

Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0

(Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu)

**5th Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru. Vi. Ka Industrial
Estate, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032.**

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Website: www.vkp-tnrtp.org

File No: 303/P&C/2025

Date: 12.09.2025

REQUEST FOR INVITE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRING OF TECHNICAL FACILITATION AGENCY FOR EXTERNAL MONITORING & EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0 invites “Expression of Interest” from the eligible agencies to submit their interest for providing services for World Bank funded TNRTP 2.0 Project for **“Hiring of Technical Facilitation Agency for External Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project”**. Interested agencies may submit their “EXPRESSION OF INTEREST” in a sealed envelope clearly super scribed as Expression of Interest for **“Hiring of Technical Facilitation Agency for External Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project”** latest by **17.00 hours on 30.09.2025**. This selection will be done on Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS) of the World Bank. The agencies may obtain further information and procedures for submitting the “Expression of Interest” from the official website of TNRTP i.e., www.vkp-tnrtp.org.

Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0
5th Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru. Vi. Ka Industrial
Estate, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032.

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**REQUEST FOR INVITE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRING OF
TECHNICAL FACILITATION AGENCY FOR EXTERNAL MONITORING &
EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT**

Project Reference No: TNRTP - P508565

The project titled **Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) 2.0** implementing through Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Society intends to engage **Hiring of Technical Facilitation Agency for External Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project**. The estimated duration of contract will be for Five (5) Years (TENTATIVE). The detailed activities are mentioned in the Draft Terms of Reference as per [Annexure-A](#).

Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Society now invites eligible agencies ("Consultancy") to indicate their interest for providing the services. Interested agencies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

The short-listing will be based on eligibility criteria.

The **eligibility criteria** are as follows: -

1. Relevant Experience: Proven track record of at least 10 years in Monitoring & Evaluation of large-scale development projects, preferably in rural development, livelihoods, or enterprise sectors in India.
2. Work with Donor-Funded/Government Projects: Demonstrated

successful experience in supporting the World Bank, UN, Government, or other international donor-funded programs through M&E systems, evaluations, and learning processes.

3. Technical Expertise: Proven expertise in designing and implementing Experimental and Quasi-experimental evaluations and M&E frameworks, results-based management, MIS for M&E.
4. Qualified Team: Access to a multidisciplinary team of experts with relevant academic qualifications and experience in M&E, research, data systems, and sector-specific areas.
5. Methodological Capacity: Ability to conduct mixed-methods research, high-quality surveys, case studies, and thematic evaluations using robust and ethical methodologies.
6. Operational and Field Capacity: The agency must demonstrate the ability to effectively mobilize large teams and manage field operations, including in rural and remote areas. The agency should have successfully completed at least five studies that required the deployment of a minimum of 100 field enumerators simultaneously.
7. Financial Capacity: Sufficient financial strength to undertake the assignment, with a minimum average annual turnover of INR 10 Crore over the last 3 financial years.
8. Independence and No Conflict of Interest: The agency must not have any conflict of interest and must maintain independence from project implementation teams or related entities.
9. Clean Track Record: Should not have been blacklisted or debarred by any government or donor agency and must disclose details of any ongoing litigation or disputes.
10. QCBS: The agency will be taken through the QCBS method, following an 80:20 ratio.

Format for Submission of EOI to TNRTP is attached as **Annexure B**.

A Consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS) method** set out in the World Bank's Consultant's Guidelines 2011: Attention of the interested Consultants is

drawn to Section- III of the **"THE WORLD BANK Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services- Feb 2025"** (IPF: Investment Project Financing) relating to World Bank's policy on Conflict of Interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment: conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or non-consulting services; conflict among consulting assignments; and relationship with Borrower's staff.

Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person or through postal/courier services latest by **17.00 hours on 30.09.2025** at the following address.

Address:

The Chief Executive Officer,
Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project
5th Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building,
Thiru. Vi. Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai- 600 032

Annexure-A

Terms of Reference

Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) - Phase 2

Terms of Reference for

Hiring of Technical Facilitation Agency for External Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Government of Tamil Nadu, through TNCDW and TNRTP 2.0, has been implementing various livelihood promotion and enterprise development initiatives to support rural entrepreneurs, particularly women, youth, and marginalized groups. The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0 (TNRTP 2.0), under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) and the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW), has been instrumental in fostering entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihoods across rural Tamil Nadu. TNSRLM and Phase-I of TNRTP has successfully established various business development support structures, creating significant impact for thousands of grassroots entrepreneurs. Business Development Support (BDS) structures such as Mathi Siragugal Thozhil Maiyam, Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP) – Block Resource Centers (BRCs), Business Building Resource Centers (BBRC) under TNSRLM, and Mathi Siragugal Thozhil Maiyam (OSF/MSTM) play critical roles in nurturing micro and small enterprises.

2. BACKGROUND

The **Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP) 2.0** is a strategic initiative by the Government of Tamil Nadu, conceptualized with support from the World Bank, to foster inclusive growth, resilience, and employment generation across the state. Building upon the foundations laid by the Vaazhndhu Kaattuvom Project (VKP), formerly TNRTP Phase-1 2017-2025, this new phase aims to deepen interventions in rural and peri-urban areas across Tamil Nadu.

TNRTP 2.0's design principles emphasize leveraging public funds to attract private financing, developing professional execution capacity, aligning with

World Bank's focus on job creation, economic transformation, mobilizing private financing, and inclusion. The project is designed to be tailored to local needs while addressing systemic supply-side challenges, involving communities for sustainability, embedding adaptive learning, and fostering collaboration with private players, civil society, and experts. A strong emphasis is placed on **clear results, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and accountability frameworks**, along with the **use of technology and digital tools** for enhanced efficiency, transparency, and scalability.

The implementation arrangement for TNRTP 2.0 will involve **TNCDW, TNSRLM** signifying a consolidated approach compared to the previous phase which was implemented by the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Society (TNRTS).

The proposed **Project Development Objective (PDO)** of TNRTP 2.0 is "**to promote inclusive entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities, especially for rural women and youth in Tamil Nadu**". This expands on the TNRTP's objective of promoting rural enterprise, access to finance, and employment opportunities in targeted areas. The project seeks to achieve this through the proposed components including: Institutional Strengthening and Implementation Capacity Enhancement; Enterprise Acceleration Ecosystem (covering Business Development, Financing, Skilling, and Integrating Vulnerable Groups); and Project Management, Results Monitoring, and Implementation Support Systems. The project components will be designed to improve rural resilience and prosperity through institutional and systems integration to deliver an inclusive and accelerating ecosystem for enterprise growth and expansion, skilled employment, and overall household prosperity. The final output and outcome linked numbers are subject to further change upon project design finalization. Key project outputs include supporting 50,000 enterprises, targeting 400,000 ultra-poor household's through skilling and enterprise linked interventions, skilling and job placement of 75,000 youth and women, leveraging INR 1,500 crore in formal financing, enabling 20,000 entrepreneurs to use digital services, and developing a digital platform for data-driven decision making. Project outcomes include facilitating 100,000 new or better jobs while improving involvement of rural women and youth, increasing

first-time formal enterprise loan availment, and raising household consumption spending of beneficiaries.

Given the significant scale and ambitious objectives of TNRTP 2.0, a robust and comprehensive Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework is crucial. This ToR outlines the requirements for a professional firm to act as the Technical Facilitation Agency for Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), ensuring rigorous assessment of the project's impact, progress, and effectiveness.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE MONITORING & EVALUATION AGENCY

The selected Agency will support the comprehensive M&E strategy for TNRTP 2.0. The primary objectives are:

1. **Impact Evaluation:** The Technical Agency (TA) shall be responsible for designing and conducting comprehensive impact evaluations to assess the overall effectiveness of the project in achieving its Project Development Objective (PDO). These evaluations will involve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data at three critical stages of the project lifecycle: **baseline**, **midterm**, and **endline**. The impact evaluation must be methodologically rigorous to establish causal links between project interventions and observed changes in key outcome indicators, with a focus on measuring both intended and unintended effects.

2. **Project Monitoring:** To ensure the effective implementation and continuous improvement of the project, the TA shall undertake comprehensive monitoring activities designed to assess both the efficiency of implementation processes and the achievement of intended outputs and outcomes. As part of this mandate, the TA will conduct **periodic Process Monitoring Studies** that evaluate project implementation using robust, evidence-based methodologies. Topic for each of the studies will be determined in alignment with project activities and in consultation with the Project Management Unit (PMU). The TA will undertake the following:
 - i. **Progress Monitoring:** Track progress against the project's approved work plan, targets, and milestones. This involves collecting and analyzing

data on outputs and deliverables to determine whether implementation is proceeding as scheduled and within scope.

ii. Process Monitoring: Assess adherence to implementation protocols, guidelines, and operational procedures. This component identifies effective practices, highlights deviations or bottlenecks, and recommends corrective actions or alternative approaches where necessary.

iii. Intermediate Results Monitoring: Evaluate the achievement of short- and medium-term results linked to project investments and results framework. This includes measuring progress towards outcomes at the community, institutional, and individual levels, with particular attention to the performance of community-based structures and mechanisms.

3. **Thematic Studies and Case Studies:** Undertake in-depth thematic studies and case studies focused on specific components of the project interventions and aligned with the results framework. These studies should aim to generate evidence-based insights, capture lessons learned, and highlight good practices, challenges, and innovative approaches that can inform ongoing implementation and future programs.

4. **Management Information System (MIS) Support:** The TA shall provide strategic and technical support to the TNRTP 2.0 in the design, development, and deployment of a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) for effective monitoring and reporting of project activities and outcomes. Key responsibilities under this component include:

- i. **ICT Coordination:** Collaborate with the TNRTP-designated ICT agency to align MIS development with project monitoring and reporting needs.
- ii. **Design Support:** Provide technical input on system architecture, data flow, and indicator tracking to ensure a user-friendly, real-time MIS.
- iii. **Monitoring Integration:** Ensure seamless integration of MIS with process, progress, and impact monitoring components.
- iv. **Rollout & Training:** Support MIS rollout through field testing, user training, and capacity building at all implementation levels.

4. SCOPE OF WORK / TASKS

The M&E Agency will be responsible for a comprehensive set of tasks throughout the lifecycle of TNRTP 2.0.

A. Impact Evaluation (IE): In consultation with the Project Management Unit, the TA will select the areas of impact evaluation and assessments that could report on outcomes linked to the PDO and the Indicators of the Results Framework (RF). The TA will conduct comprehensive impact evaluations and assessments for the RF, starting with a baseline for TNRTP 2.0, followed by midterm and endline surveys, to measure the project's desired changes and impact. For the Impact Evaluation, the TA will be expected to undertake the following:

A.1 Methodology and design: The TA will outline the methodology and study design for the impact evaluation (IE) and RF assessment. The design should clearly specify the analytical approaches and statistical methods to be used in assessing impact. The TA is expected to adopt a rigorous methodology that incorporates a counterfactual framework, utilizing experimental and/or quasi-experimental methods, wherever appropriate to determine the causal impact of project interventions. Wherever suitable, the evaluation may adopt a hybrid design that integrates multiple lines of evidence, including triangulation, qualitative data collection, causal chain analysis, and a systematic assessment of the assumptions and linkages within the Theory of Change.

A.2 Sampling: The impact evaluation should adopt a robust sampling strategy to determine the appropriate sample sizes for both treatment and control groups. The sampling approach should be grounded in rigorous methodologies, such as Propensity Score Matching (PSM) or other suitable techniques, to ensure comparability and minimize selection bias. Sample for each of the surveys must be randomized. The final sample size should be sufficient to detect statistically significant effects with at least 95% confidence.

A.3 Module Development and Data Capture

- i. **Variable Mapping:** Identify key variables aligned with project indicators and thematic areas, distinguishing between endogenous (project-influenced) and exogenous (external) variables to support causal analysis.
- ii. **Survey Modules:** Define relevant survey populations and design tailored modules accordingly. These may include households (disaggregated by category), individual and group-based enterprises, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).
- iii. **Instrument Design:** Develop survey tools in English and Tamil. Adapt instruments in collaboration with TNRTP and the World Bank to ensure contextual relevance and accuracy in measuring project outcomes.
- iv. **Pilot Testing:** Pilot all instruments with target groups outside of the main study sample. Use findings to refine questionnaire design for clarity, and response accuracy.
- v. **Electronic Data Capture (CAPI):** Develop digital data collection tools with user interfaces in both Tamil and English, using platforms such as ODK or SurveyCTO. Where applicable, incorporate data validation features to minimize entry errors.
- vi. **Data Quality:** To minimize errors and to establish accuracy develop a data quality check protocol through backcheck, high frequency check, and reconciliation system. The TA must ensure that the overall data error rate does not exceed 5 percent.

A.4 Survey Operations

- i. Prepare a detailed survey operations plan, including the composition of the field team. The team must include one Supervisor for every four Surveyors, along with separate staff responsible for Back Check data collection using the Back Check module on ODK or SurveyCTO. The total number of field staff should be determined in consultation with the PMU and in accordance with the project timeline requirements.

- ii. The TA will train Surveyors on the questionnaire and data collection procedures through a comprehensive program that includes theoretical instruction, classroom practice (individual and group exercises, demonstrations, role-plays or vignettes, and pilot interviews), and field exercises involving questionnaire administration to non-sample households and testing of the CAPI system.
- iii. Provide weekly progress reports on completed surveys, along with data quality check reports based on Back Checks and High-Frequency Checks (HFCs).

A.5 Survey Report and Database:

- i. The TA shall submit a detailed Data Analysis Plan (DAP) for each round of data analysis (baseline, midline, and endline) prior to commencing data analysis. The **baseline DAP** must additionally outline the approach for constructing a panel dataset to enable longitudinal analysis at the endline stage, including methods for tracking and matching respondents, in line with the approved study methodology. Each DAP must clearly define the analytical framework, including all relevant equations, statistical models, and variables to be used. It should specify the level of analysis (e.g., household, village, district), disaggregation by relevant sub-groups (e.g., gender, socio-economic status), and identify key indicators aligned with project objectives. The plan should also describe the treatment of missing data, outliers, and any data transformation techniques to be applied. The plan will be subject to review and approval by TNRTP.
- ii. The TA shall submit the cleaned data along with cleaning do files (STATA) to be used for the above-mentioned DAP. The dataset must be well-structured, with clear and consistent variable names, labels, and unique identifiers to facilitate seamless integration and analysis at multiple levels (e.g., household, village, and overall project levels). Data should be organized in a coherent and logical format, including listings, metadata documentation, and codebooks.
- iii. The TA shall submit a comprehensive Final Survey Report covering all relevant components and findings drawn based on the approved DAP. The

report must be well-written, clearly structured, and understandable to a general audience, while also including all relevant calculations, statistical outputs, and interpretations.

Note: Ownership of the final report and database will rest with TNRTP. A detailed data cleaning and delivery note must accompany the submission, outlining all quality assurance processes undertaken. The agency is also expected to make a formal presentation of the key findings, methodology, and deliverables to TNRTP upon final submission.

B. Project Monitoring: The TA will deliver comprehensive technical support and facilitation for project monitoring throughout all phases of TNRTP 2.0. The TA team will play a key role in supporting effective implementation by generating high-quality data, evidence, and insights, and by providing timely recommendations to enhance decision-making and adaptive management at all levels. The TA will be responsible for the following:

B.1 Monitoring Framework Development

The Agency will design a comprehensive and results-oriented monitoring framework aligned with the project's Results Framework. This will include:

- A detailed monitoring strategy and roadmap
- Definition of the project logic, results chain, and results indicators
- Clearly outlined data collection methodologies, tools, protocols, and timelines
- A structured program of work covering the full duration of the contract and all thematic components of the project

B.2 Concurrent and Real-Time Monitoring

A robust system for concurrent monitoring will be established to track real-time progress across all key components—including entrepreneurship development, enterprise promotion, financial services, community-based organizations, innovative practices, and project governance. This function will:

- Ensure quality assurance and adherence to guidelines
- Flag implementation bottlenecks
- Provide actionable insights for improvement

- Identify emerging policy issues and enable course correction.
Monthly reports will be generated using the project's MIS, supplemented by independent validation through bi-annual spot checks and field reviews.

B.3 Process Monitoring

The Agency will map all critical project processes and develop:

- A detailed process monitoring manual
- Standardized tools, templates, and protocols
- Draft and final process monitoring reports that provide granular, actionable insights

B.4 Intermediate Results Monitoring

The Agency will assess progress toward intermediate outcomes on an annual basis. This will involve:

- Tracking results indicators to evaluate if community institutions and investments are delivering intended outcomes
- Designing and executing thematic studies, rapid assessments, and periodic tracking surveys
- Building the capacity of project M&E teams
- Establishing benchmarks, providing performance feedback, and generating tailored reports to support adaptive management

B.5 Participatory Monitoring

Mechanisms will be implemented to capture stakeholder feedback, particularly from community members, to assess whether the intended benefits of interventions are being realized on the ground. These mechanisms will ensure community voices are systematically integrated into project improvement strategies.

B.6 Data Analysis and Reporting

The Agency will conduct regular (every quarter) analysis of data from the MIS and field activities to:

- Generate concise, insight-driven reports
- Identify trends, lessons learned, and implementation challenges
- Recommend timely adjustments to policies, operational plans, and design elements

C. Thematic Studies and Case Studies

The M&E Agency will be responsible for conducting **total 5 thematic and/or case studies** based on project needs and emerging priorities. These studies will focus on critical areas linked to project interventions and aligned with the project's Results Framework.

- **Topic Selection:** Study topics will be initially proposed by the Agency, in line with the overall scope and objectives of TNRTP. Finalization of topics will be done in consultation with relevant project components and the World Bank team.
- **Study Design and Execution:** Studies will be methodologically sound and designed to generate actionable insights and outcome level findings. They may be conducted concurrently with other ongoing surveys, where appropriate, to ensure efficiency and contextual relevance.
- **Sample Size:** Each study will typically include a sample size determined by the approved methodology and study design. The sample size must be statistically representative and randomized.
- **Outputs:** The Agency will produce comprehensive reports for each study, including executive summaries, key findings, and recommendations for program and policy improvements.

D. Support on MIS Development for M&E: The Agency will provide project management support and technical expertise to guide the development, implementation, and rollout of the Management Information System (MIS) for Monitoring and Evaluation. This will involve close coordination with the ICT agency engaged by the project, as well as oversight of the external MIS consultancy firm on components related to the design and functionality of Project MIS for M&E purposes. The Agency will ensure that the MIS aligns with the project's results framework and data reporting requirements.

Note: The agency will be fully responsible for holistic surveys and field management. This includes survey instrument design, pilot, and digitization, field survey for data collection, training, and proficiency of survey field teams, securing office and computer equipment for survey management and data entry, arranging transportation and lodging for enumerators, and ensuring proper maintenance and functionality of all equipment, including GPS devices for location recording.

5. DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE (TENTATIVE)

The Agency is expected to deliver the following, with specific timelines to be agreed upon in the Inception Report:

Deliverable Description	Timeline (Tentative)
Task 1: Impact Evaluation (Baseline, Midterm, Endline)	
Detailed Work-plan and Methodology for Impact Evaluation and Result Framework requirements (Baseline, Midterm, Endline Surveys) as per exhibit 4 (A) of this ToR	T1 = 20 Days from Contract Signing
Impact Evaluation and RF assessment Survey Sampling as per approved methodology	T2 = T1 + 15 Days
Comprehensive Baseline Survey Modules for each group of respondent/collectives on paper and CAPI (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T3 = T2 + 30 Days
Training Material & Field Manuals, Field Procedure Manual, Field Team Rosters	T4 = T3 + 20 Days
Training and Survey module Pilot (including CAPI testing)	T5 = T4 + 15 Days

Deliverable Description	Timeline (Tentative)
Weekly Progress Reports on Field Testing & Validation as per data quality check requirements	Weekly during field testing
Data analysis plan (DAP) for Baseline survey data	T6= T5+30 days
Baseline Survey Complete Datasets & Report (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T7= Within 6-8 months from the date of signing of the contract.
Midterm survey modules for each group of respondent/collectives on paper and CAPI (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T8= ~24-30 months from Contract Commencement
Midterm Survey Datasets & Report (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T9= ~30-32 months from Contract Commencement
Endline Survey Modules for each group of respondent/collectives on paper and CAPI (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T10= ~53-55 months from Contract Commencement Or At least 5 months prior to project closure
Data analysis plan (DAP) for Endline survey data	T11= T10+30 days
Endline Survey Datasets & Report (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T12= One month prior to project closure
Task 2: Project Monitoring	
Detailed & Comprehensive M&E Strategy & Roadmap (Approved by TNRTP & WB)	T1 + 30 Days
Bi-annual Status Reports on Concurrent Progress Monitoring	Every 6 months, ongoing
Quarterly Status Reports on Intermediate Result Indicators	Every 3 months, ongoing

Deliverable Description	Timeline (Tentative)
Draft and Final Process Monitoring Reports	Every 6 months, ongoing
Final Report on Status of M&E and MIS Development/Progress	Upon completion of contract
Annual Report of the Project	Yearly (Every year - end of March)
Task 3: Thematic Studies & Case Studies	
Proposed Thematic Study Topics & Methodologies (Annually)	5 thematic studies during the project life cycle
Thematic Study Reports	As per agreed annual plan
Task 4: Support on MIS Development for M&E	
Project Management Support for MIS Development, Delivery & Rollout.	Ongoing for 1-2 years, as required
Task 5: Project Completion Report	
Project Completion report	Project Completion report Towards end of project (58-59 th Month)

6. TEAM COMPOSITION

The Agency is expected to comprise a multi-disciplinary team of international standing with extensive expertise in conducting M&E for large-scale government and development partner-funded programs. The team will be available for the entire duration of the contract period. The proposal should clearly distinguish the roles and responsibilities of each resource.

6.1 Technical Project Manager / Senior Impact Evaluation Specialist (Full-time):

- **Key Roles:** Overall project management, team leadership, client interface, technical ownership of design, analysis guidance, and report writing for all deliverables. Responsible for independently leading the design of large-scale impact evaluation studies.

- **Minimum Qualification:** Master's degree (PhD preferred) in economics, statistics, mathematics, MTech, public policy
- **Experience:** At least 10-12 years of experience in M&E, with at least 5 years of experience in designing and leading large impact evaluations. At least 2 prior projects/publication as author and lead where RCT or Natural Experiments methods were deployed. Proven track record in M&E and conducting rigorous program evaluations. Specific experience in monitoring and evaluation of public policy programs for at least 5 years would be preferable.

6.2 Econometrician / Impact Evaluation Specialist (Full-time):

- **Key Roles:** Technical leadership in design, analysis, and statistical sampling, impact evaluation, and process monitoring and assessment.
- **Minimum Qualification:** Advanced degree (PhD preferred) in economics, statistics, Mathematics, or BTech in Data Sciences for a reputed and top-ranking University. Specializes in advanced econometric techniques for impact evaluation.
- **Experience:** At least 7-10 years of experience in M&E, with 3 years of experience in large sample impact evaluations using experimental and quasi-experimental methods (and at least 2 prior studies as author and lead) in rural livelihoods and enterprises. Proven track record in M&E and conducting rigorous program evaluations.

6.3 Senior Data Analyst(s) (Full-time): (Minimum 2 required)

- **Key Roles:** Lead process monitoring field teams, conduct secondary and primary data analysis for matching, sampling design, and survey data analysis. Questionnaire development, monitor survey data collection quality.
- **Minimum Qualification:** Degree (MSc or MA preferred) in economics, statistics, public policy, development studies, or a related discipline focused on quantitative/data-based course work.

- **Experience:** 5-8 years of experience in data analysis, and supervision of household surveys/experimental/quasi-experimental impact evaluations. Experience in rural collectives, livelihoods, value chain/enterprise development. Proficiency in statistical software package STATA or R., Must have completed at least 2 large survey-based research studies.
- **Time commitment:** Spend at least 60% of the time in a year in the field with district-level staff and PMU.

6.4 Mid-level Data Collection / Field Operations Expert (Full-time):

(Minimum 1 required)

- **Key Roles:** Lead process monitoring field teams, oversee data collection, and contribute to questionnaire development. Monitor survey data collection.
- **Experience:** 8-10 years of experience in large rural household survey data collection and qualitative studies. Should have handled at least 2 large survey data collection efforts. Experience in rural collectives, livelihoods, value chains, or enterprise development.
- **Language Proficiency:** Tamil fluency is essential.
- **Qualification:** Bachelor's degree required

6.5 Field Staff (Supervisors, Enumerators/Interviewers, Data Entry Agents):

- **Supervisors:** Each team needs a supervisor to oversee interviewer activities, travel with teams, manage logistics, contact community leaders, arrange appointments, and perform quality controls (randomly attending interviews, re-interviewing 10-15% of households, reviewing questionnaires). Preferred education is a University Degree, with experience in conducting or managing household surveys.
- **Enumerators/Interviewers:** Preferred education is a Secondary School Completion Certificate. May need knowledge of separate

dialects in remote areas. Recruit and train at least 10% more interviewers than needed.

- **Data Entry Agents:** Proficient in data entry and associated quality checks.
- **Qualifications:** As outlined in the specific roles above.
- **Supporting Staff:** District/state level supporting staff can be hired as per the core team's needs to ensure delivery of tasks in a timely manner.
- **Language Proficiency:** Tamil fluency is essential.

7. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- **Review Mechanism:** TNRTP and the World Bank will be the principal reviewers of all deliverables. The Agency is expected to proactively engage in rapid iterations and finalizations following feedback. The Chief Executive Officer of TNRTP will be responsible for overall review and monitoring, potentially with a constituted review committee including other experts.
- **Contractual Clauses & Payment:** Reimbursement for services rendered is contingent upon timely submission and approval of agreed deliverables by both TNRTP and the World Bank. All deliverables must be in hard copy and electronic format (MS Word, raw data in tabulated form/summary tables in MS Excel/MS Access Database or .exe file with analytical tables).
- **Ownership of Materials:** The assignment output is funded by GoTN and shall be its property. The consultant will have no claim to the assignment or its outputs once completed. Any data, analysis, reports, or documents produced as part of this assignment are the property of GoTN, and the consultant may not use or reproduce contents without permission from GoTN, TNRTP.
- **Team Composition:** At quarterly review meetings with TNRTP, the TA shall be required to conduct a roll call of all approved team members, as specified in this ToR, to confirm their continued availability and participation in the assignment. In the event of any

proposed team member replacement, the CV of the replacement must be submitted to TNRTP for review prior to onboarding.

8. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Monitoring & Evaluation firm will be hired for an initial period to cover the baseline, midterm, and initial monitoring activities, subject to extension for the full project lifecycle based on performance. The contract will be reviewed every year and if the service is not found satisfactory the client has the right to act as per rule in force.

The assignment's duration will align with the project's operational phase following the Board Approval planned for January 2026. The agency will be responsible for implementing the M&E framework and overseeing all key evaluation activities throughout this period.

9. Agency Eligibility Criteria:

A. Relevant Experience: Proven track record of at least 10 years in Monitoring & Evaluation of large-scale development projects, preferably in rural development, livelihoods, or enterprise sectors in India.

B. Work with Donor-Funded/Government Projects: Demonstrated successful experience in supporting the World Bank, UN, Government, or other international donor-funded programs through M&E systems, evaluations, and learning processes.

C. Technical Expertise: Proven expertise in designing and implementing Experimental and Quasi-experimental evaluations and M&E frameworks, results-based management, MIS for M&E.

D. Qualified Team: Access to a multidisciplinary team of experts with relevant academic qualifications and experience in M&E, research, data systems, and sector-specific areas.

E. Methodological Capacity: Ability to conduct mixed-methods research, high-quality surveys, case studies, and thematic evaluations using robust and ethical methodologies.

F. **Operational and Field Capacity:** The agency must demonstrate the ability to effectively mobilize large teams and manage field operations, including in rural and remote areas. The agency should have successfully completed at least five studies that required the deployment of a minimum of 100 field enumerators simultaneously.

G. **Financial Capacity:** Sufficient financial strength to undertake the assignment, with a minimum average annual turnover of INR 10 Crore over the last 3 financial years.

H. **Independence and No Conflict of Interest:** The agency must not have any conflict of interest and must maintain independence from project implementation teams or related entities.

I. **Clean Track Record:** Should not have been blacklisted or debarred by any government or donor agency and must disclose details of any ongoing litigation or disputes.

J. **QCBS:** The agency will be selected through the QCBS method, following an 80:20 ratio.

Annexure B

Format for Submission of EOI to TNRTP 2.0

Submission Requirements

Expression of Interest (EOI) Consulting Firms

(Additional Soft copy of this filled format shall be provided in Pen drive along with this EOI)

Project Name	Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0	
Address:	Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project 2.0 (Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu), 5 th Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office Building, Thiru-Vi-Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. Phone No: 044 – 43443200	
Assignment Title	Hiring of Technical Facilitation Agency for External Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project	
Reference No.	303/P&C/2025	
Date:		
Consultant's Firm Profile [Maximum 2 Pages]		
Organization	Provide a brief description of the background and organization of your firm/entity. The brief description should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization details• Date and place of incorporation of the firm,• Objectives of the firm,• Availability of required capacities among staff.	
Consulting Firm's Information		
Details Required	Particulars Furnished	Documents Required
Consultant Name:		Copy of Registration

		Certificate
Country of Incorporation: Independent legal existence and should be registered in India under the applicable Act.		Copy of Registration Certificate / Partnership deed,
Year of Incorporation		Constitution Certificate
Pan No.		Pan Number
GST No.		GST certificate
Number of years in the similar consultancy service		Self-certification
Annual Turnover	Year 2023-24 – Rs Year 2022-23 – Rs Year 2021-22 – Rs	Audited Financial Statements

Consultant's Experience [Maximum 20 pages]

1.	Proven track record of at least 10 years in Monitoring & Evaluation of large-scale development projects, preferably in rural development, livelihoods, or enterprise sectors in India.			
	Name of Work	Work experience	Client and State	Duration of Assignments (In month)
2.	Demonstrated successful experience in supporting the World Bank, UN, Government, or other international donor-funded programs through M&E systems, evaluations, and learning processes.			

3.	Technical Expertise: Proven expertise in designing and implementing Experimental and Quasi-experimental evaluations and M&E frameworks, results-based management, MIS for M&E.
4.	Financial Capacity: Sufficient financial strength to undertake the assignment, with a minimum average annual turnover of INR 10 Crore over the last 3 financial years. The audited Balance Sheet of the entity for the financial year 2021-22, 2022-23 & 2023-24 have to be submitted.
5.	Access to a multidisciplinary team of experts with relevant academic qualifications and experience in M&E, research, data systems, and sector-specific areas.

**Annexure C
Declaration**

To whom so ever it may concern

Date:/...../2025

I / We hereby solemnly take oath that I/We am/are authorized signatory in the firms/Agency/ Institute/ Company and hereby declare that "Our firms/ Agency/ Institute/Company do not face any sanction or any pending disciplinary action from any authority against our firms/ Agency/ Institute/ Company or partners." Further, it is also certified that our firm/agency/institute/company has not been blacklisted by any government or any other donor/partner organization in past.

In case of any further changes, which affect this declaration at a later date; we would inform the TNRTP accordingly.

Authorized Signatory (With seal)