

AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (INDIA)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. Instructions

All proposals must be writing, in the English language, and signed and dated by an authorized person of the bidder. Bidders must use the guidelines provided in this RFP.

2. Validity

The proposal validity period should be at least forty-five (45) days following the Bid Deadline. This should be clearly mentioned in both the technical and financial proposal.

3. Costs of preparing bid

No costs incurred by the bidder in preparing and submitting the bid shall be reimbursable. All such costs shall be borne by the bidder. If proposed experts were interviewed or called for presentation, all costs shall be borne by the bidder.

4. Ownership of bid

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) retains ownership of all bids received under this bid procedure. Consequently, bidders have no right to have their bid returned to them.

5. Alteration or withdrawal of bids

Bidders may alter or withdraw their bids by written notification prior to the stated deadline for submission of bids. No bids may be altered after this deadline. Withdrawals must be unconditional and will end all participation in the bid procedure.

6. Opening of bid

The bid will be opened by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) within 15 days from the deadline for the submission of the bid. Any attempt by a bidder to influence the evaluation

committee in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of bids, to obtain information on how the procedure is progressing or to influence the contracting authority in its decision concerning the award of the contract will result in immediate rejection of its bid.

7. Submission of bids

The bid must be submitted as per the prescribed annexure on or before **23rd October 2026**, to dhammadip.gajbhiye@akdn.org,

7.1 Technical and financial proposals should be submitted simultaneously, with RFP reference and a clear description of the proposal (technical or financial) by the date and time stipulated in this document. If the emails and email attachments are not marked as instructed, AKRSP(I) will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the proposals submitted.

7.2 Email text bodies should indicate the name and address of the bidder and the description of the proposal (technical or financial). The technical email should not contain any pricing information, nor should the financial email contain any component of the technical proposal.

7.3 The technical proposal should not contain any details of the financial proposal / budget. Any financial information contained in the technical proposal will invalidate the proposal.

8. Request for Clarification

All questions regarding the preparation of proposals must be submitted in writing (by e-mail) to dhammadip.gajbhiye@akdn.org, by **12th October 2026**. Responses will be provided to all interested organizations by **16th October 2026** through email (Or it may be extant based on the priority). The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) is under no obligation to consider or respond to questions that are not received in a timely manner.

9. Content of bids

Each bid must comprise a technical offer and a financial offer, each of which must be submitted separately in a single email. The Technical offer must include the technical proposal must include detailed methodology and timeline, based on the given project detail and the financial offer should be a separate sheet with financial details.

10. Evaluation of bids

All proposals will be evaluated by the review committee based on the extent to which proposals meet the selection criteria, to the extent that they are deemed necessary, negotiations may be conducted with highest rated bidders. In evaluating proposals, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) will follow a Quality and Cost Based Selection, using a three-stage value selection procedure. The most economically advantageous bid is established by weighing technical quality including understanding of the scope of work, proposed methodology and approach for completing the assignment, Organization profile, experience of conducting studies, research and publication, timeline against price.

11. Terms and Conditions

1. All proposals satisfying the requirements of this RFP will be evaluated to establish which of the applicants best fulfils the needs of AKRSP(I).
2. Financial negotiations: Financial negotiations should be carried out in order to reflect any change in financials due to change in scope of work. Under no circumstance, the financial negotiation shall result in to increase in the price originally quoted by the consultant/agency. Unless there are exceptional reasons, the financial negotiations will involve neither the remuneration rates for staff nor other proposed unit rates.
3. Confidentiality: Information relating to evaluation of Proposals and recommendations concerning awards shall not be disclosed to the bidders who submitted the Proposals or to other persons not officially concerned with the process, until the publication of the award of Contract.
4. The information provided in this RFP is intended to give bidders an overview of the project and its requirements. It is indicative and not exhaustive. AKRSP(I) reserves the right to modify, add, or remove elements of the scope as deemed necessary during the tender process or subsequent stages.
5. AKRSP(I) reserves the rights to alter the terms & conditions and alteration on Scope of Work.
6. AKRSP(I) reserves the right to accept/ reject the quotation without assigning the reason whatsoever.

PROJECT DETAILS

Hydrogeological Study For Water Security and Build Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Dhule and Nandurabar districts of Maharashtra

About AKRSP(I):

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSPI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable rural development. Established in 1983, AKRSPI works across multiple states in India, focusing on empowering rural communities through participatory approaches. The organization's key areas of intervention include natural resource management, agriculture, women's empowerment, livelihood enhancement, and water resource management. AKRSPI emphasizes capacity building, creating community-based institutions, and fostering self-reliance among vulnerable groups. Through innovative solutions, the organization addresses challenges related to poverty, climate resilience, and social inclusion. Partnering with government bodies, donors, and private sector entities, AKRSPI ensures impactful and scalable outcomes. With a commitment to equitable development, AKRSPI continues to transform lives, enabling rural communities to thrive.

- AKRSP(I) Dhule SHT proposed to conduct an aquifer mapping study in one of its project regions Dhule and Nandurbar districts. The proposed study will be conducted for the project titled **“Create Water Security for selected villages of Sakri (Dhule) and Akkalkuva (Nandurbar) Blocks of Maharashtra”**.

Purpose:

Objective of this study is to conduct aquifer mapping across 40 project villages to assess groundwater conditions and identify key hydrogeological features. It includes the preparation of GIS-based maps showing major geological formations, water table levels, resistivity survey and drainage patterns. Estimation of Sub-surface storage capacity of Aquifers. Based on the findings, the study will recommend suitable locations for ground water Recharge, water harvesting structures or the repair of existing ones to enhance groundwater recharge and water availability

Location:

40 villages of Pimpalner (20 villages) and Akkalkuva (20 villages) blocks, in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra.

Estimated Duration:

3 Months starting from 1st November 2026 up to 31st January 2027.

Background:

To restore water security and build climate-resilient livelihoods for 4,700 tribal farming families across 40 villages in Sakri Block (Dhule) and Akkalkuwa Block (Nandurbar), Maharashtra, AKRSPI proposes a three-year integrated Watershed Development and Water Resource Management programme. By combining watershed restoration, efficient water use, climate-resilient agriculture, solar-powered irrigation, plantation-based ecological restoration, and community-led water governance, the initiative seeks to ensure year-round water availability for farming families and livestock, enable rabi cultivation, and reduce distress migration after the monsoon season.

The tribal regions of Sakri in Dhule district and Akkalkuwa in Nandurbar district, located across the Sahyadri foothills and Satpura ranges, are among Maharashtra's most water-stressed and socioeconomically vulnerable landscapes. These communities depend heavily on erratic monsoon rainfall that arrives intensely but drains away quickly due to degraded soils, poor water retention, and inadequate groundwater recharge. As groundwater levels continue to decline and climate variability intensifies, farming livelihoods have become increasingly precarious. In Sakri's western tribal belt, known as the Paschham Patta, more than 60% of families migrate seasonally after Diwali as farms remain uncultivated and local water sources dry up.

The proposed programme/project places water at the centre of its development approach. It integrates supply-side measures such as soil and water conservation structures, contour trenching, and water storage creation with demand-side interventions focused on efficient irrigation, reduced water wastage, and participatory governance of local water resources. Village watershed committees and community institutions will play a key role in ensuring long-term sustainability and equitable management of the water commons.

The project builds on AKRSP(I)'s more than two decades of experience in watershed and water resource management across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar, as well as extensive field presence and community engagement in Sakri and Akkalkuwa.

Objectives:

1. Aquifer mapping of 40 villages of the project.
2. Preparation of GIS maps/documents with indication of major geological features, water table, watershed delineation and drainage maps.
3. Estimation of Sub-surface storage capacity of Aquifers
4. Suggesting suitable locations for the water harvesting and recharge structures.
5. One/two-day Training/workshop on the study findings (as a resource agency). (At project office location)

Expected Outcome:

The study will produce detailed aquifer maps for the area of 40 villages, along with specific recommendations on suitable locations for constructing/rejuvenation water harvesting structures to achieve the project's main outcomes. A comprehensive report will be submitted to the agency, including GIS-based maps, major geological features, groundwater table and quality details, and drainage maps indicating recharge and discharge areas.

Deliverables:

The Expert agency/consultant is expected to collect both qualitative and quantitative type of data. It is expected that the Expert agency/consultant should develop overall design of the study.

Key area to focus

1. Review all project documents related to the study which is available with the project team.
2. Develop methodology, approaches, and tools for this assignment.
3. Completion of GIS data base.
4. Completion of questionnaire survey.
5. Completion of Resistivity survey, well inventory.
6. Finalize ground water mapping report with updated models.
7. Finalize detailed baseline ground water quality analysis.
8. Mapping out resources and finalize ground water management plan (potential intervention area).
9. Submission of inception report.
10. Submission of report outline.

11. Submission of first draft report, which will include executive summary a brief description of the programme and its design, study design and methodology, findings, conclusion and recommendations, and detailed tables in annexure.
12. Revision of report based on AKRSP(I)'s comments.
13. Final report and dissemination brief submitted to AKRSP (I).
14. Present the major findings with AKRSP(I).
15. Training/Workshop on study findings.

ANNEXURE: GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL AND BUDGET

The technical proposal should be in the English language, typed, single-spaced, and with each page numbered consecutively. The maximum number of pages for each component of the technical proposal is given below:

A. Technical Approach (not to exceed 5 pages)

The proposal should provide a detailed description of how the agency will approach and complete the scope of work, including:

1. How the agency will develop the strategy and tools to complete the study.
2. How the agency will ensure data ethics, data control and data rights.
3. Draft analysis plan with respect to project key performing indicators.
4. Detailed timeline for commencement and expected completion of the study including expected time of draft and final report.
5. How the agency will ensure quality of data collection (including a description of ongoing monitoring and quality control procedures among interviewers and other project staff).
6. How the agency will ensure the quality of data management, including management of hard copies of surveys and other document, quality assurance and cleaning of the database.
7. How the interviewers will be selected and what the content of their training will be.

B. Proposed project personnel (not to exceed 3 pages, excluding resumes)

The applicant will propose personnel who will be responsible for carrying out various aspects of the project such as project lead and manager, technical support, interpreters/translators, interviewers, data entry and analysis personnel and other key staff.

A current resume for key persons shall be included in the proposal.

C. Management and Supervision (not to exceed 2 page)

The applicant will describe its management, supervision, and administrative arrangements for executing this project, including the functions and responsibilities of the proposed project team. The applicant should explicitly describe how the project lead will manage the project, how the person responsible for fieldwork will monitor study progress.

D. Capability Statement (not to exceed 3 pages)

A statement on company capabilities including:

1. A background summary of the organization outlining areas of expertise.
2. A description of key agency personnel.
3. A current list of clients and any direct experience the agency has working on relevant evaluations.

E. A timeline/implementation plan (not to exceed 2 pages)

As part of the proposal, a Gantt chart illustrating the timeline/implementation plan should be prepared that includes major activities as they relate to the scope of work and demonstrates how the work will be accomplished within the allotted time frame.

F. A detailed budget submitted in INR

This budget should include staff and consultant's salaries, travel/transportation and accommodation, training and any other indirect or direct costs.
