



Centre for Microfinance & Livelihood

An Initiative of TATA TRUSTS

Compressive impact assessment - Developing a comprehensive participatory aquaculture development model for enhancing the Livelihood of smallholder fishers.

Request for Proposals

Issue Date: 18th Oct. 2023

Proposal Submission Deadline: 1st Nov. 2023

Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML):

Centre for Microfinance & Livelihood (CML) - An Initiative of Tata Trusts, was incubated as an umbrella organization for capacity building, collaborative interventions, and research and project implementation. It was established in the year 2008, with the support of Tata Social Welfare Trust (TSWT). It was registered as a separate legal entity in 2012. At present, CML's collaborative livelihood and non-livelihood interventions are spread across 2 states Tripura and Assam in North-East India in collaboration with the State Government and the donor agencies.

Introduction:

The project aims to bring about sustainable improvement in the quality of life of small and marginalized farmers through the cultivation of fishery in rural livelihood. The Project wants to enhance 3000 HHs in Matabari and Kakraban Block under Gomati District, Tripura through the intervention of fishery activity powered by optimum utilization of available water resources, technology infusion, innovation, production enhancement, promotion of community enterprise and establishing sustainable forward and backward linkages. For more details, [please refer to Appendix A.](#)

Scope of the Evaluation:

CML proposed to conduct an external impact evaluation in Gomati Tripura. The proposed impact study will be conducted for the project titled 'Developing a comprehensive participatory aquaculture development model for enhancing the Livelihood of smallholder fishers' which aims to increase income for fish farmers. The objective of this evaluation is to evaluate the impact created through this project on the community. A brief description is given below in regard to this project. CML will share the necessary documents and details with the selected agency.

Characteristics of a Successful Proposal:

We seek proposals that clearly demonstrate the attributes described below:

In-depth Contextual Knowledge:

Proposals should clearly explain the context in which the evaluation will be conducted and the relevance of the evaluation design to respond to the key questions. Contextual understanding of the proposals will be assessed by the description of the program. The proposals will include an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic condition of the fish farmers in the intervention areas. Teams should also explain how the study will measure key program-related indicators across various dimensions including, socio-economic [\(Please refer to Appendix A\).](#)

Clearly Defined Research Questions:

Proposals should explicitly state the evaluation questions it seeks to address. Proposals must articulate the main questions and sub-questions that the study will answer and what conceptual and analytical frameworks will be used for the analysis. All proposals should contain a description of the causal pathways between the program results framework and the main outcomes of interest.

Justification of Methods Used:

In the methodology section, proposals must describe the methods that will be used to address the research questions. This section will include a justification of how the proposed methods are suitable to address the key questions.

High Technical Quality:

Proposals will demonstrate the use of relevant, rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods that will be participatory and inclusive. At a minimum, funded studies must conduct gender and /or ethnic group-sensitive analyses in which respondents of marginalized castes and/or ethnic groups are included. Suggested approaches include but are not restricted to in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with direct and indirect program participants, and implementing agencies at the local and state level that provide support services. The studies may use existing program documents and other secondary data to complement the analysis. All findings must be validated using recognized methods, including the participation of beneficiaries

Team Composition:

The research team must demonstrate experience of high-quality research on livelihoods in India. The team will be assessed as a whole and not on individuals alone. A strong team will be multidisciplinary and should include members with relevant sectoral and methodological experience along with adequate support staff. The Team should have sectoral experience in the fishery activity. Understanding the geographical region, including local partnerships or data collection abilities will be an added benefit. Project deliverables will include a study instrument and a final evaluation report.

Proposal Components:**Capability Statement:**

A statement on company capabilities including a background summary of the organization outlining areas of expertise; a sample projects with client names and any direct experience the agency has working on relevant evaluations.

Technical Approach *(not to exceed 5 pages):*

The proposal should provide a detailed description of how the agency will approach and complete the scope of work, including: How the agency will develop the sampling strategy and tools; How the agency will ensure data ethics, data control and data rights; How the agency will ensure quality of data collection (including a description of ongoing monitoring and quality control procedures among interviewers and other project staff).

Gantt Chart:

As part of the proposal, a Gantt chart illustrating the timeline/implementation plan should be prepared that includes major activities as they relate to the scope of work and demonstrates how the work will be accomplished within the allotted time frame.

Management and Supervision *(not to exceed 2 pages):*

The applicant will describe its management, supervision, and administrative arrangements for executing this project, including the functions and responsibilities of the proposed project team. The applicant should explicitly describe how the project lead will manage the project, how the person responsible for fieldwork will monitor study progress, the nature and frequency of communication with the data collectors, and how data will be managed during data collection.

Timeline:

The deadline for submitting proposals is 05:00 p.m. on 1st Nov. 2023.

Table 1: Key dates for activities or deliverables:

Activity or Deliverables	Key Dates
Request for proposals is posted	18 th Oct. 2023
Deadline for questions	28 th Oct. 2023
Pre-finalization meeting with short-listed vendors	30 th Oct. 2023
Deadline for submission of proposal	1 st Nov. 2023
Announcement of final award of grants	3 rd Nov. 2023
Submission of evaluation reports	25 th Nov. 2023

This evaluation needs to be completed by 20th Nov. 2023

Selection Criteria:

All proposals will be evaluated by the review committee based on the extent to which proposals meet the selection criteria, to the extent that they are deemed necessary, negotiations may be conducted with the highest rated bidders. In evaluating proposals, the Centre for Microfinance & Livelihoods will follow the below criteria. The most economically advantageous bid is established by weighing technical quality including an understanding of the scope of work, proposed methodology and approach for completing the assignment, Organization profile, experience of conducting studies, research and publication, and timeline against price.

Table 2 provides the evaluation criteria and percentage of the total score for the assessment of proposals.

Table 2: Proposal Scoring Criteria:

Criteria	%
Qualifications of the research team	30
Relevance of the study for the context	20
Design and methodology	30
Cost-effectiveness	20

Submission Guidelines:

Please send the complete proposal package of documents to bishwadebbarma@cmlnortheast.com with 'Comprehensive Impact Evaluation – Tripura Proposal' as the subject line. Please submit separate application packages if you are submitting proposals for each research theme. Also, the budget should provide detailed information.

Please direct any questions related to this RFQ to bishwadebbarma@cmlnortheast.com with 'Comprehensive Impact Evaluation – Tripura Proposal Query' in the subject line by 05:00 p.m., 1st Nov. 2023. All proposals must be in writing, in the English language, and signed and dated by an authorized person of the bidder. Bidders must use the guidelines provided in this RFQ.

The proposal validity period should be at least 20 (twenty) days following the Bid Deadline. This should be clearly mentioned in both the technical and financial proposals.

Further Information:

No costs incurred by the bidder in preparing and submitting the bid shall be reimbursable. All such costs shall be borne by the bidder. If proposed experts were interviewed or called for presentation, all costs shall be borne by the bidder. Bidders may alter or withdraw their bids by written notification prior to the stated deadline for submission of bids. No bids may be altered after this deadline. Withdrawals must be unconditional and will end all participation in the bid procedure.

The bid will be opened by the Centre for Microfinance & Livelihoods (CML) within 5 days from the deadline for the submission of the bid. Any attempt by a bidder to influence the evaluation committee in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of bids, to obtain information on how the procedure is progressing or to influence the contracting authority in its decision concerning the award of the contract will result in immediate rejection of its bid. Email text bodies should indicate the name and address of the bidder and the description of the proposal (technical or financial).

Appendix: A

Background:

The project aims to bring about sustainable improvement in the quality of life of small and marginalized farmers through the cultivation of fishery in rural livelihood. The Project wants to enhance 3000 HHs in Matabari and Kakraban Block under Gomati District, Tripura through the intervention of fishery activity powered by optimum utilization of available water resources, technology infusion, innovation, production enhancement, promotion of community enterprise and establishing sustainable forward and backward linkages. The project will be implemented by CML within a period of 5 years. The total budget of the project is ₹10.77 crores out of which ONGC Tripura Power Company Ltd. support stands at ₹5.00 crores.

Project Goal:

“Income enhancement of 3000 small and marginal fish farmers through diversification of comprehensive pisciculture practices in Matabari and Kakraban blocks under Gomati district, Tripura by 2025.”

Project Areas:

The project area is specified under in Matabari and Kakraban blocks under Gomati district, Tripura, India.

Project Time: The project period is from 22nd Dec. 2020 to 25th Dec. 2025.

The theories of change in terms of impact, outcomes, output, and activities are given below:

Impact						
Indicator	Target					
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total
30% or more increase in productivity per 0.16 hectare per farmer than baseline	200	300	500	1000	1000	3000
60-70% increase in annual income per farmer than baseline	200	300	500	1000	1000	3000

Outcome						
Indicator	Target					
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total
70% of the enrolled fish farmers adopted a standard package of practices (PoP)	245	490	560	700	105	2100

Output						
Indicator	Target					
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total
Total area covered under fishery activities (Hec)	32	48	80	160	192	512
No. of seed producers received training and exposure visits on nursery management	20	40	40	20	0	120

Activity						
Indicator	Target					
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total
No. of farmers mobilized under the project	700	1000	1000	300	0	3000
No. of Activity Groups formed	40	50	50	15	0	155
No. of Producer Groups promoted	0	20	0	0	0	20
No. of farmers trained in scientific fish farming	350	700	800	1000	150	3000
No. of fiber-reinforced plastic hatchery (FRP) installed	0	10	0	0	0	10

Major Project Components:

- Promoting community-owned and managed institutions of the fisher farmers for improved delivery of inputs, credit, technical advice, and marketing support for both women and men. This would be in sync with provisions proposed in the recent Union budget 2020.
- Engage with all the stakeholders in the value chain – seed growers, general fishers, feed producers and suppliers, financial institutions, the academic community, subject experts, and the Government.
- Set up FRP hatcheries, wherever required, to produce quality spawns locally, and encourage local entrepreneurs to grow fingerlings and yearlings to provide quality seeds that are made available throughout the year.
- Work on developing fish feed using indigenous raw material available that addresses the protein requirement alongside other nutrients.
- Setting up demonstration plots for piloting techno-innovations with 10% farmers such as low-cost solar aerators, fishery, aquaponics, and easy dissemination of knowledge.
- Focusing on building the capacity of the fishers through skill training and exposure visits, concept-sharing workshops, and seminars.