



Greater Mekong
Subregion
Sustainable
Agriculture & Food
Security Program



**TA-9916 REG GMS Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security Program – Call for proposals
Requests for clarification and answers no. 1**

| Request for clarification | Answer |
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| 1 | <p>[Name of the organisation] was born in Cambodia, and we have our main team in the country who work closely with the Ministry of Environment and all the stakeholders. Juridically, we have all the documents. Regarding all that information that I shared with you, may we submit the proposal for this SAFSP ?</p> |
| 2 | <p>What about the other NGO who's having their project in Cambodia, but for financial reasons, or some directorial or juridic conditions, they have only the representative and the staff in Cambodia, but the project is still supported by the Government and the communities?</p> |
| 3 | <p>"Organizations/companies/institutes located in GMS countries can submit the proposal": Could you please confirm whether International NGOs/CSOs having legal registration for operations in GMS countries are also eligible for this call?</p> |
| 4 | <p>Could you please provide a list of eligible and ineligible costs for the demonstration project, if available?</p> |
| 5 | <p>What is the type of this funding opportunity? Grant, Commercial contract, Payment-by results, etc?</p> |
| 6 | <p>Are there any requirements on partnership/consortium? If yes, what are the specific requirements?</p> |
| 7 | <p>We would like to apply together with one local partner in Vietnam to conduct project activities in Vietnam and Laos, is it possible that we are the technical lead and take the overall responsible for the project (technical, deliverables, reporting, etc.) while our co – applicant will be the one who receive the grant for disbursement? The responsibility for compliance, audit and financial reporting will be covered by our co – applicant partner.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Is it possible to have a project covering the three countries Vietnam – Lao – Cambodia?</p> |
| 9 | <p>The call states " Proposals must be from organizations that are (legally) based in any of the following GMS countries: Cambodia, the People's</p> |



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| | Republic of China (Yunnan and Guangxi only), Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam. [Name of the organisation] has legal registration as an NGO in Cambodia and Vietnam. However, we are not incorporated or headquartered in those countries. Could you provide clarification on what is meant by "legally based". | proper follow-up / the sustainability of their interventions. This presupposes, somehow, a "protracted" presence in the target region also after the end of the intervention. |
| 10 | Besides the flexible online/physically direct collaboration approach, what would be a reasonable budget allocation proportion to targeted countries, given a country is the main site and lead? Eg. 50-50, 60-40, or 70-30, or depending on our mutual agreement and/or the project design? What would the financial management mechanism of those cross-border themes would be like, country-specific or project-based? | It usually works that the lead applicant channels all the money and the distribution among partners is up to their internal agreements with partners – in short, it is project-based. Assuming your question was also about what is the amount of resources that should be allocated to activities in other countries to have a cross-country proposal, there is no rule of thumb. |
| 11 | The project duration mentioned in the call (Jan-Sept 2023) is too short and unrealistic to achieve anything given the ambitious requirements. Do you think the ADB could ever reconsider extending the duration to 1.5-2 years or even 3 so good work can be made for greater and more sustainable outcomes and impacts later? | The lead applicants will have a contract with Landell Mills. Landell Mills' contract with ADB is finishing in December 2023, hence the specified duration. |
| 12 | Are scientific publications required as outputs of a funded project in this call? Or we can just deliver activity reports? | Publications are not a must, but add value to the outreach / communication component. Considering the time that peer review takes, you can still include it and mention that the delivery is likely to take place after the end of the project. |
| 13 | Expenses for baseline and monitoring and evaluation of certain technical work items, such as soil fertility (analytic data of soil moisture, fertility properties, food quality before and after nature-based solutions (NbS) application, animal health and meat quality before and after NbS application, etc.), are needed. Does the ADB cover these costs as well? | You can also cover these costs and, indeed, you should have a baseline assessment. |
| 14 | Are social enterprises / CSOs considered private sector? | The private sector mainly refers to agribusinesses, but CSOs are still eligible to participate. |
| 15 | Is it compulsory to have co-applicants? | It is not essential, but co-applications are strongly encouraged. |
| 16 | 10% of taxes normally has to be paid by social enterprises for similar assignments in Viet Nam. Is this covered by the donor? | Depending on local laws, ADB may be able to finance taxes such as service tax and VAT. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. |
| 17 | What are eligible costs and do these include hardware / software? | Ineligible costs include fees for the staff or regular operational costs, including administration. All other items required for the demonstration are eligible. For equipment, there is a handover procedure at the end |
| 18 | Who will be signing the contract with the funded applicant – Landell Mills or ADB? | The contract will be signed with Landell Mills. |
| 19 | Is the implementation period only covering 10 months? | The intervention should be concluded by early quarter 4 of 2023, given that the end of the contract between Landell Mills and ADB is coming to a natural end in December 2023. |
| 20 | Is aquaculture an eligible sector? | It does not perfectly fit under the scope of the call. |
| 21 | Is it possible to postpone the deadline? | This is not foreseen. In case not enough proposals are received by the submission deadline, there might be an extension, but this is only hypothetical. |



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| 22 | Is an application comprising several partners, including farmers' organisations, eligible? | Partnerships are encouraged and farmers' organizations are eligible. |
| 23 | Would seaweed culture be eligible under the project? | Considering the themes of the call, it is not a sector covered by this call. |
| 24 | What are the limitations of the demonstration pilot, geographically speaking? | Anywhere within the target countries is an eligible location. |
| 25 | If successful, does the successful bidder need to advance money? | Payments are output-based, but there is also an advance / mobilization payment foreseen at the beginning of the intervention. |
| 26 | For funding, is there a special procedure to follow? | There are several ADB procedures to follow that will be clarified. |
| 27 | Is it possible to apply if the call for proposals was not received via email? | It is possible. |
| 28 | How many successful applicants will be selected? | It is not known yet. |
| 29 | What is the needed level of readiness for the technology to be experimented with? What is the level of innovativeness of the technologies? Can technologies imported into the Greater Mekong Subregion (not known elsewhere) be considered innovative? | Something demonstrated and done in the region would not be considered "innovative". It has to be "innovative" for the targeted locations. |
| 30 | Is office rental an eligible cost? | It is not. |
| 31 | Can staff salaries be included in the cost estimate? | Staff salaries are not an eligible cost. |
| 32 | In the cost estimate, can some costs (e.g. workshop) be presented as an item without a breakdown? | A breakdown is helpful for a better understanding of the underlying costs, but not needed at the application stage. During implementation, a breakdown needs to be provided. |
| 33 | Are fees for external consultants eligible? | If consultants need to be contracted, the organization not being able to rely on such expertise, their fees could be included in the cost estimate. Their eligibility, however, will need to be justified and approved on a case-by-case basis. |
| 34 | Is it possible to replicate innovations experimented on in other countries and not in the targeted country? | If it is "innovative" to the target country, it can be considered eligible. |
| 35 | Does the project location need to be along the Mekong river? | Any location in any of the target countries is eligible. |
| 36 | What is the percentage of funds that can be allocated to the selected technology? | There is no set percentage, but the proposal will also be assessed based on the amount allocated to activities to support the deployment of the selected technologies. |
| 37 | Is it possible to apply for this opportunity if a direct email was not received? | It is possible and all the information is available from the GMS website or can be requested via email. |
| 38 | Are training workshops eligible? Is there a maximum number of participants? | They are, but not all of the budget should be allocated to such an activity. There is no pre-defined number of participants, but this has to be commensurate with the scope of the intervention. |
| 39 | Can you explain what the supervisory committee, mentioned in section 4 of the application form, is? | If this is available, information can be included, otherwise, normally, regular monitoring arrangements should be described. |