

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF ORGANIZATION(S)  
FOR DEVELOPING A CARBON FINANCE PROJECT FOR REGENERATIVE  
AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES IN MEGHALAYA UNDER VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET**

**Important information and dates**

Eoi No	<b>PLN/MBDA/20099/2026/NF</b>
Name of the Work	Empanelment of organization(s) for Developing a Carbon Finance Project for Regenerative Agriculture Initiatives in Meghalaya under Voluntary Carbon Market
Date of Issue of Eoi	3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2026
Last date for submission for clarification of queries	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026 before 1700 Hours
Last date for submission of EOI	25 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026 before 1500 Hours
Address for communication/ submission of EOI	Procurement Unit O/o MegARISE, RDL Building, Springside Lumsophoh, Nongthymmai- 793014, Shillong, Meghalaya Email ID: meglife.procurement@gmail.com

# **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPING A CARBON FINANCE PROJECT FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES IN MEGHALAYA UNDER VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET**

## **1. Background**

Meghalaya is endowed with rich biodiversity and forest cover, accounting for over 75% of its geographic area which contributes to valuable ecosystem services. The State's agricultural sector is largely traditional, with practices such as shifting cultivation, terrace farming, and horticulture activities. Meghalaya has made notable progress in promoting sustainable agriculture through the expansion of certified organic farming. Initiatives such as the MOVCDNER (Mission Organic Value Chain Development for the North Eastern Region) scheme and the State Organic Mission, which targets the conversion of 1 lakh hectares into certified organic land, highlight the State's commitment to ecological sustainability and economic growth. The approval of the Meghalaya State Organic and Natural Farming Policy on January 11, 2023, further strengthens this effort by promoting organic practices, capacity building, technological advancement, and market linkages while addressing climate change impacts. To support these initiatives, the Meghalaya Natural and Organic Society for Livelihood and Innovation in Agriculture (MEGNOLIA) has been established as an apex body to promote organic and natural farming, support farmers through training and certification, and facilitate investments. Together, these efforts reflect a holistic transition towards organic and natural farming, enhancing soil health, increasing farm resilience and incomes, and contributing to climate change mitigation by reducing emissions and strengthening carbon sequestration.

Regenerative agriculture blends sustainable innovation with tradition while discouraging use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and water intensive agricultural practices. There lies an immense opportunity for Carbon Sequestration in forestry and other sectors in Meghalaya and to ensure that the benefits are shared equitably among the various stakeholders, is looking for various partners so that the conservation and Carbon sequestration efforts could be scaled up and citizens from the State are duly rewarded for such activities. This would lead to sustained additional investments in the natural resources in Meghalaya.

## **2. Overview**

Regenerative agriculture in Meghalaya aims to restore soil organic carbon, enhance biodiversity, improve water retention, and strengthen climate resilience while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for farmers. Practices such as reduced tillage, cover cropping, organic nutrient management, agroforestry, improved pasture management, composting, and biochar application are already being promoted or piloted in various parts of the State. These practices present a strong opportunity for generating high-integrity carbon credits under recognized voluntary carbon standards.

In December 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare initiated a framework to promote a Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) in the agricultural sector to enable small and marginal farmers to earn carbon credits. This mechanism incentivizes the adoption of organic and natural farming practices by allowing farmers to generate carbon revenue from emission reductions and carbon removal. Carbon credit incentives can accelerate the uptake of sustainable farming by providing additional income while improving soil health, water management, and biodiversity. Integrating organic and natural farming with the VCM strengthens climate resilience, enhances farm incomes, and supports environmentally sustainable agriculture, benefiting both farmers and the broader ecosystem.

Through this Expression of Interest, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency seeks to collaborate with experienced carbon project developers to:

- i. Assess the technical and economic feasibility of carbon credit generation from regenerative agriculture in Meghalaya
- ii. Identify suitable carbon standards and methodologies applicable to small-holder and community-based agricultural systems
- iii. Support baseline assessments, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) frameworks
- iv. Build capacity of farmers, farmer producer organizations (FPOs/ FPCs), and field institutions
- v. Develop DPR, registration, issuance, and marketing of carbon credits under self-financing mode (with a share of carbon credits on accrual)
- vi. Ensure fair benefit-sharing mechanisms for participating farmers and communities.

### **3. Scope of Work**

The following outlines the detailed scope of work for the selected agency as part of the assignment aimed at facilitating carbon financing through sustainable agriculture practices in Meghalaya for the crediting period of the project. The approach and outcomes will be finalized in consultation with the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA).

#### **Task 1: Assessment of Project Interventions**

- i. Conduct an in-depth study of the sustainable agriculture initiatives implemented or in progress by the Meghalaya Natural and Organic Society for Livelihood and Innovation in Agriculture (MEGNOLIA). The Service Provider will hold detailed discussions with authorized representatives from the State Government and MEGNOLIA to gather necessary data and complete foundational project documentation.
- ii. Perform stakeholder mapping, including inventorying the number of farmers and areas impacted by each program, in consultation with MBDA and MEGNOLIA.
- iii. Analyze available international voluntary carbon market programs such as Gold Standard, Global Carbon Council, VERRA, and the domestic Carbon Market developed by BEE to outline potential carbon credit projects for sustainable agriculture.

**Output:** A comprehensive report detailing the sectoral scope eligible under the voluntary carbon market program.

#### **Task 2: Supporting Registration of Project Activities with Carbon Programs/ Standards**

**2.1:** Be the focal point for the carbon project cycle for the program for the lifetime of the project (in consultation with MBDA, MEGNOLIA and relevant agencies) and assist the State government and MEGNOLIA in meeting the necessary requirements under the carbon standard.

**2.2:** Manage all project requirements under the carbon standard, managing all communications with the carbon standard, and covering associated fees.

**2.3:** Develop project documentation and support stakeholder consultations:

- i. Provide checklists and guidance for MEGNOLIA on required documents for project registration.

- ii. Prepare documentation and assist in conducting local stakeholder consultations per the selected carbon market standard, compiling a report on these consultations.
- iii. Ensure compliance with registry requirements by facilitating prior consideration notifications.
- iv. Conduct baseline surveys/ studies for project development aligned with selected methodologies.
- v. Identify relevant methodologies for interventions under MEGNOLIA, recommend new methodologies if needed (not covered in the current scope).
- vi. Develop monitoring and verification protocols in line with the selected standards and recommend capacity-building measures for farmers.
- vii. Analyze GHG emission reduction potentials and prepare an ex-ante GHG reduction spreadsheet using the required methodologies.
- viii. Prepare project documents necessary for validation according to the latest standards and guidelines.
- ix. Develop DPR, registration, issuance, and marketing of carbon credits under self-financing mode (with a share of carbon credits on accrual)

#### **2.4: Assist Validation of the Project**

- i. Identify and contract the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) and submit relevant documents for project validation.
- ii. Facilitate site preparatory visits and assist during the VVB's validation audit.
- iii. Address any compliance issues raised during the validation process.
- iv. Finalize the project design document for submission to the carbon program/ standard.

**2.5:** Assist in the registration of project activities, including addressing the findings raised by VVB.

### **Task 3: Supporting Monitoring, Reporting, Verification, and Issuance of Carbon Credits**

**3.1:** Support the periodic monitoring of registered project activities during the crediting period:

- i. Develop monitoring checklists based on PDD/ PSF/ PD requirements.
- ii. Compile monitoring information in coordination with MEGNOLIA and review the data collection systems.
- iii. Conduct field visits to ensure compliance with monitoring requirements.
- iv. Assess GHG reductions/ removals and prepare the monitoring report as per carbon program standards.

#### **3.2: Assist in the verification of Monitoring Reports:**

- i. Identify and contract the VVB for verification.
- ii. Submit relevant documentation for verification and assist during the site audit.
- iii. Address non-compliance issues and finalize the monitoring report for submission.

**3.3:** Assist in the issuance process for carbon credits from the project activities, during the crediting period.

#### **Task 4: End-to-End Support to VVB for Monetization of Verified Carbon Credits**

- i. Analyze domestic and international carbon pricing policies to identify risks in carbon credit sales.
- ii. Conduct market analysis on voluntary carbon markets to assess the value of carbon credits.
- iii. Formulate a benefit-sharing plan (BSP) with stakeholders to maximize benefits for farmers.
- iv. Engage with carbon buyers and exchanges to enhance realization of carbon credits through the crediting period.
- v. Support in finalizing emission reduction purchase agreements and facilitate the sale of carbon credits.
- vi. Assist in the transfer of monetization value.

This outlined scope of work aims to effectively support the Government of Meghalaya in leveraging sustainable agriculture practices for carbon financing, ultimately contributing to climate change mitigation and the economic empowerment of local farmers.

#### **4. Other guidelines for submission of Expression of Interest:**

- i. EOI must be delivered in a written form to the address mentioned through registered post/ speed post/ courier/ by hand on or email on or before **25<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, 3 PM**.
- ii. Queries if any shall be e-mailed to **meglife.procurement@gmail.com** before **5 PM 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**. No queries will be entertained beyond the deadline.

#### **5. Eligibility Criteria:**

A Service Provider selected for the aforementioned scope of work is expected to deliver the overall outputs stipulated above and may be required to propose additional efforts, if necessary, as per the requirement of the project.

##### **i. Qualifications of the Firm:**

- a. Demonstrate a strong track record in successfully implementing at least 3 (three) carbon projects, including activities on carbon project in the agriculture sector, with proven experience in project planning and execution. In case the firm is recognised as 'Start-up' by a Government of India or State Government body, then the firm should at least be involved in developing Agri-Carbon Project.
- b. Have previous experience in registering at least two NbS carbon in the last ten years.
- c. In-depth knowledge of various carbon programs and standards (e.g., CDM, GS, VERRA).
- d. Availability of local experts fluent in the regional language to support site visits and facilitate stakeholder engagement.
- e. Familiarity with the procedures and processes of institutions such as the MBDA will be considered an advantage.

##### **ii. Essential Eligibility/ Qualification:**

The selected firm must demonstrate strong expertise and institutional experience in the field of the carbon market (specific to projects in the agriculture sector). The following qualifications are essential:

- a. The Service Provider must be operational in India for at least 4 (four) years.

- b. The average turnover should be INR 3 Cores during the last three years. In case the firm is a recognised Start-up firm, then the average turn-over in the last 3 (three) years should not be less than INR 20 lakhs.
- c. Must have experience in registering more than 3 (three) projects for the voluntary (GS and/ or VCS) and CDM carbon market.
- d. Demonstrated experience in developing carbon market projects for the agriculture sector under CDM, VCS and GS (at least 2 projects).

### iii. Team Composition

The detailed outputs and reporting requirements for the consulting firm are outlined in the section above. The consultants are encouraged to prioritize proposing effective strategies for producing and delivering high-quality outputs, rather than merely suggesting input quantities or resources.

The firm will determine the appropriate number and specialization of experts needed, including the team leader, to accomplish the contract's objectives, based on their proposed approach and methodology. The team assigned to this project must, at a minimum, comprise the following key personnel with the necessary qualifications and experience:

Sl. No.	Expert Positions	Qualifications and Relevant Tasks	Score under Technical Proposal (out of 40)
1	Team Leader (Agriculture/ Climate Change Mitigation)	Team Leader should preferably have a required master's degree in agricultural/ environmental management. <b>Team leader should have more than 20 years' general experience including 15 years' relevant experience in the carbon market.</b> Demonstrated experience required with the carbon market. Experience with development organisations and, government will be preferred. Demonstrated experience required for registration of a minimum of two projects under Agriculture and Allied sector. Experience with development organizations in multiple countries will be preferred.	15
2	Carbon Expert (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use)	The expert ideally will have a post- graduate degree in climate science, engineering, agriculture; and work experience and demonstrated expertise in developing agriculture and forestry related mitigation projects and programs, as well as prior experience in incorporating climate change impacts into agriculture/ allied sector value chain projects.; and should have and should have 10 years of general experience in carbon market.	10

3	Soil Scientist	The expert should hold a degree in Environmental Science/ Management, Agriculture, or a related field. A minimum of 20 years of experience in soil health assessment, land degradation studies, and soil conservation is required, with a specific focus on the Northeast region. The candidate must demonstrate proficiency in soil sampling, field assessments, laboratory analysis, and soil health evaluation. Experience in quantifying soil organic carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, including methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), and carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), is essential. Additionally, the expert should possess strong skills in preparing and presenting analysis reports to ensure effective communication of findings.	5
3	Sector Specialists (Data Collection Specialist - Agri Inputs; Horticulture) (Two experts)	Experts should preferably have a post-graduate degree in IT/ engineering/ business administration/ agriculture science or a relevant discipline, and should have 5 years of general experience in stakeholder engagement for agriculture sector projects, working with GHG emissions inventories and familiarity with the emission reduction and removal methodologies.	2 x 5

#### 6. Evaluation Criteria:

The eligible response would then be evaluated further based on the merit of the proposal. The following is the evaluation criteria for the shortlisting of the responses:

Sl. No.	Evaluation Criteria	Weightage out of 100
a	Experience of developing/ implementing Carbon Finance Projects which have been implemented/ are under advanced stages of implementation. Projects with relevance to Meghalaya will fetch a higher score.	30
b	Experience of developing NbS Carbon Credit Project(s) which have been implemented/ are under advanced stages of implementation. Projects with relevance to agriculture sector will fetch a higher score.	20
c	Experience of the lead bidder of working on Community NRM project(s).	10
d	Merit of the proposed project(s) including the relevance, efficiency, practicality, equitability (especially benefits proposed for the communities involved), sustainability (beyond the project duration as well) impact and/ or innovativeness of the solutions catering specifically to Nature-based Carbon Finance Projects that Could be taken-up/ scaled in Meghalaya	30

e	Availability of human resource with experience in Carbon Finance/ Forestry/ Agriculture with the bidder and the team proposed for the project	10
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**i. Technical Proposal (60 marks)**

Agencies will be technically evaluated based on the following methodology:

- a. Methodology, its Appropriateness and Timeliness of the Implementation Plan (20 marks)
- b. Technical Presentation-Proposal presentation to be made to the Evaluation Committee (30 marks)
- c. Qualification of Team Leader, other Key Personnel (expected qualifications/ experience for different personnel is given above) (10 marks)

**ii. Experience and expertise of the firm (40 marks)**

- a. Previous experience of registering projects with the same scope (agriculture sector), technology, and scale of project activity in different carbon program/standards during last ten years under CDM/ VCS/ GS. (30 Marks)
- b. Previous experience in registration of 10 projects under the voluntary carbon standard (VCS and/or GS) or CDM (10 Marks).

**7. Other conditions:**

- i. The Government of Meghalaya reserves the right to extend/ amend the Request for the Expression of Interest at any point of time.
- ii. The Government of Meghalaya reserves the right to seek clarification/ additional information and documents from the bidders regarding various claims submitted by them in their proposal.
- iii. Selected agencies would get into an agreement with the Government of Meghalaya/ one of its organisations. Shortlisting/ selecting an agency does not necessarily mean that the Government of Meghalaya/ one of its organisations would get into a legally binding agreement with it. This is just an empanelment for developing Carbon Finance Project(s) in Meghalaya. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be signed up with the selected organization(s) and the shortlisted proposal(s) would be looked at on a case-to-case basis and will be taken up based on parameters like the attractiveness of the proposal, availability of funds and other resources, willingness of various stakeholders involved etc. Relevant project specific agreements may be signed up with the shortlisted firms subsequently.
- iv. Bidders are allowed to propose more than one project and can get shortlisted for undertaking multiple projects.  
More than one bidder/ organisation may be empanelled under this EoI. The Government may allow more than one bidder/ organisation to implement their projects. The separation of their area of project implementation may be decided by the Government of Meghalaya in terms of territorial jurisdiction or resource category or any other criteria, which the Government may find suitable.
- v. Failure to undertake the projects proposed by the bidders at the time of bid

- submission might lead to their “Black-listing” by the Government of Meghalaya.
- vi. The organizations once empanelled can be tasked for undertaking other Carbon Finance Projects by any of the organizations of the Government of Meghalaya based on mutual agreement.

**About MBDA:** The Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. Set up in March 2011 and headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya. Its Registered Office is situated at Nongrim Hills, Shillong. MBDA closely works with the communities and aims to address management of natural resources in the state while addressing issues of livelihoods among the rural communities with emphasis on sustainable good practices. Its strategies focus on leveraging the strengths of the land while adapting to climate change, without degradation to the environment.