

Terms of Reference
For
Impact Assessment Study of
“Partnership in Climate Services for Resilient
Agriculture in India (PCSRA)”

ToR No: ABC122019XYZ

Dated: 31-1-2019



Survey and Assessment of a project on Climate Services for Resilient Agriculture in India

Introduction

Climate change has led to erratic and irregular weather patterns globally, which has multiplier effect on the people, livelihood and economy and ultimately on the food security. India is among the countries which are most sensitive to climate change and hence it now frequently witnesses extremes of heat to extremes of cold, excessive aridity to excessive humidity, torrential rainfall to negligible rainfall.

Agriculture, which provides livelihood to approximately 49% of the workforce in India is most hard hit sector by the climate change as the same is typically dependent on the rainfall. According to the statistics released by Ministry of Agriculture, the ratio of net irrigated area to the total cropped area is just 34% and rest is unirrigated area. One could understand the degree of dependence on the weather conditions and the enormous risk associated with this dependence if the weather conditions, particularly the rainfall does not stands normal.

Besides the inconsistent pattern in the rainfall in the country, there is rapid increase predicted in temperature as well. According to a climate change model developed by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), temperature in India could rise to 3°C to 4°C by the end of 21 century. Rise in temperature affects the crop in dual ways. One, it causes the soil and plant moisture to go down which leads to stunted growth in the crops and secondly, it makes the environment conducive for pests to grow or propagate.

By causing substantial crop losses, climate change is severely affecting the income and lives of farmers in country. According to the Economic Survey 2018, climate change could lower the farmers' income by up to 25%. Glut in the production due to such crop losses not only causes farmers to suffer but it always put question mark on the country's food security.

Even in such extreme and drastic weather conditions, very less farmers in India are under the crop insurance cover against the risk of partial or full crop loss. The reason for the same is no or very less awareness about the insurance schemes and tedious documentation and paper work involved in the same. There is huge gap between the insurance companies and the farmers.

In such situation, where not just only farmers' income but the food security of the country at the risk due to rapid change in climate, there is a need of developing strategies to make the community adaptive and resilient towards the inevitable effects of climate change.

Objectives of the Study

Skymet invites proposals from consulting agencies to conduct a survey to assess the uptake and usage of climate related interventions by project beneficiaries, possible change in livelihood and resilience strategies of farmers and to seek feedback from stakeholders/farmers to refine implementation. The core aim of the survey is to assess the impact of Skymet's services on farmers and how it has changed their resilient towards climate related risks. To assess the change brought about by Skymet's interventions on the farming community in the target region, the proposed survey has the following main objectives:

- Assessment of farmers' accessibility to the real time weather data and information and crop advisories and compare it with the accessibility before the project started.
- Mapping of awareness among the farmers about the services provided under the PCSRA project.
- Evaluation of overall opinion of the beneficiaries about the usefulness of services provided under the project.
- Assessment of ratio of less privileged farmers (women farmers, small & marginal farmers) in the overall benefitted farmers.
- Evaluation of usefulness of each of the medium of sharing the weather data and information as well as the crop advisories, including the SMS, SkyMitra Mobile App, Weather Display Boards, Voice Broadcast Services (VBS), Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Web portal and WhatsApp Groups.
- Mapping of impact of services on the cost of agriculture inputs, overall productivity and revenues generated through the farm outputs.
- Assessment of changes that may have occurred in the weather-driven crop losses in past three years to map the usefulness of the weather forecast and crop advisories.
- Estimation of the number or ratio of the farmers who have crop insurance presently in the target region as compared to the number or ratio of farmer with crop insurance three years back at the time of project initiation.
- Assessment of opinion of community about the insurance facilitation service provided under the project
- Evaluation of opinion of farmers and stakeholders about the activities and events are been conducted in the region for the awareness, capacity building and communication.
- Usefulness of the public-private partnerships and similar alliances done during the project and possible business opportunities that can be leveraged in future.
- Suggest lesson learned and pathways to improve service delivery

To achieve these objectives in the proposed survey, various actions would be required, such as desk review, meeting with farmers and stakeholders in remote areas of the target region, pre-testing of the survey questionnaire, actual field-based survey, sharing the draft report and presenting the final report with complete data sets. All the expected actions or the activities required to be done to execute the study are given below in the scope of work.

Scope of Work

In order to conduct the study with the aforementioned objectives, following activities are to be done.

Secondary Research: Literature review and all the desk research to be done at the beginning of the study itself to get the clearer picture about the project. The objectives, goals, assumptions as well as the data and statistics of the key activities, progress and developments should be analyzed thoroughly. Skymet would provide all the information and data to the selected agency to proceed.

Inception Report: A clear and comprehensive study plan including the approach and methodology, sampling method, tentative timeline, roles of team members and list of assumption and limitations in a form of Inception Report is supposed to be developed by the consulting agency, before proceeding for the primary research. Skymet would review the same and will give its suggestion on the same, if it anything needs to be added or modified.

Development of Research Tools: The Agency is also expected to develop the primary research tools, which includes questionnaire for field survey, focused group discussions (FGDs) and In-depth Interviews (IDIs). The tools developed by the agency would be reviewed by the experts of USAID and Skymet and following their approval(s), the same shall be used to capture the data and information.

Primary Research: As per the sampling methods suggested by the agency and approved by Skymet, agency would conduct the primary research which would include the 1). Pre-testing of sample survey 2). Field Survey, 3). Focused Group Discussion (FGDs), 4). In-depth Interviews (IDIs) and 5) Case Studies. Besides this, agency may have to consult with the various stake-holders at the state, district and village level to document the qualitative information.

Data Analysis & Report Writing: Following the primary research, data analysis would be done and report would be generated and presented to Skymet. The report would mandatorily contain the summary of all the outcomes, analysis of the data collected against all the objectives of the study mentioned above, case studies and recommendations.

Eligibility Criteria

Skymet is inviting proposals from the consulting agencies to conduct the study. The consulting agency must fulfill the following eligibility criteria:

- The agency must have minimum 8 years of experience in consulting business particularly in the areas of field-based surveys, impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation and livelihood & rural development.
- Agency must have done at least 5 similar impact assessment and M&E based projects, particularly in the agriculture field.
- The average annual turnover of last three years should be at least INR 2 Crore.
- Minimum 10 employees should be working for the agency as on 01.03.2019.
- Must have substantial experience in conducting primary research in the rural areas.
- Agency who have worked with donor agencies USAID, World Bank, UNDP or an agriculture related national flagship program would be given preference.

- Agency with experience of conducting studies on weather forecasting, crops advisories & insurance services would be given preference.
- Must have excellent project planning, sampling, data collection and analysis and report writing and presentation skills.

Professional Qualification & Experience

The agency must have the following team members with the given professional qualification to execute the impact assessment study

- 1) **Team Leader:** Post graduation in any discipline with minimum 15 years of overall experience including 5 years of experience in consulting.
- 2) **Project Manager:** Post Graduation in any discipline with minimum 10 years of overall experience including 3 years of experience in consulting primarily in the areas of agriculture, rural development, livelihood etc. Must have sufficient experience in stake-holder consultation, communication and liaising.
- 3) **Research Manager:** Post Graduation in any discipline with minimum 8 years of overall experience including 3 years of experience in research as well sufficient knowledge of agriculture, rural development, livelihood etc.
- 4) **Statistics and Data Analyst:** Graduation with minimum 5 years of experience in data analysis with sufficient knowledge of statistical and data analysis tools.
- 5) **Field Supervisor:** Graduation with minimum 5 years of experience in primary research, field survey conduction & monitoring and project tracking.

Submissions in the Proposal

In the technical proposal, the consulting agencies are supposed to brief about following components.

Approach & Methodology: This section should give the idea about that how the agency would execute the assignment. It should give a glimpse of the overall modus operandi which would be followed to accomplish the objectives of the study.

Timeline: A suggestive timeline should be given indicating the activities and key deliverables. Please note that the total tenure of the assignment should not exceeds from five weeks.

Details & Professional Qualification of Team Members: Details of team members along with their professional qualifications should be given in the technical proposal. The CVs of the team members should be attached in the annex.

Experience and Expertise in Similar Projects: Description of the similar projects done should be summarized in the technical proposal and the proof of the same in the form of work orders or the completion certificate released by the clients should be attached in annex.

Brief Note about Agency: An introductory note about the consulting agency should be added in the technical proposal with the administrative and managerial capabilities. The proof of turnover, similar projects done, minimum number of employees and other information that are listing in the eligibility criteria section should be enclosed in the annex.

Evaluation Criteria & Award of Contract

The grant of the contract would be based on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) and the agency with the highest scores in evaluation matrix would be awarded with the contract. The ratio of weightage of technical and financial proposal is 75:25 respectively.

The Evaluation Committee having the panel of Skymet members would review the technical proposal first. After shortlisting the agencies based on the technical proposal, Skymet would invite financial proposal from them. The evaluation committee would then review the financial proposals and the agency which scores the highest cumulatively in both the proposals would get the contract. The weightage of various parameter(s) of technical and financial proposal are given below:

Parameters	Description	Marks
Technical Proposal		
Expertise	Expertise and knowledge in agriculture, rural development, livelihood, crop insurance, climate change and crop risk mitigation	25
Similar Projects	Number of Impact Assessment and Monitoring & Evaluation studies done	25
Team Members	Qualification and experience of the team members	25
Financial Proposal		
Cost of Project	Quotation is inversely related to the scores, i.e. lower quotation would bring higher scores	25
Total Score		100

Bidding Conditions

The interested agency may send their Technical Proposal via email to Mr. Yogesh Patil (yogesh.patil@skymetweather.com) or Ms. Rekha Mishra (rekha.mishra@skymetweather.com).

The proposal should reach to the mentioned email ID's on or before March 29' 2019. Proposal reaching after the last date would not be considered for the assessment.

After reviewing the technical proposals, USAID-Skymet would invite the financial proposal from the shortlisted agencies. The shortlisted agencies are expected to share at least three final survey reports with Skymet for review. The financial proposal received would then be reviewed and the agency scoring the highest cumulative weightage (technical and financial proposal) would be awarded the contract of the assignment.