



Ref No: 124/OCP/SOUTH/23-24

RFP for Consultancy Services-WWF Pakistan

Subject:

Advanced Technical Evaluation of Seed Multiplication Plots for Scaling Up Seed Multiplication and Organic Practices in Non-GMO Cotton Variety NIAB-Kiran to Ensure Enhanced Crop Genetic Purity and Obtain Quality Non-GMO Cotton Seed Across two Project Regions: Bahawalpur and Barkhan

Application Submission:

Interested consultants should submit the Proposal on **Application Form Available Online** or can access through following Link:

<https://forms.gle/qazomXoWh7FSWcl29>

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1) INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Contract type:	Consultancy and Services
Duration of assignment:	15 th April to 14 th August 2024
Type:	Individual

WWF-Pakistan's Food & Markets Programme (F&M) was initiated in 2004 with the primary objective of enhancing the capabilities of approximately 200 farmers in adopting sustainable practices within the cotton landscape. Over the years, the program has experienced substantial growth and has evolved into one of the most extensive initiatives within WWF-Pakistan. The overarching goal of the Food & Markets Programme is to address and alleviate the environmental impacts associated with input-intensive crops, particularly in terms of water usage, agrochemicals, and synthetic fertilizers, as well as the sensitivity of crops to pests. This is achieved through a multifaceted approach, including empowering farmers with knowledge of economically efficient ecological farming solutions and cutting-edge technologies. The program also focuses on engaging various stakeholders and fostering the development of sustainable supply chains in the agriculture sector.

With a substantial increase in demand for organic cotton fiber products, both from global retail markets and farmers opting for organic cultivation, there is a growing trend toward sustainable agricultural practices. Certain naturally fertile and uncontaminated regions in Pakistan hold immense potential for large-scale organic cultivation.

WWF-Pakistan's Organic Cotton Projects, operating within the framework of the F & M Programme, actively advocate for the adoption of standard organic practices in cotton farming. This includes the prohibition of synthetic fertilizers, synthetic pesticides, and GMO seeds. Currently, the organization collaborates with nearly 12,000 farmers across Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh provinces, covering over 100,000 acres, to promote organic cotton cultivation. Despite the commendable efforts, organic cotton farmers encounter a significant challenge due to the limited availability of non-GMO seeds. This scarcity hinders those committed to organic practices and aims to meet the growing demand for organic cotton production. Among the non-GMO cotton varieties, NIAB Kiran stands out for its desirable traits in the context of organic cotton farming. However, the availability of NIAB-Kiran seeds remains constrained. Recognizing the importance of ensuring an ample supply of non-GMO seeds for organic farmers, seed multiplication emerges as the best solution. To confront this challenge proactively, the project team engaged the expertise of a consultant specializing in seed multiplication in the previous year. This strategic collaboration led to the successful production of non-GMO seeds for the current year. However, it is recognized that there is a pressing need to extend and elevate these efforts. Given the nature of seed multiplication as a long-term and evolving process, continuous improvement remains paramount. Therefore, leveraging advanced methodologies to ensure sustained progress on seed multiplication the Organic Cotton Project Sapphire Bahawalpur is seeking consultancy services for this year too to meet the following objectives

2) GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to reject or accept any proposal. The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to proceed with the implementation of any Service, in whole or in part, as described in the Proposal.
- 2) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to engage in discussions with any BIDDER to clarify responses or discuss certain issues with regards to the proposal or services requested. The WWF-PAKISTAN has no obligation to notify the other BIDDERS of the discussions, clarifications, or other information provided by a BIDDER. Any additional information required for preparation of the BID shall be distributed to all participants at the same time.
- 3) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to award the proposal based on experience, qualification, completion date, service cost and other criteria, and not necessarily the lowest cost.
- 4) Based on the RFP BID the WWF-PAKISTAN is entitled to change/replace or omit any clause/part of the preliminary

defined scope of services of the proposal. The WWF-PAKISTAN shall conduct negotiations with WWF to achieve the full compliance to the requirements.

5) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right in the event the successful CONSULTANT fails to comply with the terms and conditions as listed, to cancel this contract and award it to another CONSULTANT without penalty or action against the WWF-PAKISTAN. The RFP does not constitute an agreement or order.

6) The RFP is not a binding agreement between the parties, submission of a proposal or response by a proponent is voluntary.

7) By submitting a bid, the BIDDER is deemed to have acknowledged all of the undertakings, specifications, terms and conditions, WWF Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Investigation Policy (Annex 2) contained in the RFP, and to be bound by them if the BID is accepted. All expenses incurred by the Bidder in connection with the preparation of its proposal are to be borne by the RFP participant, and the WWF-PAKISTAN shall not incur any obligation whatsoever toward the Bidder regardless of whether such bid is accepted or rejected.

3) PURPOSE OF CONSULTANCY

The mandate of the task is to

- Conduct hands-on capacity-building sessions for field staff, focusing on the latest advancements in seed breeding, and genetic technologies as per organic practices and expanding the scope of training for respective farmers.
- Provide innovative technical guidance to optimize the performance of the non-GMO cotton variety NIAB-Kiran, considering the evolving climatic conditions of the two districts.
- Extend standard field operations to further enhance genetic purity for superior seed production.
- Develop an extensive plan to significantly increase the availability of NIAB-Kiran seeds at the local level.
- Introduce advanced post-harvest quality assurance measures for seed handling which includes processing, packaging, and storage
- NIAB Kiran, among various non-GMO cotton varieties, is recognized for its advantageous traits in the context of organic cotton farming. However, the constrained availability of NIAB-Kiran seeds poses a significant hurdle that can be mitigated by seed multiplication. Understanding the long-term and evolving nature of seed multiplication, continuous improvement is deemed essential. The field-level practices will be carried out on advanced methodologies of seed multiplication to ensure sustained progress and elevate a sufficient quantity of pure NIAB-Kiran seed for the following season

4) DELIVERABLES

4. Specific Tasks:

Following is the list of specific tasks under this consultancy:

- The consultant(s) will technically support about 1000 Acres of seed multiplication plots established in Bahawalpur and Barkhan to produce about 200,000 kg of Non-GMO (NIAB-Kirn) seed.
- Plan and conduct field visits in the project areas: Bahawalpur and Barkhan to inspect crops and carry out every measure to get crop purity in terms of non-GMO. The relevant field teams of WWF-Pakistan will facilitate consultant(s) for field visits
- Develop an updated training material incorporating the latest insights on seed multiplication, pest and nutrient management preferably to be adopted in the field conditions

- To provide updated guidelines on the pests (insect, weeds and diseases) of this variety and their management practices as per the organic cotton standards
- To provide updated guidelines on the nutrient requirement and management as per the organic cotton standards
- The consultant will build the capacity of the relevant staff regarding all the materials and methods used in the multiplication of the seed
- The consultant(s) will share all relevant raw data, including, hard Performa's, excel sheets, word documents, video, audio recordings and pictures acquired during this consultancy.
- The consultant(s) will provide updated training material about the multiplication of seed at field level, pests and nutrient management
- The consultant (s) will provide updated guidance regarding safe storage of Non-GMO seed to conserve maximum germination rate and seed viability
- Identify gaps/hurdles related to the multiplication of non-GMO seed if any, at the field level and suggest possible remedies to fill these gaps.
- Present all relevant collected data in advanced formats, including digital records, data analytics, and multimedia content acquired during this consultancy.

5. Expected Outputs/Deliverables:

- Comprehensive report detailing the response of NIAB-Kiran to newly implemented advanced practices and innovations
 - Production of updated training materials that incorporate the latest insights on seed multiplication, pest, and nutrient management as per organic practices.
 - Clear and accessible content that can effectively educate farmers, field staff, and relevant stakeholders on best practices in organic cotton cultivation
 - Successful multiplication of NIAB-Kiran seeds to achieve the targeted quantities of 100,000 Kgs in Bahawalpur, and 100,000 Kgs in Barkhan for the upcoming cotton season by ensuring the genetic purity of the multiplied seeds to meet organic and non-GMO standards.
 - Development of a detailed and forward-looking plan outlining strategies to further enhance the availability of NIAB-Kiran seeds at the local level in the project areas: Bahawalpur and Barkhan
- All relevant collected data, including, hard Performa's, excel sheets, word documents, video, audio recording and pictures acquired during this consultancy

5) PROJECT/ ASSIGNMENT TIMELINE

- The consultancy will be undertaken over a period of four months. Work will commence immediately after contract signing.

6) REQUIREMENTS

Ph.D. Degree in Agriculture/ Plant Breeding and Genetics/Seed Science and Technology with 10 years of experience in research/field studies related to Seed breeding, seed multiplication, etc.

Adhere to WWF's values, which are: Courage, Integrity, Respect and Collaboration

7) CORRESPONDENCE & SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

1. Application Submission:

Interested consultants should submit the Proposal on [Application Form Available Online](#) or can access through following Link:

2. If Any **Queries** may send through Email by attention to the Following:

To: Faiza khan (fakhan@wwf.org.pk)

Cc: Muzzammil Ahmed (mahmed@wwf.org.pk)

The RFP submission deadline mentioned on WWF-Website.

3. Any information and responses to enquiries will be made in writing and distributed by email to all proponents. Enquiries after the foregoing deadline will not receive a response.

8) FORMAT OF THE PROPOSAL

- 1) **Application Form available at WWF-Website** - General information about the Bidder, covering ,qualification, experience and CV.
- 2) **Experience:**
 - a) **Description of the complete projects:** the list and general information about the complete projects, description of the role in the project, other accomplishments of the Consultant.
- 3) **Proposal outlining scope of consultancy service-** Description of scope and working process, stages, deliverables, exclusions, conditions, methodology
- 4) **Provide list of already developed portals**
- 5) **Service Provision Timeline** – Provide Detailed Work Plan as per Deliverable and TORs.
- 6) **Financial Proposal-** the prices shall be provided in Pak Rs, the total price must be exclusive of all types of applicable taxes

Note:

Templates of all Information is provided on Application form available at WWF-Website. Any Additional Information related to the RFP can be attached along with application Form.

9) FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The proposed prices shall be provided in PKR, the prices shall be provided in Pak Rs, the total price must be Inclusive of all types of applicable taxes.

The Payment Term: shall be defined by the contract to be concluded between WWF -Pakistan and the consultant.

10) EVALUATION PROCESS

Applicant's proposal shall be evaluated based on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method. Under QCBS both technical and financial proposals shall be evaluated as per following criteria against a maximum score of 100 points.

- a) Technical Proposal 70%
- b) Financial Proposal 30%

The following criteria shall be used as a basis for evaluation of technical proposals:

Qualifications (maximum 30 points)

- Experience relevant to the assignment (maximum 30 points)
- Adequacy of the proposed methodology and work plan (maximum 20 points)
- Skills & Competencies for the assignment (maximum 10 points)
- Prior experience with WWF-Pakistan (maximum 10 points)

Note: Late/ incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Only three (03) top-ranked firms will be included in the comparative process

11) DOCUMENTATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All documents completed based on requirements of the present RFP shall be the property of the WWF- Pakistan, and shall not without the consent of the WWF-Pakistan be used, reproduced or made available to third parties beyond what is necessary in respect of the fulfilment of the Project. All documents issued and information given to the BIDDER shall be treated as confidential.

12) BUDGET

Total Budget for this activity inclusive of all taxes is **PKR 600,000/-**, WWF Pakistan will bear the cost of Accommodation, Food, and Field Travel during this consultancy Time period.

