

Responses to questions (SNiPS External Evaluation RFP)

Question	Response
1. What informed the choice of the four Local Government Areas (Afijio, Iseyin, Ido, and Oyo West LGAs) that were chosen for the intervention program?	The LGAs were selected because they were known for producing cassava and potatoes, as well as for their proximity to the States' capital cities.
2. Can we have the list of the wards covered by this project, and their selection criteria?	Detailed information on the project areas will be provided to the selected Service Provider. For the purposes of the proposal, the evaluation will be carried out at the State level and, as such, the Service Provider is required to propose methods for sampling at this level.
3. Can we have access to the project appraisal document?	Detailed project documentation will be provided to the selected Service Provider only. This information is not required at this stage to develop a proposal.
4. Who are the key actors/organizations responsible for the implementation of this program, and their mode of data collection?	This information is not required at this stage to develop a proposal. Detailed project documentation and partner details will be provided to the selected Service Provider only.
5. On the issue of dietary diversity/dietary quality, should it be household or individual focused?	This should focus on households where we need an estimate on the number of people impacted, with additional level of individual level impact where possible particularly for women.
6. Please confirm Offer of Services is a separate attachment, confirming 3 separate attachments.	Yes, as noted in Section II, point 3, the proposal should have 3 separate attachments, i.e., i) Technical Proposal, ii) Financial proposal, and iii) signed Offer of Services.

<p>7. Please confirm, the description in bulleted format of the following services should also be interpreted as deliverables to be assigned costs too. For example, “Develop an evaluation protocol, including background, detailed methodology and justification), data analysis plan, and data collection tools, for review and approval by GAIN.” = 10% of the total cost.</p>	<p>As noted in Section II, point 2, the budget should be comprehensive of various cost categories required to cover the full scope of work as written in the, including personnel, travel, subsistence allowances, consultants, meetings/workshops, overhead if applicable and miscellaneous expenses. Budgets that present a lump sum proportioned across the list of deliverables will not be accepted.</p>
<p>8. Please provide additional detail on the "proposed information technology platform" referenced under the second evaluation criterion. This is not described elsewhere in the RFP.</p>	<p>This point has been deleted.</p>
<p>9. What is the period of performance estimated for this work, and what is the anticipated start date</p>	<p>The tentative timeline is outlined in Section 3.3 and will be finalized during the contracting stage with the selected Service Provider.</p>
<p>10. Please confirm that all points listed under point 4 (submission) are to appear as annexes to the larger proposal under point 3, i.e., CVs and organizational past experiences are kept in annexes, whereas bios and a summary of experience appear in the proposal.</p>	<p>As noted in section II, point 3: the composition of the team with names and brief biographies should be included in the technical proposal and not exceed 3 pages (detailed CVs that do not fit within this limit should not be included). The description of previous relevant work should also be included in the technical proposal and not exceed 1 page. The only annex that should be included with the technical proposal is a sample of an evaluation report. Other annexes submitted will not be reviewed.</p>

<p>11. What is the estimated level of effort for this opportunity?</p>	<p>This should be proposed by the consultant based on the scope of work.</p>
<p>12. Can GAIN provide more information on the number of project beneficiaries by states, and across the three components: Biofortification (farmers and farm workers), Workforce Nutrition (farmer’s households and processor employees, and Business Support (retailers, wholesalers, processors, and aggregators), to help use determine sample size?</p>	<p>This information is not required at this stage to develop a proposal. Such information will be provided at a later date to the selected Service Provider. Sample size should be estimated based on ensuring representativeness in the three selected states.</p>
<p>13. The RFP stated: “The scope of the evaluation will focus on Kaduna, Oyo and Benue states where there are overlapping components of the SNiPS project being implemented”</p> <p>a. Can you confirm that Nasarawa State will not be included the evaluation?</p>	<p>a) Correct, Nasarawa will not be included in this evaluation. b) As stated in the RFP, the intervention overlaps are in the project regions but not necessarily in the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries for each component are considered different to avoid double counting. c) Please see response above, and in addition, here is an example of some overlapping states: - Biofortification: Kaduna and Oyo - Business Support: Oyo and Benue - Workforce Nutrition: Kaduna and Nasarawa d) Please see responses above</p>

- b. When reading the description of the different components of the SNIPS, our understanding (we could be wrong) is the three components engaged with different target populations including smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE, SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT, farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICATION. Basically, these are three different interventions engaging three distinct target populations. Could you confirm that this is the case? Or if this is the case, we would appreciate if you could explain the overlapping between different components
- c. You stated that the evaluation focus will be focused where there are overlapping, could you present the different cases of overlapping that exist between these three components?
- d. About the overlapping, for instance, BUSINESS SUPPORT is only focused on SMEs and farmers, assuming (hypothetical) BUSINESS SUPPORT overlapped with BIOFORTICATION which focused only on farmers and farming households, in that instance what the overlapping will be? Could you elaborate more on the overlapping and what it means in this context?

14. The RFP stated:

The project's SBCC activities directly engaged over 12,900 nutritious crops value chain actors in the focal states through community-led initiatives. Additionally, the project extended its reach to over 2 million individuals via various media programs, based on data from our communication partner.

- a. We would like to know whether the smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE, SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT, and farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICAITON are ALL among the 12,900 nutritious crops value chain actors in the focal states involved in the project's SBCC activities?
- b. If that is not the case, we would like to know whether it is possible to identify/distinguish the smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE, SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT, and farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICAITON who are among the 12,900 nutritious crops value chain actors involved in the project's SBCC activities and those who are not?
- c. Do the smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE, SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT, and farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICAITON belong to these over 2 million individuals via various media programs, based on data from our communication partner or not?

- a) These estimates include both project and non-project value chain actors
- b) The details of the project specific beneficiaries will be provided to the successful Service Provider. However, the scope of this work is beyond just the project beneficiaries, and the Service Provider needs to propose methods that would ensure representativeness.
- c) This level of detail is not required to prepare a proposal at this stage. Detailed program information and documents will be shared with the successful Service Provider.

<p>15. The RFP stated: The target population will be discussed and agreed upon by GAIN and the evaluation partner but potentially, value chain farmers, household members and businesses in the selected states, LGAs and value chains.</p> <p>Our understanding is that we have the following target populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE • SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT • Farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICAITON <p>Are we not going to work with all target populations for each component, could you elaborate more about this statement above?</p>	<p>The Service Provider is expected to propose the methods they would use including the sampling framework. These will then be discussed and finalized between GAIN and the successful Service Provider.</p>
<p>16. There are these three components with different target populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE • SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT • Farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICAITON <p>a. Could you explain how target population for different component were selected to participate in the component? For example, how were smallholder farmers and food processing employees selected to participate in the WORKFORCE component? How SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities were selected to participate in the BUSINESS SUPPORT component? How Farmers and</p>	<p>This level of detail is not required to prepare a proposal at this stage. Detailed program information and documents will be shared with the successful Service Provider.</p>

<p>farming households and other food processors were selected to participate in the BIOFORTICAITON component.</p> <p>b. If you used specific criteria for the inclusion into each the component, could you provide the selection/inclusion criteria used for each component?</p> <p>c. Did you use the selection /inclusion criteria to select the 12,900 nutritious crops value chain actors involved in the project's SBCC activities? If yes, could you provide these inclusion/selection criteria?</p>	
<p>17. The RFP stated: As part of the work to improve access to a wider variety of nutritious foods, 5,446 households were supported to set up home gardens.</p> <p>a. Do these 5,446 householders are part of the smallholder farmers and food processing employees for WORKFORCE, SMEs and farmers involved in GIC activities for BUSINESS SUPPORT, and farmers and farming households and other food processors for BIOFORTICAITON?</p> <p>b. Is there any overlapping between these 5,446 households and the target population of each of these three components or are these 544 households a totally different group of households who have nothing to do with the three components?</p>	<p>Please refer to responses above</p>

<p>c. Which selection criteria were used to select those 5,446 households?</p> <p>d. If these 5,446 households are part of the target population of the three different components, is it possible to make the distinction between households who only participated in home gardens and those who participated in home gardens and one or two or three components (WORKFORCE, BUSINESS SUPPORT, BIOFORTIFICATION)?</p>	
<p>18. RFP stated: To date the project has provided technical support and productive inputs to a total of 5,144 farmers between 2022 and 2023. Of those, 4,080 farmers harvested biofortified crops during this period.</p> <p>a. Biofortification is one component of the intervention, our understanding of the statement above is that the remaining farmers (1064 famers) who received technical support and productive inputs belong to the component WORKFORCE and BUSINESS SUPPORT. To date the project has supported only 1064 Farmers for the components WORKFORCE and BUSINESS SUPPORT. Could you confirm our understanding? Of if we have a different understanding, could you elaborate more about your statement?</p> <p>b. The intervention “Technical support and productive inputs” belongs to which component of the intervention (WORKFORCE NUTRITION, BUSINESS SUPPORT, BIOFORTIFICATION)?</p>	<p>a) This information is not useful at this stage while developing the RFP as the project has progressed significantly. The Service Provider should suggest data collection methods that would ensure representativeness of the data collected in each state. Updated monitoring data will be provided to the successful Service Provider.</p> <p>b) This statement is in reference to the biofortification component and is related to training and technical capacity building on good agricultural practices, and the provision of planting material.</p>

<p>19. The RFP stated: Estimates of project impact by component and on overall impact outcomes need to be estimated at the State level.</p> <p>a. The estimation of the project impact by component required to know accurately which participants to the intervention has received what. The way the implementation is presented, we think that it is possible to do so, could you confirm that this is the case indeed?</p> <p>b. what do you mean by the overall impact? it is impact of participants that were exposed to the three components, the SBCC intervention and home gardens? is it possible to clearly identify these participants in each State? and who are those participants since participants of the BIOFORTICATION might not qualify to participate in the BUSINESS SUPPORT.</p> <p>c. Finally, the estimated by the component and the estimated at the State level requires to perform the statistical power (the sample size) by the component and the state level, this will have a major implication of the sample size/budget if we really want to consider the statistical power. If we have three components and three states, basically this will give us 9 different sample size or our sample size without this consideration will be multiple by 9. Are you comfortable with this approach of calculating the sample size by component and by State?</p>	<p>Impact should be defined based on the indicators detailed in the RFP, Section 3.1)</p> <p>On the sampling strategy, the bidder should propose a sampling strategy that they think most effectively addresses the scope of work. The proposal will be assessed on the technical quality and cost-effectiveness as described in the RPP (Refer to section III. 4 in the RFP).</p>
<p>20. For young technical and research company with technical expertise to deliver this evaluation, but does not have yet the capabilities to manage big and international contract involved partners in Nigeria:</p>	<p>The bidder can propose a consortium of partners if they choose and the details of all partners should be included in the proposal. However, the selected service provider will need be responsible for all aspects of the scope of work</p>

<p>Can such a company include an internal partner (data collection firm in Nigeria) in the technical proposal, but ultimately the contract for the data collection be signed between GAIN and the data collection firm in Nigeria? Can the contract between the bidder and GAIN be limited to offering the services or completing the deliverables that the company has capacity for and the rest to be between GAIN and the data collection agency?</p>	<p>even if they sub-contract out aspects to other consortium partners.</p>
<p>21. Proposal submission deadline extension</p>	<p>Proposal submission deadline extend to 27 October, 11.59pm, WAT</p>