

## Evaluation methodology and criteria for the review of the proposals and award

Only proposals received within the stipulated time period will be accepted. To select the proposal, a “Competitive Screening Evaluation Team” (CSET) has been established. After the **eligibility** (please refer to the Applicant's Self-Certification form) of the applicant is confirmed, CSET examines all proposals against the following criteria:

### General Aspects

1. IFAD is inviting interested institutions to submit a proposal. Each institution can decide to submit alone or jointly as a consortium with other partner(s); in that case, the lead institution – who will enter into a legal agreement with IFAD - should be clearly identified and roles and responsibilities of the other partners be explicitly stated within the submitted proposal.
2. The recipient can be a consulting organization, private sector, alliance of partner service providers, specialized NGO, or an inter-governmental organization (including UN agencies). Non-profit, Non-governmental organizations in non-Member States are eligible only if a specific waiver is granted by the President. In case of a consortium, an organization can join more than one consortium but can be leading only in one of them.
3. The recipient must demonstrate a strong focus, prior experience and expertise in developing digital public infrastructures and/or, complex database systems specially with a focus on agriculture and rural development.
4. Applicants must be aware that, once selected, IFAD may require further refinements of the proposal throughout the internal review process and that the selected proposal will be subjected to review and approval steps prior to submission for final approval by the Executive Board of IFAD.
5. Further details on eligibility are provided in the table below.

### Table 1. Selection Criteria

After the eligibility of the applicant is confirmed, proposals will be evaluated by a Competitive Screening Evaluation Team according to the following criteria:

Technical Proposal (Criteria) - 80%	
	<i>Weight</i>
<p><b><u>Background and Technical Experience (sub-criteria):</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrated experience designing and deploying large scale public digital databases and complex infrastructure systems projects</li> <li>2. Experience in deployment, management of integrated systems with unified databases, application programming interfaces, user interfaces, data exchanges and legacy systems</li> <li>3. Evidence of application of Data Governance and Cybersecurity, consent frameworks: Strong knowledge and experience in implementing robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data.</li> </ol>	<p>30%</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Proven track record of developing scalable systems with increasing demand and data volume.</li> <li>5. Experience of working with government institutions globally,</li> <li>6. Demonstrated experience of self or partners in training and capacity building, knowledge related activities</li> <li>7. Demonstrated experience working with international donors and UN Agencies</li> </ol>	
<p><b><u>Staff Allocation and Expertise (sub-criteria):</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding of agricultural policies, processes, solutions targeting farmer needs, and the agricultural value chains.</li> <li>2. Team leader experience Rural Development: 5- 8 years' experience working on large scale projects that impact rural communities</li> <li>3. 5-8 years combined experience in data management (including collection and processing, analytics), with a focus on handling large datasets</li> <li>4. UI/UX designers</li> <li>5. ICT4D experience</li> </ol>	30%
<p><b><u>Quality and coherence of proposal (sub-criteria):</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relevance of the proposal (i.e. extent to which it meets Agriconnect requirements), including logic and clarity</li> <li>2. Strength and feasibility of the proposed approach for the implementation and deployment within the timeframe available</li> <li>3. Strength and feasibility of the proposed approach for the delivery of activities, including speed of execution, cost efficiency etc.</li> <li>4. Strength and feasibility of the proposed management structure and approach for the coordination of Agriconnect activities</li> <li>5. Innovativeness of activities and approach proposed</li> <li>6. Quality of plan of activities of capacity building and KM proposed</li> </ol>	20%
<b>Financial Proposal (Criteria) - 20%</b>	
	<i>Weight</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed cost structure (budget table and narrative) for management of Agriconnect activities</li> <li>2. Level and nature (in kind or in cash) of co-financing proposed - if relevant</li> </ol>	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Each evaluator will review the submitted Design Document against the set evaluation criteria, and provide ratings and comments to justify the ratings. For each criterion, a score will be assigned. The application receiving the highest total score will be selected. No discussion will take place with the applicant on the substance of the proposals as long as the award has not been decided and internally approved.

Reviewers will also evaluate the selection process against the following key principles:

- Impartiality: recipients are rated with same criteria. Sufficient time provided (minimum 3 weeks for invitees)

- Transparency: relevant documents are disclosed equally to all recipients. Evaluation criteria specified in the solicitation document. Feedback is provided.
- Rigour: good balance of skills in the reviewer committee. Ensure that appropriate records and data are maintained. Criteria ranking clearly articulated.

Applicants should note that, once selected, IFAD may require further refinements of the proposal throughout the internal review process, that the selected proposal will be subjected to prior review before submission for final approval.

In the event that only one applicant is considered eligible, a Direct Selection mechanism applies. In this case, the IFAD sponsor mobilizes the support of the Competitive Screening Evaluation Team to conduct a Review as per the evaluation criteria (specified above) to reach a conclusion on the value, merit and cost of the bid. The minutes of the meeting are prepared, submitted to the Division Director for agreement, and then made available to management for decision.