



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT  
(Project Implementation Unit)  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
KRISHI ANUSANDHAN BHAWAN-II, NEW DELHI-12



Website: [www.icar.org.in/nahep.icar.gov.in](http://www.icar.org.in/nahep.icar.gov.in)

Country: India

Name of the Project: National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)

Loan No.: 8776-IN

Sector: Agriculture

Project ID No.: P151072

Assignment Title- Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

1. The Government of India (GOI) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for funding the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards a consultancy for Monitoring and Evaluation activities of the project to support the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the project.

2. The consultancy services include:

- Conduct all activities related to monitoring and evaluation of the project as per the requirement and guidelines of the WB funded projects.
- Implement M&E work plan for the project.
- Monitoring of all sub projects through Project Monitoring & Tracking System (PMTS) in the participating Agricultural Universities.
- Conducting regular surveys to co-ordinate M&E activities across NAHEP as per the PDOs and RF indicators.
- Impact studies of component wise activities of the project.
- Economic and financial analysis of various activities/components and the project.
- Preparation of various reports, documents and knowledge collaterals of the project summarizing the results.
- Undertaking regular field trips to introduce and document key M&E practices.
- Preparation of final report and sustainability plan of the project.

**Implementation period: up to March 2024**

Monitoring Organization: PIU, NAHEP, ICAR, New Delhi

3. PIU, NAHEP invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services indicated at para 2 above. Interested consultant must provide the following information along with documentary evidence indicating that they are qualified to perform the services:

- a. Company profile with organization setup, details of experience, turn-over of last FIVE financial years (i.e., FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 & 2021-2022), staff strength of the firm, geographical spread (i.e., no. of office in different cities, etc.).
  - b. Core business of the firm and number of years in business.
  - c. General qualifications and number of professional staff (list to be attached).
  - d. No. of staff having experience of handling World Bank assignment (list to be attached).
  - e. Experiences showing handling of similar nature of assignments during the last five financial years (i.e., FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22).
4. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 (revised July 2014) under "Selection based on QCBS-Lump Sum" method.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address given below on any working days from 1000 to 1700 hours.
6. Expression of Interest must be submitted to the address given below by 06<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2023 till 1600 hours.

**Rajesh Kumar Jha**  
**Deputy Secretary & Procurement Officer, PIU-NAHEP**  
**Room No.503, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, KAB-II, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012, India**  
**Telephone: 011-2584 8772, Email: [piunahep1822@gmail.com](mailto:piunahep1822@gmail.com)**

## Terms of reference

### Hiring of consultancy services for Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) - An ICAR and WB funded project

#### **Background**

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), with financial assistance from the World Bank (WB), launched National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) in 2017 with an aim to bring transformative reforms in agricultural higher education in country. Under NAHEP, the ICAR is in the process of bringing a fundamental change in its approach and control, financial sustainability, accountability, autonomy, transparency, and meritocracy to improve the quality and relevance of agricultural higher education in India.

This program has been promoting efficiency and competitiveness through changes in working mechanism of agricultural universities, raising the teaching and research standards through improved research and teaching infrastructure and enhanced faculty competency and commitments, and making agricultural education more attractive to talented students. This program is envisaged to ensure accountability and to bring about reforms through planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of education related activities in AUs and to enhance their visibility.

The overall objective of the **NAHEP** is to support Participating Agricultural Universities and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to the students. **NAHEP** addresses quality by supporting interested 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.

There are four key components under NAHEP, namely, Institutional Development Plan (IDP), Centres for Advanced Agricultural Sciences and Technology (CAAST), ICAR to support excellence in agricultural universities (AUs), and ICAR Innovation Grants to AUs. It is envisaged that improved AU performance through quality enhancement, better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities created for agriculture graduates, non-accredited AUs attaining ICAR accreditation, and institutional reforms implemented in education division of ICAR and AUs under these components together shall contribute to the achievement of the overall program objective.

NAHEP endeavors increased agricultural productivity and support quality improvements of higher education and ensure more skilled workforce that continuously improves the productivity of key sectors, including agriculture. The project is also a multi-Global Practice collaboration (Agriculture and Education) and is expected to support activities and results directly related to cross-cutting strategic areas of climate change, jobs and gender.

NAHEP is implemented by ICAR (GoI) and World Bank with the total project cost of USD 165 million (INR 1100 Cr approx. at 1USD=INR 64.47 as on June 1, 2017), having 50:50 cost sharing between GoI and World Bank.

The beneficiaries of NAHEP include 74 institutions that form the ICAR-AU System, which encompasses 63 State-level AUs, 4 Deemed Universities, 4 Central Universities with Agricultural Faculty and 3 Central Agricultural Universities. Direct project beneficiaries of the project are those students and faculties, who directly derive benefits under different components of the project.

Till date, 62 Agriculture universities (AUs) have been awarded under NAHEP, wherein 22 AUs come under IDP, 16 AUs under CAAST and 24 AUs under IG in component 1. Besides 3 ICAR institutes i.e. ICAR- Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP) and ICAR- National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) have been implementing Component 2 of NAHEP. *Project details encompassing name of awarded AUs, Component, Title of project, thematic areas and fund sanctioned are placed at Annexure.* As per Project Appraisal Document (PAD), PIU-NAHEP is looking for a reputed & eligible professional agency with relevant M&E experience and skillsets is to be hired for providing M&E-related support to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the NAHEP, ICAR.

## **Project Components**

The objective of the NAHEP is aimed to achieve through the implementation of **three** unique but mutually impacting components, these are:

### **Component 1: Support to Agricultural Universities**

This includes financing investments by participating AUs to improve the quality and relevance of agricultural education and research for agricultural transformation. This component also includes competitively awarding significant additional resources to participating AUs and finance goods, works, non-consulting services, training and consultants' services. This component is further broken down into three sub-components:

#### **Component 1a: Institutional Development Plans (IDPs)**

This sub-component includes the provision of Institutional Development Plans (IDPs) to reform-ready and competitively selected participating AUs. The IDPs seek to improve:

- (a) Learning outcomes and future employment for AU students; and
- (b) Faculty teaching performance and research effectiveness.

#### **Component 1b: Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science & Technology (CAAST)**

Through this sub-component, selected participating AUs receive grants for the establishment of Centres for Advance Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST), multidisciplinary centres for teaching, research and extension on critical and emerging agricultural topics. The location and themes of proposed CAASTs are decided after consultations, followed by competitive allocation.

### **Component 1c: Innovation Grants (IGs)**

This sub-component provides grants to selected participating AUs for the carrying out of Innovation Plans. They aim to support technical assistance and consultant services, including those required to:

- (a) Make AUs reform ready (i.e., attain accreditation); and
- (b) Promote mentoring of non-accredited AUs by existing reform-ready AUs and other interstate and international academic partnerships.

### **Component 2: Investment in ICAR Leadership in Agricultural Higher Education**

This component aims to finance institutional reforms within ICAR to enhance ICAR's effectiveness in coordinating, guiding and managing agricultural higher education. It also aims to enhance ICAR's interactions with AUs and key stakeholders nationwide through interventions that increase the quality and relevance of agricultural higher education. Goods, training, consultant services and non-consulting services and incremental operating costs are financed under this component. The said component majorly includes the following:

1. Assessing different possible options in the administration and award of ICAR's technical and financial assistance to AUs
2. Structuring dialogue with State governments to catalyse their participation in raising the quality and relevance of agricultural higher education
3. Helping participating AUs for the development of IDPs, CAASTs and Innovation Plans
4. Establishing partnerships with globally recognized agricultural higher education institutions
5. Developing digital information systems for agricultural data collection, analysis and dissemination
6. Improving curricula review processes and methods to consolidate and disseminate global best-practices in agricultural education
7. Improving the all-India entrance examination in agriculture, including an on-line national examination system
8. Adopting next-generation management systems covering information, procurement, contract and financial management areas
9. Coordinating an External Advisory Panel of renowned agricultural education experts
10. Assisting agricultural universities to strengthen their linkages with industry and
11. Promoting the establishment of centres for career development at agricultural universities.

COVID-19 has accelerated the transformation in education through policy developments and measures to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning for all while prioritizing the health safety of the education community. It underscores the importance of laying the foundation of institutional resilience by improving the quality and enhancing the access to high quality education and reducing the digital divide through appropriate, effective and interactive digital learning initiatives. Hence, as an important initiative under Component 2, Resilient Agricultural Education System (RAES) has been introduced wherein teaching & learning will operate seamlessly across

multiple situations and contexts, with minimal impact on the learners and other operational aspects such as assignments and examinations of the learners. NAHEP is Promoting Resilient Agricultural Education System (RAES) where focus is on strengthening existing Digital infrastructure and online learning platforms in AUs, development of a discipline specific Digital Content repository and system wise Digital Capacity building program.

### **Component 3: Project Management and Learning**

This component of Project Management and Learning finances goods, works, non-consulting services, training and workshops, and consultants' services for the Project (other than those financed under subprojects) and incremental operating costs. This component includes strengthening ICAR's management capacity for project implementation, including:

- (a) Establishment/maintenance of NAHEP-Project Implementation Unit, Steering Committee, Technical Committee and M&E Cell to ensure compliance with the Project's procurement, financial management, safeguards and reporting requirements, and administration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of IDP Grants, CAAST Grants and IGs and/or proposals.
- (b) Training to ICAR and participating AUs to achieve and sustain increased quality, relevance and effectiveness of agricultural higher education.

### **Objective of hiring M&E consultancy services for PIU-NAHEP**

The objectives of the assignment are (i) to assist and handle all activities required in connection with Monitoring & Evaluation of the NAHEP project/ sub-projects/components under this project as required by the PIU-NAHEP, ICAR.

### **Outline of the tasks to be carried out by consultancy firm / Scope of work**

- Monitoring of all the outputs / outcomes across all sub-project, all components through existing Project Monitoring and Tracking System (PMTS) and through various innovative M&E tools / mechanisms developed in consultation with PIU; mid-course corrections and need based M&E advisories
- M&E capacity building workshops and other training programs - Need based M&E Sensitization Workshops and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Clinics, Liaison with PME Cells and provide PME-related training program to the participating AUs
- Ensuring monitoring of Knowledge Management Framework indices on frequent interval level, need based updation of existing Knowledge management portal (KMP) and sharing key findings with PIU and WB
- End line Impact assessment, Economic & Financial analysis of various activities, components and the project
- Learning and knowledge management: Annual Report, NAHEP Progress Reports for World Bank, ICAR, DARE, NAHEP learning and Achievement Reports, Development of M&E Quarterly Progress Reports
- Preparation of sustainability plan and end-term report of the project
- Conduct study in AUs to plan and implement agro-tourism

- Conduct study in AUs to utilize available land and R&D resources for resource generation
- Assisting the PIU in all matters related to M&E planning & reporting to GoI - Preparation of technical presentations, regular reporting to ministry, ICAR, World Bank and other concerned divisions and departments
- Advise on ways to improve the M&E systems, monitoring and reporting procedures as NAHEP progresses;
- Effectively utilizing the M&E learnings of project gathered so far and carry forward the M&E activities till project closure
- Assist NAHEP project management team in operationalizing Project Accounting Transactions system to track project expenditure at implementing agency level.

For more details, please refer to the documents uploaded on project website.

Overall, the M&E agency has to monitor all activities sanctioned under the project across all components and provide inputs for corrections, if any. This will include economic and financial analysis of various activities, components and the overall project. The consulting agency has to travel to their places for collecting data or for various other M&E related requirement. These travels would be finalized in consultation with NAHEP. Logistic support for such travel shall be provided by the NAHEP.

### **Duration of the Assignment**

The proposed duration of this contract will be from April 2023 to 31.03.2024 (1 year). The estimated key experts' time inputs will be 28 man months.

### **Reporting Requirement**

- Consultant (M&E) will report to the National Coordinator – Monitoring and Evaluation.
- In carrying out the assignment, the Consultant (M&E) is expected to consult with and work closely with PIU staff and with key relevant staff responsible for implementing NAHEP Components and Sub-components, to ensure that all major project related issues are addressed and factored into the work;
- Consultant (M&E) is expected to work/liaise closely with World Bank staff involved in the NAHEP.
- Consultant will submit quarterly report enumerating all the activities undertaken by them with the work plan for the next quarter. The consultant will also prepare (i) Annual Report every year for overall NAHEP project, (ii) Progress reports for Implementation Support Missions organized by WB, and (iii) Project Completion report for overall NAHEP project, at the time of closing of the project.
- All reports will be submitted in MS Word/ pdf format to the PIU.

### **Procedure for review of M&E progress**

The reports received from the M&E consultant will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the National Director, NAHEP or his representative, National Coordinator (s) to be nominated by the ND, NAHEP, Director (Procurement) and Deputy Secretary (Procurement), PIU- NAHEP.

The consultant will attend the meetings called by NAHEP from time to time to monitor the progress.

**Data services and facilities to be provided by the client**

- Adequate office space will be provided to enable the Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant with his key professionals and support staff to establish its project office at the PIU, NAHEP Hqrs. i.e., KAB-II, Pusa, New Delhi- 110012
- Clearance from the Government Department(s), if required

**List of key positions whose CVs and experience would be evaluated**

The Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant is expected, as a minimum, to employ the following Key Personnel with below mentioned qualifications for the execution of the services.

The experience and qualifications of the Key Personnel required will be as follows:

Proposed experts	Required experience and qualifications
Team Leader	<p>Should be Ph. D. in Agril. Economics with an experience of more than 15 years with capability to execute similar assignments as Team Leader.</p> <p>Must be an expert in Monitoring and Evaluation and handling such assignments in Government /Public sector/ reputed organizations. Experience in large/ high value projects shall be an added advantage. Good communication skills would be desirable.</p> <p>Should have an understanding of agricultural higher education sector, its trends, enabling policy environment and stakeholders.</p>
Monitoring & Evaluation Expert	<p>Ph.D. in Economics / Agril. Economics / Social Sciences or Master degree in Economics / Agril. Economics</p> <p>At least 10 years of experience in Monitoring &amp; Evaluation domain. Should have worked with at least 1 world bank funded M&amp;E assignment.</p> <p>Should have fair understanding &amp; experience of working in higher education sector. Experience of agricultural higher education will be an added advantage.</p>
Specialist in Economic Survey and Impact Analysis	<p>Master degree in Economics / Agril. Economics / Social Sciences</p> <p>At least 05 years of experience in evaluation &amp; Impact assessment in agri and/or allied sector.</p> <p>Must have working experience in areas of various econometric and statistical analysis, impact evaluation, outcome evaluation, developing indicators, logical frameworks / results-based frameworks and setting-up monitoring &amp; evaluation systems.</p>



	Experience in implementation of surveys, survey design, survey testing and development of sampling techniques, development of quantitative and qualitative data collection tools and overall management of surveys will be an added advantage.
Learning, documentation and knowledge management expert	<p>Master degree in agriculture / agribusiness management with minimum 5 years of experience in agri and allied sector.</p> <p>Should have contributed in development of at least 5 knowledge collaterals / high visibility publications / background paper in the field of agri &amp; allied sector and are available in public domain (access links have to be provided by agency for verification).</p> <p>Should have prior experience in development of knowledge management framework and designing KMP indices.</p>
<b>Total key personnel</b>	<b>4</b>