

World Bank financed
Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Assam Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Project (ACCSDP)
Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society
(An Autonomous Body of the Government of Assam)

REOI No. ARIASS/APART/1344/2022/11

Dated Guwahati the 6th April, 2022

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

For Engagement of a Chartered Accountancy Firm for Conducting Audit of the Accounts of the ARIAS Society (covering APART and ACCSDP) and sample verification of the Procurements & Physical Assets created, under APART and ACCSDP

1. The Government of Assam (GoA) through the Government of India (GoI) has received a loan of US\$ 200 million from the World Bank (Loan No. 8780-IN) for implementation of the Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) and another loan of US\$ 39.2 Million from the World Bank (WB) (Loan No. 8754-IN) for implementation of the for the Assam Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Project (ACCSDP). The details about the projects may be seen at the following url- <http://www.arias.in> .
2. The ARIAS Society is the Project Coordinating & Monitoring agency for APART and the Society is the implementing agency for ACCSDP. The ARIAS Society now intends to apply a portion of the aforementioned loans for engagement of a Chartered Accountancy (CA) Firm, as External Auditor, for Conducting Audit of the Accounts of the ARIAS Society (covering APART and ACCSDP) and sample verification of the Procurements & Physical Assets created, under APART and ACCSDP.
3. The main objective of the Consultancy assignment is to conduct Audit of the Accounts of the ARIAS Society [including APART and ACCSDP] and sample verification of the Procurements & Physical Assets created under APART and ACCSDP, through a Chartered Accountancy (CA) firm and obtain Audit Reports. The CA firm is intended to be engaged for conducting Audits for Financial Year 2021-22.
4. The State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society now invites eligible Chartered Accountancy (CA) firm ("Consultants") to indicate their Expression of Interest (EoI) for providing the Services. Interested CA Firms/Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services as indicated in the Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment, which may be seen at the website of ARIAS Society viz. (<http://www.arias.in/procurements.html>).
5. **The short listing criteria are:** Potential CA Firms should meet the following short listing criteria:
 - (a) The CA Firm shall be a Long standing of the firm and shall be in existence at least since last **15** years;
 - (b) The CA Firm is empanelled with the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India in the panel of audit firms eligible for major audits;
 - (c) Experience of at least **two (2) similar assignments** in last ten(10) years i.e. (i.e. 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12) particularly in audit of World Bank aided multi-disciplinary and multi-sector projects including Audit of Reimbursement Claims submitted to the World Bank.
 - (d) Experience in at least one (1) assignment in verification of World Bank procurement and sample physical verification of assets.

- (e) Minimum annual average turnover of **Rs.50 lakhs** in at least any **two (2)** years of the last **five(5)** Financial Years i.e. (i.e. 2020-21,2019-2020, 2018-2019, 2017-18 & 2016-17)
- (f) The firm must have a established office in Assam.
6. **The lists of documents to be submitted along with EOI are***(EOI shall not be more than total 60 pages):*
- Name, postal address, e-mail, Phone Number, along with a note on the Ownership & organizational structure the CA firm supported by documentary evidence (registration/incorporation of firm) to substantiate that the CA firm is over 15 years old;
 - Documentary evidence to substantiate that the CA Firm is empanelled with the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India in the panel of audit firms eligible for major audits-Self attested copy of the latest empanelment intimation letter issued by the C&AG containing the Unique Identification Number and the score.*
 - Document (s) relating to details of at least two **Similar Assignments** executed during the last **10** years (i.e. 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12), along details of client for cross verification;
 - Document (s) relating to details of at least one (1) assignment in verification of World Bank procurement and sample physical verification of assets.
 - Audited Financial Statement showing the year wise annual turnover during each of the last five**(5)** financial years (i.e. 2020-21,2019-2020, 2018-2019, 2017-18 & 2016-17);
 - A short write-up on technical and managerial capability of the firm, including total manpower strength- availability of appropriate professional staff*(key personnel would not be evaluated at this stage and hence CVs shall not be submitted).*
7. The CA firm would be selected in accordance with the 'CQS method stipulated in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in Investment Project Financing: Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 (as updated)', available at www.worldbank.org. Attention of the interested agencies is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the said Regulations relating to the Conflict of Interest.
8. The CA firm may associate in the form of a sub-consultancy to for the physical verification of community assets/ community procurement.
9. Interested CA Firms must deliver their EOIs in **English** language to the address given below on or before **2:00 pm of 25th April, 2022** in **hard copy and a soft copy in pen drive**. Further information can be obtained at the address given below from 11.00 am to 04.00 pm (IST) on all working days.

The State Project Director, ARIAS Society, Agriculture complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam)Tel: 0361-2332004; website: www.arias.in; email: spd@arias.in