



## Request for Proposals (RfP)

### Consultancy to develop a Fish Health and Biosecurity Management guide for aquaculture farms in East Africa

#### 1. Introduction

Msingi is an independent industry development organization that supports the transformation of high potential industries in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda). Msingi identifies high-potential industries in East Africa and supports their growth through a range of initiatives such as investment in pioneer businesses, technical assistance, policy support, or development of key industry institutions.

One of Msingi's focus industries is aquaculture; Msingi aims to develop a competitive, inclusive and resilient aquaculture industry over the long term. Msingi believes that East Africa has a strong comparative advantage in aquaculture, with good natural water resources and climate, genetic resources, and a rapidly growing population leading to increasing demand for protein.

#### 2. Objectives of this consultancy

Msingi has been working closely with a range of aquaculture industry players since 2016. These players include hatcheries, grow-out farms, aqua feed producers, government authorities and industry associations.

Over the next few years, Msingi will focus on supporting hatcheries and grow-out farms (collectively referred to as farms in this RfP) to improve their productivity and grow their production. These farms range from small scale to large scale farms and from pond culture to cage culture farms and are in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Msingi's ambition is to build sustainable aquaculture businesses and set them up for growth that will drive overall industry growth. At the core of this, is building businesses that are not only financially sustainable but operate in a manner that secures the health of their fish stocks to the greatest extent possible.

The East Africa aquaculture industry has been free of major disease incidences to date. Msingi, however, acknowledges that the industry is still nascent and with the envisioned growth there is need for the industry to be extra vigilant. The risk of fish disease in the region, especially with intensification of aquaculture is high.

Msingi therefore aspires to support the aquaculture industry to build capabilities not only to avert diseases but also to respond to diseases should they occur. The efforts to achieve this are broad and Msingi envisions two strands of work. The second strand will entail designing and prioritizing industry-wide interventions to manage fish health & disease and may include building on-farm capacity, veterinary capabilities, policy, legislation, among others.

In this first strand of work, Msingi would like to construct a detailed understanding of the fish health & disease landscape in East Africa. This will enable Msingi to map out the level of risk faced by the farms and be able to exercise prudence in designing farm specific interventions to boost fish health and disease preparedness for the farms. Since fish diseases are water borne and therefore easily communicable, Msingi would also like to understand the coordination mechanisms available for collective adequate response to health and biosecurity threats among aquaculture enterprises. **This strand is the focus and the subject of this Terms of Reference, which will entail:**

An initial research detailing the specific disease risks present in the East Africa region for Tilapia and Catfish, as well disease preparedness coordination mechanisms. The findings of this step will determine the exact activities in the next steps (which are not the subject of this ToR).

Msingi has already developed an environmental and biosecurity management guide that governs its engagement with farms. With regards to fish health, this guide contains high-level recommendations on good farm practices such as fish health monitoring, diagnosis, treatment, and biosecurity. Msingi envisions that the work in this consultancy will also flesh out the fish health & biosecurity aspects of this guide.

### 3. Scope of this consultancy

This consultancy will be in the form of a desk-based research focused on the above objective. This will rely heavily on the consultant's experience and known research, public or otherwise, in fish health and diseases. For purposes of this consultancy, Msingi is primarily focused on Tilapia and Catfish fish species.

The consultant will compile their findings into a fish health and biosecurity threat matrix that will be used by Msingi in two ways:

1. As a decision tool on immediate fish health threats and how to mitigate them
2. As the foundation for future Msingi work with the aquaculture industry to build capabilities on fish health and biosecurity

Msingi recognizes that, although farms may generally have some health management and biosecurity measures in place, many of the existing measures are basic and, in many cases, do not exist. Different farms also have different capabilities for implementing recommended measures depending on their size, culture method and technical knowledge. Msingi recognizes that – in some cases – working to support improvements in farms that are major sources of health/biosecurity risk can be more impactful than not providing any support. Finally, the guide will need to be used by Msingi team members that are not technical aquaculture or disease experts. As a result, it is critical that the consultant develops a guide that is very practical and easy to comprehend and use.

- The guide ought to provide clarity on the disease risk profiles and how such risks are evaluated such that Msingi and any farm would arrive at a common evaluation of risk.
- The guide ought to recommend mitigation plans that are reasonable and would not overly constrain or overburden the farms bearing in mind their capabilities, size, and intensity

The consultant's scope of work for the development of the fish health and biosecurity, and the deliverables, therefore, include the following:

- I. Undertake a desk-based disease risk profiling of aquaculture in East Africa. This risk profiling should be non-farm specific and should cover:
  - a. An identification of known infectious fish diseases in East Africa based on available information. This can be from public sources as well as interviews with selected farms.
  - b. The underlying causes and risk factors that expose fish to the diseases
  - c. The likelihood of occurrence of the diseases and the impacts if unmitigated
  - d. Recommended mitigation measures/practices spanning prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment

- e. Health risk indicators and recommend permissible thresholds for the indicators, systems for data collection and analysis.
2. Undertake a desk-based review of coordination mechanisms available, inherent risks and mitigation actions working down from an inter-governmental perspective, to zonal and down to inter-farm from a first principles health perspective. This is likely to entail calls to key stakeholders in East Africa, such as at the relevant national research institutes.
3. Review Msingi's existing environmental and biosecurity management guide to identify gaps related to fish health & disease aspects and incorporate their findings in the deliverables for this consultancy
4. Based on the above, compile a guide that outlines the most important fish health and biosecurity practices that should be in place on farms in East Africa, and how these can clearly and simply be identified and assessed by the farms as well as Msingi team on farm visits.

#### 4. Consultancy timelines

Msingi estimates that this consultancy will take a maximum of 15 workdays to complete including compiling the final deliverables.

#### 5. Proposals

Completed proposals must include the following information:

1. A detailed workplan (including timelines) and any technical input requirements for performing the consultancy.
2. A brief description of the consultant and an outline of their qualifications, capabilities and experience on assignments of a similar nature.
3. A financial proposal of the fee for delivery of this assignment.

Proposals must be received no later than **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 1700 hrs East Africa Time** at the email addresses below.

#### 6. Msingi contacts

Inquiries and clarifications regarding this RfP are welcomed and should be directed in writing to the email address below.

**To: Zainab Janowalla, Industry Associate, Aquaculture**

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