



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 **01st September 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 **01st September 2026**, to ambuj.tiwari@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 ambuj.tiwari@akdn.org by **28th August 2026** Responses will be provided to all interested organizations by **31st 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.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Impact Assessment of Livestock (Poultry & Goats) Programme of AKRSP(I)

1. Project Background

Livestock is an important component of rural livelihoods, particularly for small and marginal farmers and households with limited land and other productive resources. It provides regular income, supports household resilience and acts as an important source of livelihood diversification.

AKRSP(I) has been working with rural communities on livestock development, particularly goat rearing, poultry and dairy, through interventions aimed at improving productivity, reducing mortality, strengthening animal health and feeding practices, improving access to services and finance, and enhancing market opportunities.

Goat rearing is practiced on a large scale in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, particularly among marginalised communities. AKRSP(I)'s goat-rearing programme promotes Goat Rearing Groups (GRGs), Pashu Sakhis, preventive healthcare, improved housing, breeding, feeding, financial linkages and government-scheme convergence.

The programme currently reaches more than 55,000 goat-rearing households and has trained more than 1,200 village-level Pashu Sakhis. The programme reports a reduction in goat mortality from prevailing levels of approximately 20–30% to around 6% within a year in programme areas, while Pashu Sakhis generate additional income through animal-health services.

AKRSP(I) also promotes poultry among women SHG members and tribal households through improved backyard poultry and commercial poultry models. Interventions include vaccination, low-cost shelters, improved feeding, chick procurement, market linkages, credit and government-scheme facilitation. The poultry programme reaches more than 1,500 farmers, with micro-enterprise households reported to generate approximately Rs.30,000–60,000 annual income.

In addition to goat rearing and poultry, AKRSP(I) has experience in dairy development. Going forward, there is also potential to strengthen livestock marketing through producer organisations and develop livestock-related micro-enterprises such as local feed production.

In this context, AKRSP(I) proposes to undertake an impact assessment to understand the changes attributable to livestock interventions in productivity, mortality, herd/flock size, feeding, animal health, income, women's

economic participation and livelihood resilience, and to compare outcomes between intervention and non-intervention areas.

2. Rationale of the Study

The scale and duration of AKRSP(I)'s livestock interventions provide an opportunity to assess the extent to which programme interventions have contributed to improvements in livestock productivity, household income and livelihood resilience.

The study will generate evidence on:

- Changes in livestock ownership and herd/flock size.
- Trends in Small Livestock ownership.
- Changes in mortality rates.
- Changes in birth/kidding and survival rates, where relevant.
- Changes in feeding and nutrition practices.
- Changes in access to preventive and veterinary care.
- Changes in livestock productivity.
- Changes in livestock-related income.
- Changes in expenditure and profitability.
- Contribution of livestock to household income and risk mitigation.
- Adoption and effectiveness of improved livestock practices.
- Impact of Pashu Sakhis and community-based animal-health services.
- Impact of feed-related interventions, including feed blocks and Azolla, where implemented.
- Changes in access to finance, government schemes and market linkages.
- Women's participation, decision-making and economic empowerment.
- Differences in outcomes between AKRSP(I) working and non-working areas/villages.
- Sustainability of programme-supported practices and services.

3. Overall Objective

To assess the impact, effectiveness and sustainability of AKRSP(I)'s livestock interventions on livestock productivity, mortality, household income, women's economic participation and livelihood resilience, with a comparative assessment of programme and non-programme areas.

4. Specific Objectives

The study will:

1. Assess changes in livestock ownership, herd/flock size and composition among participating households.
2. Measure changes in livestock mortality and identify the contribution of programme interventions to mortality reduction.
3. Assess changes in feeding, housing, breeding, vaccination, deworming and other livestock-management practices.
4. Assess changes in livestock productivity and reproductive performance.
5. Assess the economic impact of livestock interventions on household income, expenditure, profitability and returns.
6. Assess the contribution of livestock to household livelihood diversification and risk mitigation.
7. Assess the effectiveness and sustainability of Pashu Sakhi services and their contribution to preventive animal healthcare.
8. Assess the adoption and impact of feed-related interventions, including feed blocks and Azolla, where applicable.
9. Assess the role of financial services, government schemes and market linkages in strengthening livestock-based livelihoods.
10. Assess the participation and economic empowerment of women through livestock activities.
11. Compare livestock outcomes between AKRSP(I) working and non-working villages/areas.
12. Identify factors influencing adoption, productivity, income and sustainability of livestock interventions.
13. Identify key lessons, gaps and opportunities for strengthening and scaling livestock interventions.
14. Role of Youths in Livestock based enterprise interventions.

15. Assess the aspirations, capacities, skills, resources and constraints of potential entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth.

5. Study Coverage

5.1 Geographical Coverage

The study will cover selected geographies within the Nimar region where AKRSP(I) has operational relevance and/or significant livelihood, market or enterprise potential.

The indicative geographical coverage includes:

- Khandwa
- Burhanpur
- Dhar
- Khargone
- Barwani

The final geographical coverage, including districts, blocks and market locations, will be finalised during the inception phase in consultation with AKRSP(I).

5.2 Stakeholder Coverage

The study will cover the major livestock interventions of AKRSP(I), including:

A. Goat Rearing

- Pashu Sakhi services.
- Breeding.
- Market linkage and producer-organisation opportunities.
- Vaccination and deworming.
- Feeding.
- Financial linkages.
- Preventive healthcare.
- Government-scheme convergence.
- Shed/Housing.

B. Poultry

- Backyard poultry.
- Feeding practices.
- Government schemes.
- Commercial poultry as a micro-enterprise.
- Chick procurement.
- Indigenous poultry model, where applicable.
- Vaccination.
- Market linkage.
- Credit and financial linkage.
- Low-cost shelters.

6. Key Areas of Impact Assessment

6.1 Herd/Flock Size and Livestock Assets

Assess changes in:

- Number of animals/birds owned.
- Herd/flock composition.
- Replacement and retention.
- Asset value.
- Expansion or reduction of livestock holdings.

6.2 Productivity (Mortality and Survival) and Reproductive Performance

Assess:

- Current mortality rates.
- Changes from baseline*/pre-intervention conditions, where data is available*. (2013-14 SAPPLPP, 2023-24)
- Causes of mortality.
- Mortality by age/category.
- Contribution of vaccination, deworming, housing, feeding and veterinary care.
- Differences between working and non-working villages.
- Birth/kidding rate.
- Survival rate.
- Growth and weight gain.
- Saleable Goat/birds.

6.3 Feeding and Nutrition

Assess:

- Existing feeding practices.
- Changes in feed availability and quality.
- Use of improved feed.
- Feed costs.
- Adoption and effectiveness of feed blocks (Salt Brick).
- Adoption and effectiveness of Azolla, where promoted.
- Impact of improved feeding on productivity, growth and mortality.

6.4 Animal Health and Veterinary Care

Assess:

- Access to veterinary services.
- Vaccination coverage.
- Deworming practices.
- Cost and frequency of services.

- Changes in animal-health outcomes.
- Sustainability of community-based animal-health services (Pashu Sakhi Model) *.

6.5 Income and Economic Impact

Assess:

- Gross livestock income.
- Net livestock income.
- Livestock-related expenditure.
- Cost of feed and healthcare.
- Market Behaviour in term of sale.
- Sale value of animals/birds.
- Returns on investment.
- Contribution of livestock to total household income.
- Economic value of reduced mortality.

6.6 Women's Economic Empowerment

Assess:

- Women's participation in livestock management.
- Control over livestock income.
- Decision-making related to production and sales.
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- Access to finance.
- Women's income from Pashu Sakhi and other livestock-related services.
- Women's role in livestock-related enterprises

6.7 Institutional and Market Linkages

Assess:

- Access to SHG and bank finance.
- Government schemes.
- Vaccination and health programmes.
- Input and chick/feed supply.
- Aggregation and producer organisations.
- Traders and market channels.
- Market prices.
- Potential for collective marketing.

7. Comparative Impact Assessment

A key component of the study will be comparison between:

AKRSP(I) Working Villages/Areas vs. Non-Working Villages/Areas

The comparison should, as far as feasible, assess differences in:

- Herd/flock size.
- Mortality.
- Feeding practices.
- Vaccination and deworming.
- Veterinary-care access.
- Productivity.
- Reproductive performance.
- Livestock expenditure.
- Livestock income.
- Adoption of improved practices.
- Women's participation.
- Access to finance and schemes.
- Market access.
- Overall livelihood contribution.

*Where baseline data is available, the study should also assess change over time. **

The assessment should clearly distinguish between:

Programme effect → observed change → factors contributing to the change → sustainability of the change.

8. Assessment of Key Programme Interventions

The study should specifically examine the effectiveness and contribution of:

- Pashu Sakhi model.
- Vaccination and deworming.
- Improved housing/Shed.
- Improved breeding practices.
- Improved feeding.
- Feed-block production.
- Azolla and other locally promoted feed solutions.
- Access to financial services.
- Government-scheme convergence.
- Poultry input and market linkages.
- Producer organisations and collective marketing, where applicable.

9. Sustainability and Scalability

The study should assess:

- Sustainability of improved livestock practices.
- Sustainability of Pashu Sakhi services.
- Viability of Pashu Sakhi income models.
- Sustainability of feed-related micro-enterprises.
- Continued adoption after programme support.
- Access to inputs and veterinary services.
- Market sustainability.
- Financial viability of livestock enterprises.
- Potential for replication and scale-up.
- Key risks and mitigation measures.

10. Expected Outcomes

The study should provide AKRSP(I) with:

1. Livestock Impact Assessment

Evidence of changes in livestock assets, productivity, mortality, income and livelihood contribution.

2. Intervention-Wise Impact Assessment

Assessment of the contribution of goat & poultry interventions and key supporting interventions.

3. Working vs. Non-Working Area Comparison

Evidence on differences in livestock outcomes between AKRSP(I) intervention and non-intervention areas.

4. Economic Impact Assessment

Evidence on changes in livestock income, expenditure, profitability and returns.

5. Animal Health Impact

Evidence on changes in mortality, morbidity, vaccination, deworming, preventive healthcare and veterinary-service access.

6. Feed and Nutrition Impact

Assessment of improved feeding practices, feed blocks, Azolla and related interventions.

7. Women's Empowerment Assessment

Evidence of women's participation, income generation, decision-making and economic empowerment.

8. Pashu Sakhi Model Assessment

Assessment of service coverage, quality, income, sustainability and contribution to livestock outcomes.

9. Sustainability and Scale-up Framework

Identification of interventions that are effective, sustainable and suitable for replication.

10. Recommendations

Practical recommendations for strengthening livestock interventions, improving impact and supporting future scale-up.

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.
