

Subaward Request for Applications

RFA Release Date:	25 May 2023
Deadline for Questions:	11:59pm GMT+7, 1 June 2023
Closing/Submission Deadline:	11:59pm GMT+7, 8 June 2023
RFA Code:	IB24TAP4
SUBJECT:	Sourcing & Seedling Repayment Digitization
Eligible Organizations:	Organisations with extensive experience in piloting and rolling out digital supply chain tools used by extension officers, including sales tracking and loan collections

Dear Applicants,

This document constitutes a request for applications (RFA) from eligible bidders for a project funded by the Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders & Agribusinesses (CASA) Technical Assistance Facility. It is accompanied by a template for a letter of intention to submit an application. Interested bidders should sign and return the letter of intention to submit an application to TechnoServe per contact details described in Section E (submission guidelines). Upon receipt of that letter, which also serves as a non-disclosure agreement, TechnoServe may provide additional information to the bidder.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of TechnoServe, nor does it constitute a commitment to pay for costs incurred in the development of an application.

Questions regarding the RFA requirements must be submitted in writing to Diana Pirri dpirri@contractor.tns.org by the deadline listed above. Include the RFA Code and Subject in the subject line for your questions.

TechnoServe, CASA TAF & FCDO aim to create an inclusive culture of best practice with the delivery partners with whom it engages and which receive UK taxpayers' funds. All Supply Partners and Subrecipients should adhere to the overarching principles of the Supply Partner Code of Conduct to:

- Act responsibly and with integrity
- Be transparent and accountable
- Seek to improve value for money
- Demonstrate commitment to poverty reduction and FCDO priorities
- Demonstrate commitment to wider HMG priorities

A. Background

Established in 1968, TechnoServe works with enterprising people in the developing world to build competitive farms, businesses, and industries. We have worked in more than 40 countries across Africa, Latin America, and Asia, assisting thousands of businesses and improving the incomes of millions of people.

We provide business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital and markets. With five decades of proven results, we believe in the power of private enterprise to transform lives.

The CASA TAF is an £8 million FCDO funded Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) to support agribusinesses that have received development finance institution (DFI) or impact investor financing to extend and deepen their smallholder impact. The facility will provide grants and technical assistance to agribusinesses that have received financing from a DFI (e.g., CDC, FMO, Norfund) or an impact/patient capital investor (e.g., China-Africa Development Fund, Root Capital, Acumen, AgDevCo) for projects which will increase the volumes of purchases from smallholders and bring new smallholders into business supply chains. CASA-TAF's aim is to increase the development impact of individual deals and help build an evidence base of the potential development returns from agribusiness investments that can be used to raise expectations of investors from future deals. CASA-TAF has the potential to re-define the role that private investments in agriculture can play towards driving development impact for millions of smallholder producers across the globe. Over 5 years, our objective is to work with 35 agribusinesses to increase sales and productivity of over 100,000 smallholders, and increase jobs and rural income generation opportunities.

TechnoServe is working with Aliet Green, a women-owned coconut sugar trader and processor that has rapidly established itself since 2009 as a quality certified Fairtrade and Regenerative Organic exporter. The company sources coconut sugar from 2,000 small family farms, small family holder and female and disabled agroforestry farmers and improves indigenous communities' well-being. Aliet Green plans to increase its participation in primary processing to drive product quality and enable production of higher margin products, through the launch of a coconut intensification and rehabilitation programme. As part of its intensification and rehabilitation program, Aliet Green plans to produce dwarf coconut seedlings at decentralized community nurseries and sell these, on credit, to its supplier base, alongside agronomic training necessary to improve farmer coconut yields and thus incomes.

B. Program Description:

Project goal

To support the coconut intensification and rehabilitation programme, Aliet Green aims to implement a simple supply chain software solution to manage traceability, procurement and seedling loan repayments. The TA provider that will be selected for this project will focus on understanding the technology needs of Aliet Green and then designing, piloting, and rolling out the tools to the Aliet Green team.

Deliverables and High-Level Activities

Deliverable 1: Data requirements document

- Review of existing data and assessment of data quality issues to develop digital farmer profiles that can be linked to coconut seedling distribution, purchases and payments
- Understand business processes and outline technical requirements of the tools and functionalities of the technology platform needed to meet business needs
- Document processes that will be digitised, including which actors engage with the technology and how
- Clearly define scope of business processes that will be digitised in relation to the coconut intensification program
- Clearly define limitations of proposed data collection tools and/or technology platform

Deliverable 2: Farmer profiles

- Using the requirements document and existing farmer data, pilot and test a mobile data collection tool that will be able to produce farmer profiles that include at least the following information: farmer name, address, farm location, basic demographic information, coconut sugar purchases and premium payments received from certification
- Together with field agents (user) input, design a mobile data collection tool that will be able to collect information tracking farmers' coconut seedlings purchases, advances (if any) and repayment through sales of coconut sugar and sap
- Link farmer profiles with coconut seedling data points
- Document data architecture of farmer profiles and coconut seedling activities
- Design dashboards that display the following information:
 - Individual and aggregator farmer profiles
 - Aliet Green coconut purchases (price, volume, type) from farmers over time (by village/region, as well as payouts for certification premiums)

Deliverable 3: Farmer account reconciliation system

- Using the user requirements document, develop or test functionalities of a technology platform that will enable Aliet Green to track and reconcile individual farmers coconut seedling purchases, advances and repayments (in cash or in kind)
- Develop standard operating procedures for data collection and quality checks
- Define new business processes (if necessary) to enhance field force management, monitoring activities and financial management
- Design dashboards that display the following information:
 - Seedling purchase information over time (how many farmers participate in seedling program and number of seedlings purchased, and repayment compliance or performance)
 - Farmer account balance information (including loan balance, repayment period, last coconut purchase, etc.)
- Should be able to identify key metrics that help field agents to follow up such as stagnant farmers or potential data errors/outliers

Budget

A total of up to £21,000 is available for the cost of implementing this project. These funds are provided by the CASA TA Facility. A performance-based fixed fee contract will govern the fee payments for the project.

Location

The project will be based in Indonesia, with the expectation that activities can be conducted remotely.

Timing

The project duration is estimated at 12 months starting 15 June 2023.

TA mechanism

Open

Value for money

Potential TA providers will be evaluated in terms of value for money with a benchmarking of bidder costs in relation to outputs before TA contracts are awarded.

The selected subrecipient will be subject to a Risk Assessment Analysis prior to contracting which will ascertain the TAF service provider's value for money capabilities and commitment. Proposed costs will be analysed in relation to market rates. However, payment will be based on performance once the project is contracted.

Duty of care

The Sub-recipient owes a duty of care to the Subrecipient personnel and is responsible for the health, safety, security of life and property and general wellbeing of such persons and their property and this includes where the Subrecipient personnel carry out the Services. An assessment of the consultant's duty of care capabilities will be undertaken pre-award.

Required Qualifications

- Proven track record in piloting and rolling out digital supply chain tools used by extension officers, including sales tracking and loan collections
- Understanding of technology tools landscape and various solutions on the market; ability to advise Aliet Green on pros/cons of different softwares (off-the-shelf or customizable) and to guide a decision to pilot a software that fits the needs of Aliet Green
- Ability to work independently, flexibly, and responsively
- Ability to adapt to changing working conditions
- Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines

C. The Application and Subaward Process

Application Submission

The subaward application process under this RFA will consist of 1 phase of competition where full applications shall be submitted by interested parties to TechnoServe for evaluation. Application sections must include, but not limited to:

- How the organisation intends to carry out the project – proposed approach, actions/activities and timelines, and project/stakeholder management plan.
- Milestones and results to be achieved over the life of the project
- Team structure; roles and responsibilities of each team member
- Budget details (including any value for money arguments) with the level of detail similar to the budget template provided for guidance, and compliant with FCDO's Cost Eligibility Guidance for Commercial Contracts (found [here](#)).
- Risk Matrix and risk mitigation strategy - A risk matrix should be included that outlines the risks to project success, the size/importance of each risk to the project, and the proposed mitigation strategy that the TA Provider will take to minimise the risk becoming a reality. The table should also include a column indicating how the TA Provider will track the status of the risk and how this will be reported on during the project.
- Signed declarations – Attachment 1 to this RFA
- Duty of Care Response – Attachment 2 to this RFA

Step 1:

Applications will be developed and submitted by the Applicant to TechnoServe utilising the templates provided (or other referenced material as stated in the RFA) in accordance with all guidelines by the stated submission deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The main body of the technical proposal should be no longer than 5 pages.

Step 2:

Applications will be vetted by TechnoServe staff to ensure each application meets the requirements set forth in this RFA. Any applications failing to meet minimum requirements will be disqualified from competition. The minimum requirements include the eligibility criteria, use of application templates provided, submission by the deadline, etc.

Step 3:

Applications received within the application deadline that meet the minimum requirements set forth in the RFA will be evaluated by a Selection Committee using the following criteria:

Selection Criteria	Scoring
Relevance of the proposed project to the RFA; feasibility of planned activities and anticipated results (including project sustainability and impact on target beneficiaries/communities)	20
Illustrated capacity of the applicant to implement the project and past experience with similar projects	40
Quality of proposed personnel	20
Budget reasonableness and cost effectiveness	20
Maximum Score	100

Step 4:

The Selection Committee will recommend those applications with the highest scores for award. As applicable, the Selection Committee may request applicants to provide additional information and edit their applications. In such cases, the Selection Committee will also establish a deadline for submission of revised applications.

Step 5:

Successful applicants will be notified by TechnoServe and will begin to work with TechnoServe staff to revise their applications to be incorporated into a full subaward. This step will include a pre-award risk assessment.

Step 6:

Following the successful conclusion of the application process and acquisition of any required donor approvals, TechnoServe will issue the successful applicant(s) with a subaward with details on the scale, scope, cost, and terms and conditions. Whenever possible, TechnoServe will meet with new subrecipients to provide an orientation outlining the main requirements for performance and reporting.

Step 7:

Throughout the duration of the subaward, TechnoServe will monitor the subrecipient's performance and compliance with all subaward terms and conditions.

D: Program Budget Submission and Costing guidelines

Individual subawards will vary depending on availability of funding, nature and scope of program activities, the period of implementation, and justification of costs proposed. Although consideration will be given to all applications received by the deadline, it is recommended that the total budget requested from TechnoServe does not exceed £21,000. Subawards will be issued on a competitive basis and only to a selected number of applicants.

While reviewing application budgets, the Selection Committee will ensure that:

1. The budget application reflects all the resources necessary for program implementation (Direct and Indirect Costs, including taxes, as applicable).
2. The budget notes column provides details on all types of costs planned and cost justification.
3. All costs budgeted are eligible. Information on eligible and ineligible costs can be found [here](#). Budgeted costs categories may include but are not limited to:
 - a. **Personnel:** Salaries and benefits for full and part-time staff involved in the project. Staff can be paid only for activities performed within the framework of the proposed project. All personnel expenses must be justified with information on the role of the proposed staff in project implementation.
 - a. **Consultants and Other Outside Services:** Fees for any external consultants or contracted firms required to support subaward activities.
 - b. **Travel:** Flights, per diem, and any other required travel costs for project personnel to conduct implementation activities.
 - c. **Office Costs:** Any required cost for the subrecipient's local office to support project implementation.
 - d. **Supplies and small equipment under £500:** Any project-related supplies and small equipment with a unit cost under **£500**.
 - e. **Equipment:** Any project-related equipment with a unit cost above **£500**, such as project vehicles or generators.
 - f. **Other Direct Costs:** Any other direct costs of the project, such as costs for conducting trainings, developing publications, etc.
 - g. **Indirect Costs:** If applicable, organizational overhead costs. This must be an annually audited rate, or negotiated through FCDO's NPAC procedure.
 - h. **Taxes:** The applicant agrees to adhere to the appropriate regulatory requirements and ensures that the correct taxes are included in the proposal in relation to the country in which the applicant operates.

Pre-Agreement Costs - TechnoServe will not reimburse costs incurred prior to the effective date of the subaward. In special cases where pre-agreement costs are necessary to comply with the proposed delivery schedule, TechnoServe may discuss and negotiate with the applicant the approval of certain pre-agreement costs. Such costs are only eligible with the prior written approval of TechnoServe.

E. Submission Guidelines

Applicants must submit their applications, budgetary information as well as any other information responding to the terms, conditions, specifications and requirements of this RFA to:

TechnoServe

To: Diana Pirri, Senior Technical Advisor

Email Address: dpirri@contractor.tns.org

Applications must be received by the submission deadline specified on the first page of this RFA. Late submissions will not be accepted.

F. Reporting Guidance

1. Financial Reporting

This is a Fixed Amount subaward. No financial reporting on expenditures is required.

0. Program Reporting

Program/technical reporting will be defined during the contract negotiation stage and is expected to be closely linked to the milestones to be defined in the Subaward.

Attachments to this RFA:

[Please click on this link to download the attachments.](#)

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|---------------|-----------------------|
| Attachment 1: | Declarations |
| Attachment 2: | Duty of Care Response |
| Attachment 3: | Budget Template |
| Attachment 4: | Letter of Intention |