

Request for Proposals (RfPs)

Consultancy to develop Environmental, Biosecurity and Food Safety Standards & Protocols for an aquaculture association 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) through a range of initiatives such as support to 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.

Msingi has been working closely with a range of aquaculture industry players since 2016. One of Msingi's key areas of support is to industry associations. Farmers that organize themselves into groups can improve their co-ordination and information sharing on collective issues such as response to environmental or biosecurity threats, as well as playing self-regulatory roles in developing and implementing standards and protocols for its members.

2. Objectives of this consultancy

The objective of this consultancy is to **support the Uganda Commercial Fish Farmers Association (UCFFA) in Uganda to develop a set of environmental, biosecurity and food safety standards and protocols for its members.**

UCFFA is a member-based association based in Uganda, representing farms ranging from medium scale to large scale cage culture tilapia farms. One of the priority areas identified for the association includes developing and implementing standards and operating protocols for its members, with regards to environmental management, fish health and biosecurity and food safety. This is due to emerging awareness of the threats that the farms may be facing and the need to mitigate losses from such threats, as well as guaranteeing quality of their products.

3. Scope of this consultancy

The consultant's scope of work for this piece of work includes the following:

1. Engaging directly with association members and/or representatives to discuss and identify their key issues/concerns related to environmental, biosecurity and food safety threats.
2. Undertake a rapid biosecurity assessment of practices and operations of current members of the association and map out level of risk faced by the farms.

This can be done through consultative meetings, site visits, known research, public or otherwise. This should also take into account the existing husbandry and management measures on the farm – farms may generally have some management and biosecurity measures in place, while some may already be working towards, or currently already have an environmental and biosecurity management/mitigation plan in place. Different farms also have

different capabilities for implementing recommended measures depending on their size, culture method and technical knowledge.

3. Understand the existing structures of the association, available infrastructure and operational reporting obligations within the country.
4. Develop a list of priority best practice aspects of environmental, biosecurity and food safety standards – these should be “fit-for-purpose” practices that will assist in minimizing risk but will not overly constrain farms. This can be done by drawing on the consultant’s own experience and/or reviewing the spectrum of existing standards/guidelines in other parts of the world where aquaculture has been successful. The consultant should then obtain the views of the association on these priority best practices.
5. Based on the findings from the steps above, compile a guide that contains the most important fish health, biosecurity, environmental management and food safety practices that should be in place for the association’s members. With regards to biosecurity, this should also include routine protocols to control infections for the member farms (including information exchange and notification protocols), as well as a response/contingency plan if an infectious disease is recognized. To the extent applicable, these protocols should be in accordance with international organizations or bodies mandates, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
6. Synthesize findings into a draft guide document and share with association representatives, to incorporate any feedback and adjust accordingly.
7. Develop a practical training methodology for member farms to incorporate the above recommended standards and protocols. This can be done via a combination of on-farm/in-person meetings, workshops and online training methods, where applicable.
8. Deliver technical on-farm training with member farms to incorporate the above recommended standards and protocols.

4. Deliverables

1. A final guide containing recommended environmental management, biosecurity and food safety standards and protocols. These standards and protocols should be practical, easy and effective for the association and its members to use, implement and manage. The guide ought to recommend general standards and protocols that are reasonable and would minimize risk, but at the same time would not overly constrain or overburden the farms bearing in mind their range in capabilities, size, and intensity.
2. Training sessions conducted with member farms to assist in incorporating recommended standards and protocols.

5. Eligibility Criteria

1. The consultant should possess a background in environmental and aquatic animal health in aquaculture.
 2. Demonstratable experience in developing or providing recommendations to the private sector (such as developing standards or protocols) through research and/or technical assistance, preferably in projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.
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3. Strong understanding and experience of working with the aquaculture industry in Africa over the last 5 –10 years.
4. Experience in working as a consultant, or in an advisory capacity, with aquaculture associations is an advantage.

6. 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 should be no more than 1,000 words.

Proposals must be received no later than **Wednesday, 13th October 2021 at 1700 hrs East Africa Time** at the email addresses below.

7. Msingi contacts

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

To: Lucy Kimani, Government Relations Manager, Aquaculture

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To: Jimmy Delyon, Senior Industry Manager, Aquaculture

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