

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ENGAGEMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTING PARTNER TO DRIVE INCREASED PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF ORANGE FLESHED SWEET POTATO (RICH IN BETA CAROTENE) AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN 8 LGAS OF BENUE AND OYO

Issued by

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Project background and scope of work	2
II. Instructions for responding	6
III. Terms and Conditions	8
IV Offer of Services	10

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE OF WORK

1. ABOUT GAIN

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Working with both governments and businesses, we aim to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious food to all people.

GAIN's work to improve the consumption of safe and nutritious food is based on three interlinked strategic objectives:

1. to improve the demand for safe, nutritious foods;
2. to increase the availability of nutritious foods and enhance the nutritional value of foods; and
3. to strengthen the enabling environment to improve the consumption of safe, nutritious foods.

We build alliances between governments, local and global businesses, and civil society to deliver sustainable improvements at scale. We are part of a global network of partners working together to create sustainable solutions to malnutrition. Through alliances, we provide technical, financial, and policy support to key participants in the food system. We use specific learning, evidence of impact, and results of projects and programs to shape and influence the actions of others.

Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, GAIN has representative offices in Denmark, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition, we have country offices in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Tanzania. Programs and projects are carried out in a variety of other countries, particularly in Africa and Asia.

2. BACKGROUND

GAIN is implementing the Strengthening Nutrition in Priority Staples (SNIPS) Project which will add a nutrition lens to and deliver an integrated suite of activities to support GIZ's Green Innovation Centre (GIC) in Nigeria. This nutrition project will strengthen the GIC priority value chains and improve food security and safety through improved diets for farmers, farmworkers, other workers in businesses in these value chains, and among the wider population in Nigeria. The following broad objectives for this programme are:

- To increase consumption of safe, nutritious foods by smallholder farmers, their families, and the wider population
- To strengthen cassava, maize, sweet potato, and rice value chains in Nigeria which provide more, safe nutritious foods to consumers
- To increase use of nutritious varieties of the target staples in processed foods
- To improve productivity & efficiency of farmers and other businesses to improve the production of safe, nutritious foods in the cassava, maize, sweet potato, and rice value chains

To reach our overarching goal of – improving nutrition through improved diets, – the project will build on the increased consumption of the staple crops, which is the primary focus of the GIC, through the following related interventions:

- A workforce nutrition program to support farmers and workers in these value chains to improve and diversify their diets.
- Business support services to make a wide variety of nutritious and safe foods more accessible, affordable, and desirable; and
- Increased production and consumption of biofortified varieties of maize, cassava, and sweet potato.

Farmers' nutritional health is directly linked to their productivity and earning potential in terms of their own household, farms, and businesses and their contribution to national economic growth. However, farming families and households are often not aware of the importance of the nutrient content of the foods they produce and consume, and they are often unaware of the importance of the consumption of a diverse diet. Farmers engaged in the production of the priority staples in focus may be able to access foods that meet their energy needs but even earning good income from their business does not usually

translate to accessing a sufficiently diverse diet. The costs of poor nutrition on lost revenues to businesses in a context like Nigeria, where underweight, stunting, and anemia are prevalent in rural areas, and obesity rates are growing could mean as much as 2.7% of GDP is lost from lower worker productivity (Chatham House, 2020).

The Workforce Nutrition component (WFN) will support farmers and workers in these value chains to improve their diets. The Workforce Nutrition component aims to reach rice and maize value chain workers (from smallholder farmers to processing employees) with workforce nutrition interventions that aim to improve the consumption of nutritious foods as part of a healthy, diverse diet for workers, farmers, and their households. The Programme also aims to engage business owners in the supply chain, local government and state authorities on the importance of farmer/worker nutrition for greater resilience and productivity. Throughout the program, GAIN will lead regular advocacy and engagement with business managers, and government officials on the importance of workforce nutrition for both workers and farmers.

SMEs handle most of the food that is produced, transported, marketed, and consumed in low-income countries such as Nigeria. These SMEs are however hindered by a lack of business knowledge and skills and often lack the resources to take advantage of the opportunities around them to innovate and secure higher value from their smallholder investments. Lack of awareness of food safety regulations, good practices, and how to adhere to them, also means that many consumers are exposed to contaminated or otherwise unsafe foods.

The Business Support component will empower women and young people and unleash the creativity and energy of youth and women to support their families, succeed in agri-business, and attempt to tackle malnutrition, prevent foodborne illnesses as well as food and social insecurity. This component will increase women and youth involvement in value-added agriculture and entrepreneurship that directly addresses the specific challenges that women and rural youth face in the four focal states for this Project. It will respond to opportunities to harness the political will at local, state, and national levels in Nigeria to invest in creating economic opportunities for women and youth in the production, processing, and sale of nutritious and safe foods. This will be achieved by significantly increasing the knowledge and information available to women and young people about nutrition, food safety, increasing their participation in decision-making, and targeting business support and investments so they can bring forward innovations, increase livelihood opportunities and build nutrition sensitivity into the GIC value chains. This will be carried out using three interlinked approaches:

- Improving nutrition quality of staple foods produced by SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities.
- Improving the capacity of food safety and value chain actors to adhere to standards and regulations on best practices.
- Supporting technical innovations for supply chains through innovation challenges and innovation clinics.

One in three people globally experiences vitamin and mineral deficiencies leading to severe health outcomes including premature and preventable death in infants and young children. Micronutrient deficiencies can also constrain work performance resulting in slower economic growth and widespread, intergenerational poverty. Nearly two-thirds of Nigerian children are at risk of vitamin A deficiency due to inadequate amounts of vitamin A in their diets (NDHS 2018) and generally inadequate access to a diversity of food at the household level due to rising levels of poverty. This “hidden hunger” is particularly acute in countries like Nigeria and among farming families who grow and eat their food and diets are overly reliant on staple foods, lacking in the diversity of foods needed to meet multiple nutrient requirements.

The Biofortification component aims to work with farmers and farming households to promote the adoption, cultivation, and utilization of these staples by the farming households and other food processors. The workstream will promote Vitamin A Cassava, Vitamin A Maize and Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) in Oyo, Kaduna, and Benue/Oyo states, respectively.

3. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

3.1. OBJECTIVES

GAIN Nigeria seeks an implementing partner who will work closely with GAIN and its partners on an annually renewable contract (from 2022 to 2025) to develop (and implement) a technical support program to drive increased production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato among smallholder farmers for the Strengthening Nutrition in Priority Staples (SNIPS) project.

The Project is designed to; (1) Increase farmers transition to production of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP); (2) improve access to quality planting materials (Vines); (3) improve knowledge and technologies on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP); (4) develop sustainable linkages among key actors in the value chain.

The implementing partner selected will support planning and implementation of the biofortification component of the SNIPS project to strengthen the OFSP value chain in project locations, to provide safe nutritious foods to farmers and consumers, encourage adoption, cultivation, and improved production of OFSP. The implementing partner will conduct farmers training, and capacity building around GAP for improved production, harvest, and post-harvest handling, develop and execute efficient and economically viable models for aggregation and offtake of OFSP to food processors, ensure adequate follow-ups to measure adoption and output progress and to support community resilience and participation. The implementing partner would also be expected to engage with relevant project stakeholders and undertake advocacy activities for biofortification and relevant project objectives.

The implementing partner will develop a work plan for the training and, improved yield, and quality assurance plan for the production of OFSP by smallholder farmers. The implementing partner is expected to:

- Work under the overall supervision of the GAIN representatives and direct supervision of the SNIPS Project Manager biofortification.
- Build capacity of farmers and vines producers to increase OFSP production and vine Production.
Work with the Project Manager Biofortification to produce a training curriculum for OFSP, the design should include;
 - A structured classroom training using adult learning methods.
 - Onsite practical sessions using Field Training Workshop (FTW) approach i.e demonstration plots structured to cover pre-season, in-season (Greenfield days), harvest and post-harvest activities (Brownfield days).
 - The new curriculum will include the content of climate-smart agriculture.
- With the support of the SNIPS Project Manager Biofortification, work with extension agents and lead farmers to train stem producers and farmers on improved GAP and vine multiplication using set up demonstration plots in targets LGAs to attract farmers producing analog sweet potato.
- Provide linkages to off takers. Link farmers to major off takers that will offtake their produce. Organise farmers and set up marketing committees that will facilitate aggregation and marketing/sales of their produce.
- Monitor and Evaluate farmers' adoption of knowledge and technologies on GAP.
- Provide project updates on a consistent basis to various stakeholders about strategy, adjustments, and progress. Submit monthly, quarterly reports to GAIN and any other report on demand.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

The selected partner must use effective project management and production principles to deliver assigned tasks. It is expected that the selected organization will work in close collaboration with the SNIPS Project Manager Biofortification, the Senior Project Manager Supply Chains for Commercialization, partners, and stakeholders within the broader project.

3.2.1 DELIVERABLES

Table 1: Scope of Work (SOW): Activities and deliverables.

Activities	Deliverables
Design of training curriculum	OFSP Package of Practices (POP) Trainer's Guide for building the capacity of farmer's developed and submitted to GAIN
Set up Demonstration plots for training of farmers on GAP	500 farmers trained on improved GAP.
Train selected farmers on vine multiplication	40 farmers trained on vine multiplication
Facilitate Market linkages for produce	Farmers are organized and marketing committees set up to facilitate aggregation and sales to offtakers.
Provide monthly report	Comprehensive monthly reports submitted.

Table 2: SOW

Deliverable	Target
No.of beneficiaries supported with vines multiplication	40
No.beneficiaries for ToT on GAP	16
QTY of Early Generation Vine (EGV)	9720 kg

Note :600kg =1 ha /33,333 cuttings 25 cm .Each beneficiary land holding = 1 acre

State	LGAs
Benue	Gboko, Makurdi, Otukpo and Gwer East
Oyo	Afijio, Oyo West , Iddo and Iseyin

Table 3: Deliverable Timeline

Deliverable	Timeline
The deadline to submit questions	25 th March 2022
The deadline to response to questions	1 st April 2022
Proposal submission deadline	8 th April 2022
Final response regarding the selection of partner	22 nd April 2022
Contracting process finalized	29 th April 2022
Submission of work plan	6 th may 2022
Submission of draft soft copy of training curriculum	20 th may 2022
GAIN review of curriculum , return and adoption	27 th may 2022
Setting up of Demo plot/commencement of training & distribution of EGS vines	June -July /September-October 2022
Submission of progress report	Monthly progress report submitted last Friday of the month ending
Submission of annual draft report of the season	25 th November 2022
Submission of final draft report of the season	2 nd December 2022

SKILL AND EXPERIENCE

The consulting firm/organization should possess good knowledge and experience in undertaking similar tasks and assignment in states in Nigeria with over four (4 years) experience. They should have experience in biofortification particularly OFSP vine multiplication and production and knowledge in enterprise development of the OFSP value chain will be an added advantage. The will need to show evidence of delivering similar work and evidence of accomplishments with certification will be an added advantage.

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

This section addresses the process for responding to this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged to review this prior to completing their responses.

CONTACT

Key programme and technical staff from GAIN are part of the selection team of the organization and will review the proposals. They will be available via email to respond to clarifications on this solicitation. Please direct all inquiries and other communications to fp@gainhealth.org. Responses will not be confidential except in cases where proprietary information is involved.

1. BUDGET

Applicants are required to provide an illustrative budget in Nigerian Naira in a separate document. The final budget will be elaborated as the scope of the assessment is clarified and as part of

the contracting process. The budget submitted with this proposal should include (i) justification of overall value for money, (ii) a comprehensive budget justification which should be presented for each category of costs including personnel, cost of travel and accommodation including subsistence allowances, consultants, meeting/workshop, overhead if applicable, and miscellaneous expenses. All prices/rates quoted must be inclusive of all taxes/VAT as required.

2. FORMAT FOR PROPOSAL

The proposal needs to be formatted and attached as two separate documents:

1. Technical proposal outlining the design process and research strategy to test the campaign ideas; detailed profiles (qualification, expertise, relevant experience, etc.) of the agencies and individuals who will be completing the work including their full names, their expertise, past experience (previous work over the last five years which are relevant for this work) and references.
2. Financial proposal outlining budget accompanied by a budget narrative (as above).

3. SUBMISSION

Proposals should be in English and submitted in electronic copy to the following e-mail address: rfp@gainhealth.org. Please include STRENGTHENING NUTRITION IN PRIORITY STAPLES NIGERIA in the subject line.

4. DEADLINE

Completed proposals should be submitted electronically to GAIN before 5:00 pm Central European Time on April 8th, 2022.

5. UNACCEPTABLE

The following proposals will automatically not be considered or accepted:

- Proposals that are received after the RFP deadline at the specified receiving office.
- Proposals received by fax.
- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals that are not signed.

6. REVISIONS

Proposals may be revised by electronic mail provided such revision(s) are received before the deadline.

7. ACCEPTANCE

GAIN will not necessarily accept the lowest cost or any of the Proposals submitted. Accordingly, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, and mandatory requirements shall govern.

8. COMPLETION

- Proposals must be submitted on official letterhead of the lead organisation or firm and must be signed electronically by a principal or authorising signatory of the lead firm or organisation.
- In case of errors in calculating overall costs, the unit costs will govern.

- It is the applicant's responsibility to understand the requirements and instructions specified by GAIN.
- While GAIN has used considerable efforts to ensure an accurate representation in this Request for Proposal (RFP), the information contained in this RFP is supplied solely as a guideline. The information is not warranted to be accurate by GAIN. Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve applicants from forming their own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP.
- By responding to this RFP, the applicant confirms its understanding that failure to comply with any of the RFP conditions may result in the disqualification of their submission.

9. RIGHTS OF REJECTION

GAIN reserves the right to reject any or all submissions or to cancel or withdraw this RFP for any reason and at its sole discretion without incurring any cost or liability for costs or damages incurred by any applicant, including, without limitation, any expenses incurred in the preparation of the submission. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that GAIN will not indemnify the applicant for any costs, expenses, payments, or damages directly or indirectly linked to the preparation of the submission.

10. REFERENCES

GAIN reserves the right, before awarding the contract, to require the applicant to submit such evidence of qualifications as it may deem necessary, and will consider evidence concerning the financial, technical, and other qualifications and abilities of the applicant.

11. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

After awarding the contract and upon written request to GAIN, only the following information will be released:

- Name of the successful applicant.
- The applicant's own individual ranking.

12. SUMMARY OF DEADLINES

- Queries to be submitted by: 25th March, 2022
- Response will be disseminated on the website by 1st April, 2022
- Proposal submission deadline: 8th April, 2022
- Response from GAIN on acceptance or rejection of proposal: 22nd April, 2022
- Award of contract: 29th April, 2022

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION

1. NOTICE OF NON-BINDING SOLICITATION

GAIN reserves the right to reject any bids received in response to this solicitation and is in no way bound to accept any proposal. GAIN additionally reserves the right to negotiate the substance of the successful applicants' proposals, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if deemed appropriate.

2. CONFIDENTIALITY

All information provided as part of this solicitation is considered confidential. In the event that any information is inappropriately released, GAIN will seek appropriate remedies as allowed. Proposals, discussions, and all information received in response to this solicitation will be held strictly confidential.

3. RIGHT TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL

GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on the final costs and the final scope of work of the proposal. GAIN reserves the right to limit or include third parties at GAIN's sole and full discretion in such negotiations.

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Team. The following indicates a list of the significant criteria against which proposals will be assessed. This list is not exhaustive or 100% inclusive and is provided to enhance the applicants' ability to respond with substance.

Applicants are required to submit the following information, conforming to the guidelines given in this section:

- Understanding of the scope of work:
 - The proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of the project objective and deliverables as outlined in Section I.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the technical requirements of this RFP:
 - Providing detailed technical documentation of the proposed strategy.
 - Evidence of experience delivering solutions using the proposed information technology platform.
- The creative and methodological approaches required to implement each of the parts of the scope of work.
- Comprehensiveness of work plan and reasonableness of proposed time frame:
 - The proposal shall include a feasible work plan to ensure the successful completion of deliverables.
 - The work plan details how activities will be coordinated.
- Detailed budget and cost-effectiveness of the proposed approach:
 - Evidence of cost-effective approaches to undertaking the scope of work within the proposed budget.
 - The proposal shall identify possible challenges and include creative approaches to addressing them.
- Management and personnel plan:
 - The team members working on this project shall have the relevant qualifications and overall experience required to successfully implement the project.
 - The roles and responsibilities of each team member shall be clearly defined. GAIN shall have one main contact person clearly identified in the proposal.
- A duly completed the offer of services.

GAIN reserves the right to contact the individuals and contractor(s) to verify the information provided as part of the Proposal.

5. REVIEW PROCESS

The review process will involve a Review Panel with participants selected by GAIN.

6. LIMITATIONS WITH REGARD TO THIRD PARTIES

GAIN does not represent, warrant, or act as an agent for any third party as a result of this solicitation. This solicitation does not authorize any third party to bind or commit GAIN in any way without GAIN's express written consent.

7. COMMUNICATION

All communication regarding this solicitation shall be directed to appropriate parties at GAIN. Contacting third parties involved in the RFP, the review panel, or any other party may be considered a conflict of interest and could result in disqualification of the proposal.

8. FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Award of a Proposal does not imply acceptance of its terms and conditions. GAIN reserves the right to negotiate on the final terms and conditions including the costs and the scope of work when negotiating the final contract to be agreed between GAIN and the applicant.

9. VALIDITY PERIOD

The offer of services will remain valid for 60 days after the Proposal closing date. In the event of an award, the successful applicant will be expected to enter into a contract subject to GAIN’s terms and conditions.

10. INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY

Subject to the terms of the contract to be concluded between GAIN and the applicant, the ownership of the intellectual property related to the scope of work of the contract, including technical information, know-how, processes, copyrights, models, drawings, source code, and specifications developed by the applicant in performance of the contract shall vest entirely with GAIN.

11. SCOPE OF CHANGE

Once the contract is signed, no increase in the liability of GAIN or the fees to be paid by GAIN for the services resulting from any change, modification, or interpretation of the documents will be authorized or paid to the applicant unless such change, modification, or interpretation has received the express prior written approval of GAIN.

IV. OFFER OF SERVICES

- 1. Offer submitted by:

(Print or type business, corporate name, and address)

- 2. I (We) the undersigned hereby offer to GAIN, to furnish all necessary expertise, supervision, materials, and other things necessary to complete to the entire satisfaction of the Executive Director or authorized representative, the work as described in the Request for Proposal according to the terms and conditions of GAIN for the following prices:
 - a. Click or tap here to enter text.
 - b. Click or tap here to enter text.
 - c. Click or tap here to enter text.
 - d. Click or tap here to enter text.
- 3. I (We) agree that the Offer of Services will remain valid for sixty days (60) calendar days after the date of its receipt by GAIN.
- 4. I (We) herewith submit the following:
 - (a) A Proposal to undertake the work, in accordance with GAIN's requirements specified.

(b) A duly completed offer of services, subject to the terms herein.

OFFERS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENTATION OR DEVIATE FROM THE PRESCRIBED COSTING FORMAT MAY BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND NON-RESPONSIVE.

Date this day off.

_____ Click or tap here to enter text.
Signature (applicant)

_____ Click or tap here to enter text.
Signature (applicant)