



REQUEST FOR CONSULTANT PROPOSAL

RFP #: MAT 2024 – CONSULTANT 02

Senior International Aquaculture Expert

ISSUANCE DATE: Feb 12, 2024

LAST APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE: March 1, 2024, 5:00 PM EST USA

Components of this solicitation are as follows:

Appendix A: Terms of Reference and Requirements

Appendix B: Instructions for Application and Review Process

APPENDIX A:

Terms of Reference / Consultancy

Timeline and Reporting:

Title or proposed position/work: **Senior International Aquaculture Expert**

Location: Simara, Bara District, Nepal (remote and field work to be decided at contracting stage)

Reporting to: Chief of Party

Anticipated Start Date: March 2024

Anticipated End Date: May 2024

Consultancy Type: Individual or Firm

Contract type – initial contract of 30 days LOE with the possibility to extend.

Background

Nepal is a landlocked country ripe for investment in its growing aquaculture sector, with 5% of its total area occupied by different freshwater aquatic habitats, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, swamps, ponds and irrigated paddy fields.¹ Only 2% of the available water resources are utilized for aquaculture production, but the environment is suitable for producing warm, temperate, and cold-water fish species across the country, offering many opportunities to increase both aquaculture production across the value chain and economic benefits for Nepalis.² Aquaculture appeared in Nepal in the 1950s, while capture fishing has existed for much longer. Nepal has 236 indigenous fish species and 16 exotic fish species, but aquaculture activities focus on seven types of carp, tilapia, pangasius catfish (pangas), and rainbow trout.³

¹ Jha, D.K. 2022. "Status of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nepal." In: T. S. Pathan; A.R. Chourpagar; S.V. Rankhamb; R.S. Shaikh (eds.), *Fisheries, Ecology and Environment*, pp. 45- 68.

² Alok Dhakal et al. 2022. Hindawi, *Advances in Agriculture*, Volume 2022. Article ID 4206401

³ Jha, D.K. 2022. "Status of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nepal."

⁴ Alok Dhakal et al. 2022. Hindawi, *Advances in Agriculture*.

⁵ OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2020-2029 & FAO. 2022. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*.



Aquaculture and fisheries production continues to grow at a rate of 17.1% and contributes to 2.47% of the nation's agricultural gross domestic product.⁴ Average fish consumption per person in Nepal is approximately 2 kg per person (2020), much lower than the global average of 20.2 kg per person⁵. While fish consumption provides a nutritious protein source, the low average purchasing power of low contributing to low fish sales and production. Many farmers participate in the aquaculture sector, offering employment and business opportunities across genders, age segments, and social groups.

The anticipated United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress (FFPr) project in Nepal will leverage local, regional, and international technical expertise in aquaculture and extensive stakeholder engagement to make lasting change in Nepal aquaculture productivity, food safety, aquaculture marketability, nutritional awareness, enabling environment, and ultimately, trade.

Under Lutheran World Relief (LWR)'s leadership, the project will support direct and indirect individuals by working with aquaculture farmers, farmer groups, cooperatives, associations, hatcheries, nurseries, transporters, buyers/traders, institutions, equipment providers, and government bodies across sixteen districts in five provinces of Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Lumbini.

The project focuses on two USDA FFPr's strategic objectives:

- To increase agricultural productivity of fish farmers through improving producer access to improved inputs, services, financing, and end-market linkages.
- To expand trade of aquaculture products locally including aquaculture inputs, services, live fingerlings, and processed fish through improving access to finance, quality inputs, and end markets.

The project will carry out five activities, in capacity building, training, inputs, financial services and market access.

Consultant Opportunity:

LWR is seeking a qualified, experienced Senior International Aquaculture Expert with specific knowledge in carp, tilapia and pangas pond aquaculture, hatchery operation, nursery management and designing and managing raceway systems for nursing and advanced fingerling production in trout farming. The consultant must have substantial expertise on the certification of hatcheries, as well as the grow out of fish (carp, pangas, tilapia and trout). This expert will work with individual hatcheries and nurseries, scientists, and staff from the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Central Fisheries Promotion and Conservation Center (CFPCC) and the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) professors to enhance their technical capacity and expertise.

Detailed Tasks:

Senior International Aquaculture Expert will be responsible for the following tasks:

- a) Conduct a thorough study on technological gaps for increasing production and productivity enhancement of target fish species (carp, trout, pangas and/or tilapia).
 - b) Ensure the study brings in international, regional and local aspects that can apply to the Nepal context.
 - c) Assess the existing fish production, feed production, hatchery and nursery management practices, and compare them with regional or international best practices, recommending suitable practices for consideration.
 - d) Assess the options of integrated rice-fish-vegetable farming.
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- e) Analyze the current farmer aquaculture costs and make specific recommendations that will enhance farmer profits in their aquaculture operations.
- f) Develop technical guidebooks on aquaculture better management practices including pond management, hatchery and nursery management, feed production and management, measuring and improving water quality, and disease management for each of the 16 districts in Nepal where the project implements.
- g) Ensure proposed production technologies are user friendly, economically feasible, culturally sensitive and tailored to the needs of the smallholder farmers.
- h) Collaborate with subject matter experts and stakeholders to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- i) Provide training on certification systems of aquaculture farming and products to government officials, researchers, extension agents and farmers.

Deliverables

The following deliverables are expected from Senior International Aquaculture Expert:

- a) Need assessment report (8-10 pages) outlining succinctly the production and specific technologies that might require for increasing carp, tilapia, pangas, and trout production.
- b) Present findings to project staff, government representatives and farmers.
- c) Technical guidebooks for farmers, feed producers, hatchery and nursery operators on better management practices on pond management, hatchery and nursery management, feed production and management, measuring and improving water quality, disease management and post-harvest handling in English and Nepal language.
- d) Final report documenting assignment, inclusive of recommendations for improvement.

Timeline:

The ToR is expected to be completed by both remote and field work. Field visits will be required to Simara and the implementation regions during the consultancy. The perspective timeline for the selected consultant to start March 2024 and submit deliverables by end of May 2024 for 30 days of effort. All terms will be agreed upon in the consultant contract.

Qualification and Experience:

The Expert should possess the following qualifications:

- a) Advanced degree in aquaculture, fisheries, or in related field.
- b) Exceptional knowledge and proven hands-on experience in any/all the fish species of carp, tilapia, pangas and/or trout hatchery/nursery and production system and overall aquaculture management.
- c) Proven experience on integrated aquaculture system
- d) Experience working with international development organizations and knowledge of donor-funded projects, preferable.
- e) Cross-cultural awareness and ability to work amongst a diverse group of staff, partners, and external stakeholders.
- f) Strong verbal and written communication and writing and technical skills.
- g) English language, fluency in Nepali/Hindi/local languages is a plus.
- h) Ability to communicate technical matters effectively to a wide audience.
- i) Microsoft package: Word, Excel; PowerPoint, required.
- j) Willing to travel to Nepal, including to remote districts.



**APPENDIX B:
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS**

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS – All documents submitted in response to this solicitation, as well as all correspondence in connection with the solicitation, shall be in the English language.

EVALUATION – Evaluation of responsive and technically acceptable applications submitted pursuant to this solicitation will be carried out by LWR in accordance with the evaluation factors in, “Instructions for Application and Review Process.”

QUESTIONS – Questions should be addressed to the email address below 5 business days prior to the submission deadline.

APPLICATIONS – Applications are to be submitted electronically via email no later than the Last Application Receipt Date, which is defined as **March 1, 2024, 5:00 PM EST USA**. Electronic applications must be addressed and delivered to:

Attention: MATSYA Procurement - **Senior International Aquaculture Expert**

Email: Matsyaprocurement@lwr.org CC: rbhandari@lwr.org

Last Proposal Receipt Date: **March 1, 2024, 5:00 PM EST USA**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The selection process will be based on the following criteria:

- a) Relevant qualifications and experience in BMP or GMP related approaches
- b) Expertise on agriculture enterprises, regulations with certification system in aquaculture, agriculture, or livestock
- c) Knowledge of BAP policies, hatchery and feed mills regulations
- d) Previous experience with international development projects
- e) Communication and presentation skills
- f) Daily rate

Note: LWR will not accept responsibility for delays with transmission or receipt of applications/ proposals. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring the timely receipt of their applications/ proposals. Applications/ proposals received after the date and time required will generally not be considered unless no other proposals are received.

Submissions shall be in accordance with the instructions provided in this solicitation, at the place and time specified. If submitting a proposal as a firm, please share the CVs of the proposed consultants and include a breakdown of tasks outlined in the ToR in the cover letter. Interested applicants are requested to submit:

1. **A recent CV or resume.** The CV/resume must include sufficient relevant information to evaluate the application in accordance with the stated evaluation criteria and must contain the following information:
 - Personal Information: Full name, mailing address, email address, phone number.
 - Education: School/ university name, type of any degrees received.
 - Work and Consultancy Experience: Job/consultancy title, duties, and accomplishments, starting and ending dates (month and year).
 - Other Qualifications: Other pertinent information related to the qualifications required for the position, as noted above, including job-related training courses (title and year), job-related skills, and notable accomplishments.
2. **A Cover Letter.** The cover letter must outline how you expect to use previous experience and expertise to complete the ToR. Include a proposed daily rate for services in the cover letter. Only include daily rate for services and not any other expenses.



Applicants that best fit the criteria may be invited for interview.