in agricultural higher education. This component will finance the carrying out of institutional reforms within ICAR in order to enhance ICAR's effectiveness in coordinating, guiding and managing agricultural higher education and its interactions with AUs and key stakeholders nationwide through interventions that increase the quality and relevance of agricultural higher education. Finally, the third component is the project management and learning. ICAR-IASRI has been given the responsibility to execute the second component as lead institution with two collaborating institutes ICAR-NAARM Hyderabad and ICAR-NIAP New Delhi.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is the country's premier national Institute for agricultural research, education and extension. The Government of India has received

financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in the form of a loan under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research NAHEP(PIU)- ICAR, an implementing agency of the Client, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this Credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this Request for Proposals is issued.

The ICAR-PIU now invites proposals to Consulting Services “Prepare a DPR to achieve top 200 global rankings within the next three years and for IARI as candidate Institute”

## **2. Concise statement of objectives:**

### **Project Development Objective (PDO)**

To support participating Agricultural Universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to students.

It addresses quality by supporting interested Agricultural Universities (Aus) to propose and implement technically sound and verifiable investments that increase faculty performance, attract better students to these Aus, improve student learning outcomes and raise their prospects for future employability, particularly in the private sector. Relevance is being addressed through:

- Greater alignment of academic curricula and course contents with the skills sets being demanded in the agriculture and allied services sector.
- Expanded certificate-level vocational courses to fill the gap for trained technical personnel, especially in market-led extension.

### **Objectives**

#### **1. Institutional Development Plan (IDP)**

To enhance the institutional and system management effectiveness, improve learning outcomes, employability and entrepreneurship of agricultural students, and student and faculty development.

#### **2. CAAST**

To support inter-disciplinary advanced centers for innovative approaches to teaching, research, extension and capacity building in the specialized area for holistic development and integrating agricultural education with employment and entrepreneurship.

#### **3. Innovation Grant (IG)**

The Agricultural Universities are being supported through this component specifically to meet their requirement for quality assurance so as to enable them to attain ICAR accreditation. Also, the project support necessary infrastructure to the beneficiary universities in adhering to and implementation of ICAR Model Act.

## **3. Outline of tasks to be carried out:**

- 1) Review the current state of university readiness for global rankings through detailed assessment of relevant global ranking requirements and IARI's processes & achievements on various parameters
- 2) Highlight gaps with respect to key parameters & process elements of relevant global rankings
- 3) Benchmark against top peer institutes to identify gaps and success criteria for top ranked

universities

- 4) Develop a detailed project report highlighting the improvement areas, operational plan for various areas, resource and financial implications
- 5) Help IARI top management finalize the recommendations on initiatives/activities on various areas to achieve the rankings including financial projections; if any
- 6) Provide clear roadmap (resource/cost/timeline) of implementing the initiative - highlighting key challenges, inter-dependencies, risks while trying to implement the recommendation

- 7) Conduct workshops to key management staff and other stakeholders and incorporate feedback, if any.
- 8) Ensure that DPR is complete in all aspects – operational, strategic, academic areas, financial requirements are well covered.

### **Suggested Methodology to be adopted**

The selected agency shall be required to carry out a detailed study of the current state assessment of the institute and understand its current processes and procedures. Post that the agency shall identify the gaps and recommend/suggest effective, practical and efficient ways to bridge these identified gaps along with mechanisms and parameters to monitor the progress along with a budgetary estimate of implementing the process enhancements. Below are the list of suggested tasks that the selected agency is to carry out in preparation of the DPR.

- 1) To finalize the questionnaire and other data collection design ensuring both qualitative and quantitative depth – which removes individual bias.
- 2) To design appropriate questionnaire/ preparation of survey tool, using as a basis, previous information gathering methodologies deployed for ranking purposes
- 3) Share with the stakeholders any external sources of information with valid & validated information source
- 4) To conduct the data & information collection using multiple relevant modalities appropriate for the current COVID-19 situation, ensuring high quantitative and qualitative response rate from the participants.
- 5) Compilation and tabulation of information collected for the purposes of this exercise. The Service Provider shall be responsible for communicating information consistency and validity at relevant steps.
- 6) Summarize/interpret the survey results, including the description of data/information collection procedures and sampling method, summary tables, data tables, discussion of the survey results, challenges, recommendations, lessons learned, and so on.
- 7) Conduct presentations and offer responses to any queries, as appropriate to the relevant stakeholders.
- 8) Furnish final report (along with all raw data) from the survey incorporating comments of relevant stakeholders.

#### **4. Duration of the assignment:**

The proposed duration of this contract will be Four (4) months from actual date of award of the contract

#### **5. Data, services and facilities to be provided by the Client:**

1. ICAR-PIU / NAHEP will provide/arrange the domain knowledge on various subdomains of agriculture to the consulting firm.
2. All the necessary data, information, documents and other materials required for executing the tasks by the consulting firm will be provided to it. This will include all relevant information, data, documents, etc. available with ICAR, IARI and any other participating institution and NAHEP.
3. All the Working space, Internet will be provided to the various regional teams at the corresponding sites. ICAR-NAHEP will facilitate visits of the consulting firm to different partner institutes and participating universities, including accommodation wherever possible. The cost of travel and accommodation will be borne by the consulting firm.
4. ICAR- NAHEP will ensure that the participating universities and all the partners' institutes provide the requisite information and data to the consulting firm in a timely manner.

**6. Final outputs (reports, drawing etc.) that will be required of the Consultants:**

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Required by (Period from Contract Commencement i.e. 'T' is 10 Days after the contract effectiveness date)</b>
D1: Report on Current state assessment of IARI readiness to achieve the relevant global rankings	T+30
D2: Report on gap assessment with respect to relevant parameters for global ranking/model report	T+60
D3: Report on key initiatives with key elements such as cost/resources/timeline and outcomes expected to achieve global ranking	T+90
D4: Presentation and Submission of complete DPR	T+120

## **7. Composition of Review Committee and Review Procedure to monitor Consultants:**

### *(a) Composition of Review Committee to Monitor the Consulting Firm's Work*

A Review Committee will be consisting NC(CAAST) NAHEP, DD(F) & DS (Procurement), PIU-NAHEP will be constituted to monitor the Consulting Firm's work. The Review Committee will be responsible for:

- Providing overall guidance and strategy to the consulting firm in terms of its direction, objectives and progress.
- Review the progress through various reports.
- Review and approval of any revision of scope, deliverables, timelines.
- Acceptance of the quarterly reports on progress.

The review committee will review all reports submitted by the consulting firm and suggest any modifications/changes considered necessary within 15 days of receipt.

## **8. Review procedure to *monitor consultants***

- At the time of inception of their duties, they will submit an outline of how they will plan the assigned activities along with the time schedules of activities
- It will be mandatory for them to submit Weekly Progress Reports (WPR) at the end of every week and Monthly Progress Report (MPR) at the end of each month.
- The progress of activities will be reviewed as per their time schedules.
- The review committee will meet every quarter to review the progress of the work and make a review report to be submitted to the higher authorities of the project.

**7. List of Key Position whose CVs and experience will be evaluated:**

The Consulting Firm will deploy its professionals for efficient and effective implementation of the project

S No .	Proposed Expert	Required Qualification	Required Experience
1.	<b>Team Leader</b>	PhD/ MBA / PGDBM/ Post-graduation	Should have experience of working with international universities.
			Should have experience of leading 2 or more ranking improvement projects for higher education sector
2.	<b>Lead Consultant</b>	PhD/ MBA / PGDBM / Post-graduation	Should have experience of working with International universities.
			Experience of leading higher education quality improvement projects related to ranking improvement
3.	<b>Project Consultant – 1 &amp; 2</b>	PhD/ MBA / PGDBM / Post-graduation	experience of working on higher education projects related to quality improvement
			Experience of working in Agriculture higher education institute



**Payment terms:**

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Required by (Period from Contract Commencement i.e. 10 Days after the contract effectiveness date)</b>	<b>Instalments of Payment to Consultant (% of Accepted Contract Amount/Contract Price, as the case may be)</b>
D1: Report on Current state assessment of IARI readiness to achieve the relevant global rankings	T+30	25%
D2: Report on gap assessment with respect to relevant parameters for global ranking	T+60	10%
D3: Report on key initiatives with key elements such as cost/resources/timeline and outcomes expected to achieve global ranking	T+90	35%
D4: Presentation and Submission of complete DPR	T+120	30%