

Request for Proposals: Measuring Pesticide Poisoning events in Smallholder cotton farmers

RFI n#: 2024-6-GIF-PESTPOIS

Location: India and Pakistan

Start date: 29 July 2024

End date: 28 February 2025

Better Cotton key contact:

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Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Team



All applications must be submitted via [this form](#).

You may submit questions to tender@bettercotton.org - RFI n# 2024-6-GIF-PESTPOIS" until 7 July 2024.

Questions, requests and applications sent after the deadline (10 July 2024) will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Description

Better Cotton is the world's largest cotton sustainability programme. Our mission: to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. In difficult times, we are meeting the challenge head on. Through our network of field-level partners we have provided training on more sustainable farming practices to more than 2.9 million cotton farmers in 26 countries. More than a fifth of the world's cotton is now grown under the Better Cotton Standard and our membership network includes more than 2,400 members.

More information about Better Cotton can be found on our website: www.bettercotton.org

Background

A key focus of Better Cotton is Crop Protection and Farmer Health. It is hoped that the incidence and severity of pesticide poisoning in farmers will be reduced by promoting the Better Cotton Principles and Criteria to Farmers. Therefore, a key indicator that Better Cotton wishes to measure is the incidence and severity of poisoning in farmers. Further, Better Cotton wish to know the causes of the poisoning to identify suitable response actions with its Programme Partners.

The measurement of this indicator is difficult due to both the medical aspect of accurately linking incidents of poisoning to specific pesticides, and that many incidents of pesticide poisoning remain hidden because farmers tend to not report these to medical authorities, or the symptoms are incorrectly recorded. Better Cotton wants expert support to measure the incidence of pesticide poisoning in India or Pakistan and then guidance on how Better Cotton and its Programme Partners can measure incidence in future seasons.

Scope of Work

The expected output will be:

- Analysis report with findings on the number, severity and cause of pesticide poisoning cases that occur during the 2024 pesticide spraying months (August – October) for smallholder cotton farmers in up to 8 Programme Partners in India and Pakistan, covering a sample of approximately 400 to 800 smallholder farmers per partner.
- Guidance for Programme Partners on the main pesticides that are causing poisoning and, where possible, the main reasons why pesticide poisoning is happening (for example, lack of protective equipment, improper application, lack of knowledge of risks, hazardous preparation methods etc).
- Guidance for Better Cotton and Programme Partners on how to do our own measurement of pesticide poisoning in the future. This can include training and / or the provision of guidance materials.

Please Note Better Cotton Programme Partners in India and Pakistan have Field Facilitators that regularly visit farmers to deliver training, provide ongoing assistance and to collect data. We are open to these Field Facilitators being involved in the collection of data from farmers.

In addition to skills, competencies and expertise, we will consider value for money and demonstrable commitment to the sustainability field to evaluate applications.

High-level Timeline

10 July 2024	All applications must be submitted via this form . (<u>Deadline for question: 7 July 2024</u>)
15 July to 19 July 2024	Applications review & shortlisting / Interviews

By 23 July 2024	The successful applicant will be notified Unsuccessful <u>shortlisted</u> applicants will also be notified by mid-August.
29 July 2024	Start of the consultancy
By 16 August 2024	Inception Report detailing how the assignment will be delivered (updating all aspects of the project proposal based on discussions with Better Cotton and Programme Partners)
By 15 September 2024	Data collection started (earlier is preferred if possible to better cover the pesticide spraying season)
By 15 November 2024	Data collection completed (earlier is preferred if possible to better cover the pesticide spraying season)
By 17 January 2024	Draft Report provided
By 28 February 2025	Final report, Presentation of findings and guidance / training provided to Better Cotton and Partners on future collection of Pesticide Poisoning data.

Required Skills & Knowledge

Skills, Knowledge and Experience
<i>Essential</i>
8+ of experience of measuring the incidence, severity and cause of pesticide poisoning of smallholder farmers in India and Pakistan
Expert knowledge and understanding of how to collect data on cases of pesticide poisoning, their severity and cause for smallholder farmers in India and Pakistan
Ability to collect data from smallholder farmers in rural areas.
Ability to analyse data and to present findings in English and in a clear and accessible way for staff which are not experts in pesticide poisoning
Ability to collect data using local languages (not English) in both India and Pakistan.
Ability to provide feasible guidance to Better Cotton and Programme Partners on how to collect data in future seasons on pesticide poisoning.

Application Requirements

Proposals responding to this Request for Interest should be a maximum of 10 pages (excluding CVs and the example of previous work), and include the following:

- Overview of relevant experience
- Proposed methodology
- Workplan with key dates / timeline

- Summary of relevant key staff, their role and experience.
- Detailed and transparent budget, in EUROS, including time allocation and day rates. A budget of around 35,000-45,000 Euros is hoped for, with a maximum desired budget of 50,000 Euros available. Value for money a key assessment criterion. A budget above 50,000 Euros will be considered if a clear rationale is provided.
- A relevant example of previous work
- CVs

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Better Cotton is committed to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human and financial resources. All applications will be reviewed under the principles and subject to Better Cotton's policies on equal opportunity, non-discrimination, anti-bribery & corruption and conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrated understanding of this RFP
- Quality and clarity of the proposed approach and methodology
- Feasibility of the proposed activity plan and timeline, and appropriateness of time allocated to delivering each task
- Relevant professional experience of the proposed consultant(s)
- Quality and relevance of the sample work submitted

Financial Evaluation Criteria

- Quality and clarity of budget provided, and level of detail included
- Alignment of the budget to the activity timeline detailed in the technical proposal
- Value for money
- Adherence to the available budget