

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Office of the Registrar

Accredited by NAAC with 'B++' Grade



“সমানো মন্ত্র: সমিতি: সমানী”

Notice inviting Tender

Sealed proposal is invited from reputed Agency for Expression of Interest (EOI) on Project-based PPP mode under COFAM, NBU. For details please visit www.nbu.ac.in

Advt.no.-04 /R-2023 Date : 13.05.2023

Registrar (Offg.)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

FOR

**CREATING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION
DRIVEN BIOECONOMY HUB AT THE CENTER OF
FLORICULTURE AND AGRI- BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT (COFAM), UNDER THE AEGIS OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL, TO TRANSFORM
AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SECTOR OF NORTH
BENGAL THROUGH AGRI-BIOTECHNOLOGY**

ON

**PROJECT-BASED PPP MODE UNDER UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH BENGAL**

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this document- Expression of Interest (the "EoI") is not an agreement and is neither an offer nor invitation by the authority to the prospective applicants or any other person. The purpose of this EoI is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their application for qualification pursuant to this EOI. This EOI includes statements, which reflect various assumptions and assessments arrived at by the Authority in relation to the Project. Such assumptions, assessments and statements do not purport to contain all the information that each Applicant may require. This EoI may not be appropriate for all persons, and it is not possible for the NBU authority, its employees or advisors to consider the investment objectives, financial situation and particular needs of each party who reads or uses this application. The assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this application may not be complete, accurate, adequate or correct. Each applicant should therefore, conduct its own survey, investigations and analysis and should check the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability and completeness of the assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this application and obtain independent advice from appropriate sources.

Information provided in this Application to the Applicant(s) is on a wide range of matters, some of which may depend upon interpretation of law. The information given is not intended to be an exhaustive account of statutory requirements and should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law. The Authority accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise for any interpretation or opinion on law expressed herein.

The Authority, its employees and advisors make no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to any person, including any Applicant, under any law, statute, rules or regulations or tort, principles of restitution or unjust enrichment or otherwise for any loss, damages, cost or expense which may arise from or be incurred or suffered on account of anything contained in this Application or otherwise, including the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, completeness or reliability of the Application and any assessment, assumption, statement or information contained therein or deemed to form part of this Application or arising in any way with pre-qualification of Applicants for participation in the selection Process.

The Authority also accepts no liability of any nature whether resulting from negligence or otherwise howsoever caused arising from reliance of any Applicant upon the statements contained in this Application.

The Authority may, in its absolute discretion but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend or supplement the information, assessment or assumptions contained in this Application. The issue of this Application does not imply that the Authority is bound to select and short- list prequalified Applications for selection Stage or to appoint the selected Applicant, as the case may be, for the Project and the Authority reserves the right to reject all or any of the Applications or selections without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

The Applicant shall bear all its costs associated with or relating to the preparation and submission of its Application including but not limited to preparation, copying, postage, delivery fees, expenses associated with any demonstrations or presentations which may be required by the Authority or any other costs incurred in connection with or relating to its Application. All such costs and expenses will remain with the Applicant and the Authority shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for the same or for any other costs or other expenses incurred by an Applicant in preparation or submission of the Application, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the selection Process.

Expression of Interest (Eoi)

For

CREATING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION DRIVEN BIOECONOMY HUB AT THE CENTER OF FLORICULTURE AND AGRI- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (COFAM), UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL, TO TRANSFORM AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SECTOR OF NORTH BENGAL THROUGH AGRI-BIOTECHNOLOGY

Important Points:

1. The Eoi will be available on web site www.nbu.ac.in
2. The Expression of Interest (Eoi) is open to all eligible firms.
3. Eoi will be available on website from to up to 12.00Hrs noon.
4. The Proposals can also be submitted by sealed hardcopy at Registrar's Office , University of North Bengal, Siliguri- 734 013, West Bengal
5. Team can visit the COFAM Office and meet HoD, Biotechnology during working hours to discuss, information, query or to clarify anything on the subject.
6. Proposals may be delivered to:

The Registrar (Offg.)
University of North Bengal
Raja Rammohunpur
Siliguri- 734 013
West Bengal
INDIA

1.0. Introduction

University of North Bengal (UNB) invites Proposals to this Expression of Interest to shortlist private entities to bid for (i) strengthening the existing infrastructure of COFAM for a full fledged skill development and R & D center for translation of standardized production technology on commercial scale to action, and (ii) value-enabling of Agriculture in totality (including Flori-horti- pisciculture) the region through complementary roles in adaptation, dissemination and solution based research in Agri-biotechnology and Allied Areas in North Bengal with focus on the sub Himalayan region.

To begin with, UNB invites Applications through this EOI for an open interactive participation of all Applicants to assess the interest in the project and to get constructive suggestions to be incorporated in the project. In EOI, they will have to provide information about the sharing of revenue based on which, the authority may finalise the project.

It is envisaged that Applicants either individually or in Joint venture/Consortium having experience of business development of advanced technology-backed bio-tech projects will emerge to meet the long-term objective of this project.

All the applicants that qualify the Technical & Financial criteria shall be allowed to submit their bids at the pre-finalization stage.

Interested Applicants are required to download the EOI document from website www.nbu.ac.in

Any subsequent clarifications by the authority shall be uploaded on the above website only.

Applicants are advised to study the EOI carefully before submitting the proposal.

2.0 Background

The constraints for the expansion of floriculture in North Bengal vary with the geographical locations. In the hills, growing flowers at home is a part of the way of the life of the highlanders whereas in the foothills or in the plains, floriculture in most places is taken as a new venture. Some of the major constraints of the growers both in the hills and the plains are:

Information gap regarding the economic potential of flowers.

Non-availability of suitable planting materials.

Marginal land holding of most of the growers.

Ignorance about protected (poly-house) cultivation practices.

Inadequate access to technology required for growing flowers.

Lack of assured supply of inputs.

Lack of knowledge on post-harvest management and storage.

Lack of adequate transport facilities.

Lack of appropriate market information.

Exploitation by brokers and traders.

Lack of organized collection, storage and marketing system.

Looking at the potential of this region and realizing the existing constraints, Center of Floriculture & Agri-Business Management (COFAM) was set up. COFAM literally started with an identified 8.99 ha of barren land along with intellectual resource capital of the University, devoid of any infrastructure. COFAM was set up with three distinct objectives: (i) Development of Infrastructure to produce disease free, quality planting material through tissue culture (ii) To provide hands-on practical training to the growers and entrepreneurs of this region; and (iii) to bring about gradual transformation of traditional agri- skill potential of the growers of North Bengal to an organized agribiotech-industry through encouraging entrepreneurship and facilitate linkages between the buyers and growers. The mandate of this Center is the transfer of technologies through on farm demonstration and training. Thus, the primary activity of COFAM is to cater services in the form of

rendering trainings to different target groups and entrepreneurs related and interlinked with the overall process of development of floriculture. Mass production of quality planting materials through conventional and micro-propagation technology was planned. Hands on training courses were developed to empower the small farmers/growers of this region and to establish producer-consumer direct pathway applying proper information communication system as needed to address the competitive economy. Through various initiatives, the COFAM has been engaged with the nearby communities, in order to strengthen their capacities in the field of floriculture and agriculture. It also sought to use the indigenous local knowledge and expertise of the communities in the plantation of different types of crop varieties. COFAM supported the community by helping them find a market for their products and earn a sustainable living in the process. As a result of such engagement, not only did COFAM expand its technological data-base, the communities too experienced a sea change by way of secure and sustainable livelihoods. New technologies, which combined academic expertise and traditional knowledge, resulted in increased returns from agriculture, which in turn contributed to a better and sustainable mode of living of the local communities.

COFAM is thus destined to undertake projects/programs to study, develop, standardize, implement, commercialize and popularize innovative and sustainable technologies with special emphasis on making traditional, rural enterprises more profitable and bring new income generating opportunities through induction of novel enterprises in rural areas.

2.1. Existing Infrastructures at COFAM

Sl. No.	Name of the Infrastructure	Size	Status
1	Office cum Service Centre	905 sq ft	Operating
2	Training Pavillion for farmers	511 sq ft	Operating
3	Orchid Repository	584.22 sq ft	Operating,
4.	Automated Greenhouse	1240 sq mt	Two chambered; Primary hardening unit (413 sq mtr) and Secondary hardening unit (827 sq mtr)(presently not operating)
5.	Separate 110 KVA electrical connection		Operating
6.	Tissue Culture Laboratory fortified with all Hi-Tech facilities and equipment	196.34 sq mtr	Double storied. Operating

"Agribiotechnology transfer cell/Unit" has been recently set up in the COFAM premise.



1, Office cum Service Centre; 2, Training Pavilion for farmers; 3, Orchid Repository



4. Automated Greenhouse



5. Separate 110 KVA electrical connection



6. Tissue-Culture Laboratory

3.0. SCOPE OF WORK: PRIVATE PARTNERS ON PPP MODE

1. Strategic revival of COFAM as a value additive industry-Academia interface model.
2. To increase value addition and product differentiation through adoption of improved technologies and production practices.
3. To receive proposals with time frames, budgets, materials and methods expected from the private party to draw the expected outcome of PPP, combining the best features of COFAM and private party together.
4. To minimize inefficiencies and increase traceability and gain access to specialized target markets for certified products.
5. To transform COFAM into an international center of excellence in Agribiotech.
6. To materialize global tie-ups such that skills and assets of COFAM and private party shared in delivering agri-biotech products.
7. To leverage advantages in creative financing, greater operational efficiency, lowering costs of distribution, more complex delivery system, faster decision-making, management flexibility and innovation.

4.0. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The entity claiming qualification must meet the following minimum criteria on single responsibility basis.

1. Technical and Financial proposals shall be evaluated on Quality Cost Based (QCBS) System.
2. One or many firms may be selected after presentations.
3. Joint venture may be allowed if needed.

5.0. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The applicant (EoI-provider) should be a company registered under Companies Act 2013 or Partnership or Proprietorship.
2. Applicant should be registered in GST and PAN. All tax liabilities of any kind (Central, State or other) shall be borne by selected firm including stamp duty.
3. Participating firm should not be blacklisted from any government office-central and State. Participating firm shall not have criminal records in any police station of India. Affidavit need to be submitted for the same by the Participating firm.
4. Conditional proposals shall not be accepted.

5. The Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal, has all the right to cancel this EOI at any time with/without citing any reasons. Decision of Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal shall be final and acceptable to all participants.

6.0. WAY AHEAD

University of North Bengal (UNB) to issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) asking interested parties to come forward and submit their plans and technical know-how for carrying out the scope mentioned above for the processing plant(s) as per their area of expertise.

Form 0.1 TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF THE APPLICANT

Sl. No.	Information	Response (with supporting documents to be attached)
1.	Name and address of the Applicant	
2.	Name, Designation, Address and Contact Details of the person to whom all references can be made in connection with this EOI	
3.	Legal Status	
4.	Product(s) / Service(s) Offered	
5.	Years in business	
6.	Number of similar projects executed	
7.	Project Information – Name, Client, Scope, Technology used, Value, Start / End Dates, Project Expenditure/Income, Revenue Sharing, etc. [use additional sheets]	(repeat for each project as per information under (4))
8.	Requirement to form any joint venture for providing any product / feature / service etc. under this project (Yes / No)	
9.	If Yes for (8) above, define the product / feature / service etc.	
10.	MoU with other agency(ies), if making a joint application	Attach

Form 0.2 FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE APPLICANT
(Supporting documents to be attached)

Sl. No.	Audited Balance sheet for following Financial Years	Annual Turn Over (in INR Crore.)
1.	2020 - 2021	
2.	2021 - 2022	
3.	2022 - 2023	

Form 0.3 FORMAT FOR DECLARATION BY THE APPLICANT FOR NOT BEING BLACKLISTED/DEBARRED

(To be submitted on the Letterhead of the EoI provider)

Date: dd/mm/yyyy

**To
The Registrar,
University of North Bengal
Raja Rammohunpur,
P.O. NBU, Siliguri- 734 013.**

Subject:Declaration for not being debarred/black-listed by Central/anyStateGovernmentdepartmentinIndia as on the date of submission of the EoI

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I, authorized representative of, hereby solemnly confirm that the Company is not debarred / black-listed by any Central/State Government/ PSU entity in India or similar agencies globally for unsatisfactory past performance, corrupt, fraudulent or any other unethical business practices or for any other reason as on last date of submission of the Proposal. In the event of any deviation from the factual information/ declaration, SSCL reserves the right to reject the Proposal or terminate the Contract without any compensation to the Company.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

Signature of Authorized Signatory
(with official seal)

Date:
Name:
Designation:
Address:
Telephone & Fax:
E-mail address:

**Proposal should reach in a sealed envelope positively within 31st May 2023.
to the following address--**

**To
The Registrar
Office of the Registrar
University of North Bengal
P.O-North Bengal University
Pin-734013
West Bengal**

No proposal received after 31.05.2023 shall be accepted.