

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

Selection # as assigned by e-Tool: BL-T1113-P001

Selection Method: Full Competitive Selection

Country: Belize

Sector: Private Firms and SME Development

Funding – TC #: ATN/CO-17144-BL

Project #: BL-T1113

TC name: Improving Sustainable Production in the Belize Shrimp Cluster

Description of Services: The main objective of this consultancy is to develop a Biosecurity Aquaculture Zone Management Plan (BAZMP) for Belizean shrimp growers and other key industry players, by first conducting a Biosecurity Risk Assessment to identify disease risks and gaps in biosecurity measures. The consultancy will also provide technical assistance to improve pathogen monitoring and surveillance, including a system/methodology for monitoring data collection and epidemiological data analysis, along with relevant staff training and recommendations for legislative changes.

Link to TC document: <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/BL-T1113>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by: **February 18th, 5:00 P.M.** (Washington D.C. Time).

The consulting services (“the Services”) include, over a period of 12 months, working closely with the Belize Shrimp Growers Association (BSGA), Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), IDB officials, and other stakeholders to analyze biosecurity risks across the Belize shrimp industry, and design a Biosecurity Aquaculture Zone Management Plan (BAZMP) for which compliance will be voluntary at the first instance but with the aim that the BAZMP will become mandatory. A core component of the BAZMP will be the development of response/control measures and standard operating procedures, and recommended changes to current regulations to facilitate biosecurity actions necessary to implement and regulate the BAZMP. For surveillance and monitoring purposes, the consulting team will also be required to design a system and corresponding online application(s) for data collection and epidemiological data analysis, and to deliver training to growers and technicians in basic epidemiology, risk analysis, disease evaluation, and surveillance and monitoring.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work](#) - GN-2765-1. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described below in the draft summary of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting

firms must provide information (maximum 10 pages) establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information by sending an email to: *Gerard Alleng* (GERARDA@iadb.org) and *Lisa Drakes* (LISAD@iadb.org).

Inter-American Development Bank

Division: *Climate Change and Sustainable Development*

Attn: *Mr. Gerard Alleng, Project Team Leader*

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Web site: www.iadb.org

Draft Summary of Terms of Reference

*The full version of the TOR will be provided at the RFP stage.

Background

To support the competitiveness of the Belize Shrimp Cluster¹, this Consultancy focuses on establishing a Biosecurity Aquaculture Zone Management Plan (BAZMP) among Belizean shrimp growers and other key industry players.

An outbreak of Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in 2015 crippled the Belize shrimp industry resulting in a severe decline in income, employment and foreign exchange earnings. The BAZMP seeks to put the necessary biosecurity infrastructure and capabilities in place that will reduce disease risks, while maintaining production levels and sustainable agriculture and good labor practices. This will provide the industry with a solid foundation for strong market positioning and growth in premium export markets.

Objectives

By the end of this consultancy, there should be:

- Creation of a functioning Biosecurity Aquaculture Zone Management Plan (BAZMP) that standardizes production and biosecurity practices and has clear response measures;
- Functioning standardized and systematic surveillance and monitoring data collection system in place;
- Functioning early warning system for data collection and epidemiological data analysis in place;
- Trained technical staff that are accessible to all farms with in-house capacities to better monitor shrimp diseases and improve early responses to diseases.
- Recommended changes to, or new, biosecurity control measures and regulations

Activities

The consulting firm should perform all the activities needed to achieve the objectives, including but not restricted to:

4.1 Biosecurity Risk Assessment

- Conduct a biosecurity risk assessment to identify disease risks and gaps in biosecurity measures, by reviewing current regulations, husbandry and waste management practices, pathogens and local environmental conditions.
- Then make recommendations on monitoring and investigation activities, and improved regulations and practices.

4.2 Design of Biosecurity Aquaculture Zone Management Plan (BAZMP)

- Develop a gender-sensitive Biosecurity Aquaculture Zone Management Plan (BAZMP) along Belize's shrimp aquaculture zone, to prevent and/or control shrimp diseases and thereby improve sustainability of shrimp production.
 - The BAZMP should cover all Belizean shrimp farms, hatcheries and processing plants, including supply and receiving water bodies.
 - The BAZMP should standardize production and biosecurity practices and develop clear response measures; and the industry will define and agree on requirements that will be first adopted voluntarily but with the vision that they will become mandatory regulations that will be enforced.

¹ The core of the shrimp Cluster is comprised of 5 hatcheries, 13 farms, and 4 processing plants.

- The BAZMP should be adapted to Belize shrimp production biosecurity needs, and focus on improving pathogen diagnostic capacity at the farm-level.
- The BAZMP should incorporate the use of a Geographical Information System (GIS) for gathering, storing and updating surveillance and monitoring data.

4.3 Development of a Surveillance and Monitoring System

To intensify the surveillance and monitoring of pathogens with the BAZMP, establish a cluster surveillance and monitoring program of shrimp health and production information (water quality, pond management etc.) that will aid in prevention and control of disease outbreaks:

- Develop a standardized and systematic data collection system among cluster members, outlining sampling and other protocols to be followed, and roles, responsibilities, and required qualifications/experience of assigned personnel; training needs identified among personnel should be addressed under Activity 4.4.
- Develop an online database² that will allow access to simple descriptive statistics to establish relationships between pond conditions and the prevalence of pathogens.
- Develop, as an online application, an early warning system for data collection and epidemiological data analysis.

4.4 Training/Capacity Building

Develop and deliver training modules and related materials (session plans, slides, exercises, hand-outs, evaluation forms, etc.) to the Cluster members and stakeholders on:

- Introductory course on basic epidemiology, risk analysis, disease evaluation, surveillance and monitoring to cluster stakeholders.
- Gender-inclusive training to growers, technicians, other key users of the on-line application.
- Gender-inclusive technical staff training on new technologies on best production methods for disease management, biosecurity protocols and standards, and other topics the consulting firm deems necessary for the successful implementation of the BAZMP.
- Gender-inclusive training to local epidemiologists in epidemiological analysis of data, to help maintain and improve the disease surveillance system, and enhance the monitoring and data analysis capabilities of the Cluster
- Advise Cluster on how to apply new knowledge in disease control, and on investing in new technology and improved culture methods.
- Input to Design of a Capacity Building Program: - In addition to delivering the above-mentioned training, the CF will also be required to give input into the Cluster's capacity building program by identifying deficiencies in technical capacity (staff and current technologies) and in production practices, and then by recommending capacity building activities (study tours, conferences, training workshops) to address the deficiencies and expose the Cluster to innovative technologies and best practices.

4.5 Support to Implementation of the BAZMP

- A Cluster Manager will be hired under a separate contract to oversee and direct implementation of the BAZMP. The Cluster Manager will liaise with the consulting firm as needed to support implementation of the BAZMP.

² Not at this stage but at the RFP stage, the consulting firm should include in its price proposal the cost to supply to the Cluster cloud-based software for hosting of the online database.

- To support the BAZMP implementation, regulations for the industry will also be developed under a separate contract, to which the consulting firm's input will also be required.