



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) invites all eligible individual consultants to submit proposals for the **Consulting Service: Agronomist for Prospects for Widespread adoption of Organic Fertilizers in the Philippines: A Rapid Assessment.**
2. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **PhP548,100.00.**
3. Interested consultants must submit the following documents using PIDS the prescribed forms:
 - a) Curriculum Vitae of the proposed Consultant(s)¹
 - b) Technical Proposal Form¹
 - c) Financial Proposal Form¹
 - d) Filled out Data Privacy Notice and Personal Data Protection Form¹
 - e) Statement of Completed contracts²
 - f) Statement of All Ongoing and Awarded But Not Yet Started Contracts²
 - g) Notarized Omnibus Sworn Statement (for ABC above PhP50,000.00)¹
 - h) Income/Business Tax Returns (for ABC above PhP500,000.00)¹
 - i) PhilGEPS Registration Number (certificate or screenshot)¹
 - j) Valid Mayor's/Business Permit (Firm) or BIR Certificate of Registration³ (Individual).
4. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Procurement Management Division at telephone via email at procurement@pids.gov.ph.
5. The Institute shall adopt the Quality-Based Evaluation procedure in selecting consultants based on the attached Terms of Reference.
6. The deadline for submission of proposals is on **13 March 2024 (5:00 PM)** addressed to:

The BAC Chairperson for Consultancy
Services c/o The BAC Secretariat
Procurement Management Division
18/F Three Cyberpod Centris – North Tower, EDSA cor. Quezon Ave., Quezon City

Proposals may also be submitted through email at procurement@pids.gov.ph.

7. PIDS reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is evidence of collusion, including any act that restricts, suppresses, or nullifies competition, or if there is a failure to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. PIDS also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the proposals received and select the proposal it determines most advantageous to PIDS.


DR. VALERIA GILBERT T. ULEP
Chairperson
PIDS-BAC for Consultancy Services

Reference No.:2024-073

¹Applicable for individual consultants and firms

²Applicable for firms only

³Individual consultants must issue Official Receipt (OR) during payment.

Philippine Institute for Development Studies

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consulting Service: Agronomist
for
Prospects for Widespread adoption of Organic Fertilizers in the Philippines:
A Rapid Assessment

1. Background and Rationale

The Philippines has grappled with soaring inorganic fertilizer costs since 2021—with urea prices reaching nearly PHP 3,000/sack in May 2022, and currently standing at PHP 1,700/sack. To assuage its impacts especially on food security, one of the government’s strategies was to roll out a massive chemical fertilizer subsidy, allocating PHP 9,571 million for the Rice Program alone in 2024.

Despite such efforts, challenges related to deteriorating soil health and diminishing sustainability pose a looming threat to the agricultural sector. This prompts a possible shift towards nature-based crop farming, particularly emphasizing the adoption of organic fertilizers. As the literature suggests, such practices align with the “circular production” model in agriculture and promote the achievement of the SDG 2 targets. Ultimately, they hold great potential in addressing productivity challenges and contributing to the preservation of ecosystems.

In this regard, the PIDS seeks to engage a Consultant as **Agronomist** to assist the Project Leader in the study's conduct.

2. Objectives

The overall objective is to undertake a rapid assessment of the current state and potential expansion of organic fertilizer utilization and availability in the Philippines. Using secondary data and rapid field appraisal, the study specifically aims to:

- a. Review, in layperson language, the literature behind current science-based recommendations related to conventional agriculture, nature-based agriculture, organic agriculture, other relevant crop production systems, and the role of organic fertilizer in each;

- b. Characterize organic fertilizer utilization in the Philippines in terms of incentives and trade-offs facing farmers, e.g. short-term and long-term impacts on productivity, complexity/simplicity of nutrient management practices, etc.;
- c. Characterize organic fertilization supply in the Philippines, at individual, community, and commercial scale;
- d. Provide an expert assessment of prospects for widespread adoption of and shift towards organic fertilizer application in Philippine farms; and
- e. Review policies and programs related to organic agriculture and balance fertilization strategy, and state policy recommendations.

3. Scope of Work, Deliverables and Schedule of Payment Releases

Under the guidance and technical oversight of a PIDS Research Fellow who serves as Project Director, the **Consultant** is expected to work with the Project Team and undertake the following tasks/activities¹:

1. Support the collection of necessary data for the background paper.
2. Collaborate with the Project Director and other team members in developing data collection instruments;
3. Support the writing of the Inception Report for this and related projects.
4. Sign a Non-Disclosure Undertaking with PIDS. Any information gathered and generated in the implementation of the project shall be processed subject to the applicable provisions of the Republic Act No. 10173, known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012” and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and relevant issuances of the National Privacy Commission (NPC); and
5. Others as may be assigned by the Project Director.

¹ If the consultant needs to undertake physical/face-to-face interviews and data collection, such activity is subject to relevant guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Department of Health (DOH). Consultant is expected to observe minimum health and safety protocols including physical distancing, mandatory wearing of face masks, and provision of hand sanitizers). Consultant will also request the respondents to accomplish health declaration forms to ensure the health status of participants.

The Consultant will prepare the following outputs based on the schedule below:

Activities and Deliverables²	Due Dates	Payment Tranches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception Report following PIDS template including a report on Inception Workshop 	One month after Contract signing	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Report describing the status of the background paper 	Two months after Contract signing	15%
	Three months after Contract signing	15%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs to Draft Report³ • Assistance to the presentation in a research/validation workshop 	Four months after Contract signing	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs to Final Report addressing comments from the Draft Report and comments from the Research Workshop 	Five months after Contract signing	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminal Report • Turnover of draft and materials used together with Certification indicating the turnover of data as well as the deletion of such data and that it will allow PIDS to verify if the data is complete. 	Six months after Contract signing	10%

NOTE: Payments will be based on the acceptance and approval by PIDS of the corresponding outputs

4. Qualifications of the Consultant

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

- At least Master's degree in Agriculture, Agronomy, Horticulture, Soil Science, or any background related to Crop Sciences;
- At least 9 years of relevant experience;
- Previous experience in supervising data collection activities and performing supervisory functions is required;
- Track record in authoring/co-authoring research reports;
- Expertise in the science and technology of fertilizers.

² For research outputs that will be released as a PIDS Discussion Paper (DP), the consultant shall prioritize the publication outlets of PIDS, particularly the peer-reviewed Philippine Journal of Development (PJD) and Research Paper Series (RPS). If the DP is not selected by PIDS Management for publication either as a PJD article or an RPS issue, the consultant may identify other dissemination outlets outside of PIDS.

³ For applicable outputs, the draft and final reports submitted by the consultants should be aligned with the following guidelines: PIDS' Guide in the Preparation of Manuscript for Publication and General Guidelines in Preparing and Formatting a PIDS Discussion Paper, Guidelines in the preparation of Policy Notes.

5. Project Duration

The duration of the engagement is six (6) months from the signing of the contract, on a part-time basis. The Consultant’s work must be completed within this period, and no man days will be chargeable after this date.

6. Approved Budget for the Contract

The approved budget for this consulting service is up to PHP 548,100.00, depending on the qualifications. This amount does not include the cost of field visits, including transportation and accommodation, which will be shouldered by PIDS. PIDS shall not cover hospitalization and other COVID-related health expenses of the consultant as no employer-employee relationship exists between the PIDS and the Consultant.

7. Evaluation Criteria

a. Evaluation Criteria

Consultants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

<p>Consultant’s Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least Master’s degree in Agriculture, Agronomy, Horticulture, Soil Science, or any background related to Crop Sciences; • At least 9 years of relevant experience; • Previous experience in supervising data collection activities and performing supervisory functions is required; • Track record in authoring/co-authoring research reports; • Expertise in the science and technology of fertilizers. 	60%
<p>Plan of approach and methodology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clarity, feasibility, innovativeness, and comprehensiveness of the approach b. Incisive interpretation of problems and suggested solutions 	40%
<p>Total</p>	100%

b. _____ Detailed rating sheet (see attached file)

Prepared by: 
ROEHLANO M. BRIONES
Project Director

Reviewed by: 
Christine Ruth P. Salazar
Division Chief II, RPMD

Approved by: 
Renee C. Ajayi Digitally signed by Ajayi Renee
Ann Jolina Catibog
Date: 2024.02.19 17:17:45
Department Manager III, Research Services