



AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (INDIA)

A PROGRAMME OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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 Bid Deadline is 31st August 2026. 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 5 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 **28th August 2026**, to anushp.rawat@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 anushp.rawat@akdn.org by **25th August 2026**. Responses will be provided to all interested organizations by **27th August 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.

PROJECT DETAILS

HOLISTIC IMPACT STUDY OF SOLAR LIFT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS IN DANG DISTRICT

About AKRSP(I):

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP(I)) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable rural development. Established in 1983, AKRSP(I) works across multiple states in India, focusing on natural resource management, agriculture, women's empowerment, livelihood enhancement, and water resource management. AKRSP(I) emphasizes participatory approaches, capacity building, community institutions, and sustainable management of natural resources.

AKRSP(I) has been promoting **Solar Lift Irrigation Systems (Solar LIS)** in Dang district to improve access to reliable irrigation among small and marginal farmers and strengthen agricultural livelihoods.

Project Background

AKRSP(I) proposes to conduct a study to assess the **holistic impact of Solar Lift Irrigation Systems (Solar LIS)** established across Dang district. A total of **96 Solar LIS have been established, benefiting 1,167 farmer members.**

The study aims to understand how improved access to irrigation has influenced agricultural practices and the overall socioeconomic wellbeing of beneficiary households.

Project Rationale

Agriculture in Dang is largely dependent on rainfall, limiting cultivation beyond the monsoon season and restricting agricultural income. Limited irrigation availability also contributes to seasonal migration and dependence on non-farm livelihoods.

Solar LIS provides farmers with access to a more reliable source of irrigation, potentially enabling them to increase the area under cultivation, cultivate during **Rabi and Zaid seasons**, diversify crops and enhance agricultural productivity and income. These changes may further contribute to reduced migration, improved household food and dietary diversity, increased investment in assets, and greater spending on children's education.

The study will therefore assess the broader impact of Solar LIS beyond irrigation and agricultural production.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the extent to which Solar LIS has increased access to irrigation and irrigated areas.
2. To understand changes in cultivated areas and cultivation during **Rabi and Zaid seasons**.
3. To assess changes in agricultural production, crop diversification and household income.
4. To understand the contribution of improved irrigation to **reduced seasonal migration**.
5. To assess changes in **household dietary diversity and food security**.
6. To understand changes in investment in **productive/household assets and children's education**.
7. To document farmers' experiences, benefits and challenges related to Solar LIS.

Study Coverage

The proposed study will cover Solar LIS farmers across Dang district.

Particular	Details
District	Dang, Gujarat
Solar LIS established	96
Total farmer members	1,167
Study approach	Quantitative and qualitative

Scope of Study

The agency is expected to collect both **quantitative and qualitative data** to assess the holistic impact of Solar LIS. The study design should include questionnaire preparation, sampling, data collection, data entry, data analysis and report writing.

Key Areas to Focus

1. Review project documents and Solar LIS records.
2. Finalize an appropriate and representative sampling methodology.
3. Develop quantitative questionnaire and qualitative tools such as FGDs/interviews.
4. Prepare the questionnaire in **Gujarati and English**.
5. Pilot test and finalize the data collection tools.
6. Assess changes in **irrigated area, cultivated area and Rabi/Zaid cultivation**.
7. Assess changes in agricultural production, crop diversification and income.
8. Assess changes in **seasonal migration, dietary diversity, asset investment and children's education**.
9. Submit inception report and study/report outline.
10. Submit first draft report covering methodology, findings, analysis, conclusions and recommendations.
11. Revise the report based on AKRSP(I)'s feedback and submit the final report and dissemination brief.
12. Present the major findings and recommendations to AKRSP(I).

Expected Outcome

The study will provide a comprehensive understanding of the **holistic impact of Solar LIS on beneficiary farmers and their households**, particularly in relation to irrigation access, increased cultivated area, Rabi and Zaid cultivation, agricultural income, migration, dietary diversity, asset creation and children's education. The study will also identify key factors influencing the effectiveness and sustainability of Solar LIS and provide recommendations for strengthening and scaling up the intervention.

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 sampling strategy and tools.
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, quality assurance of data entry 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, what the nature and frequency of communication with the data collectors and how data will be managed during data collection.

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, study related travel/transportation/accommodation, training and any other indirect or direct costs. The consultant should have GST registration, and the budget should include GST and applicable taxes.
