INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FOR THE REVIEW AND ADAPTATION OF THE VINES MEAL SYSTEM BASED ON DONOR COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (DCED) STANDARDS FOR RESULT MEASUREMENT:

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE# UG6595

Date of this ITB:	Thursday 6th June 2024
Closing Date for Receipt of EOI's	Thursday 20th June 2024, by 5:00 PM
Reference No.:	UG6595

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Today, it is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. It provides support to impoverished and disadvantaged people in 91 countries overseas based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity.

Background

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that provides relief and development assistance in more than 100 countries around the world. CRS carries out the commitment of the bishops of the United States to serve the poor and vulnerable overseas. CRS' Catholic identity is at the heart of our mission and operations, serving people based on need, regardless of creed, ethnicity or nationality. CRS works through local church and non-church partners to implement its programs.

CRS has worked in Uganda since 1965, initially providing emergency relief to Sudanese refugees living in the north. Over the years, CRS has expanded its programming to address development needs in western, central and eastern Uganda. CRS projects in Uganda currently include food and nutrition security, resilience, agriculture and livelihoods, health, microfinance, OVC, peacebuilding, youth, emergency and COVID-19 response. CRS Uganda implements its programs through partnerships with local organizations, including the Catholic Church, other faith-based organizations and community institutions, to maximize impact and sustainability. CRS Uganda employs approximately 190 staff and has its main office in Kampala, with sub-offices in Moroto, Yumbe and Hoima.

Vines Project Information

VINES, a five-year (2021-2025), $13 million USDA FFPr program, is being implemented by CRS, TechnoServe (TNS), Frontier Co-op, Purdue University, and the Sustainable Vanilla Initiative (SVI) to make Uganda the

world's next leading supplier of high-quality vanilla. VINES' goals are to increase and improve the supply of high-quality vanilla by improving the productivity of vanilla-based agroforestry systems with 16,200 farmers (Strategic Goal 1); to improve vanilla quality and compliance with food safety standards with 30 vanilla processing companies; and to expand global vanilla trade to meet growing international demand (Strategic Goal 2).

This consortium of market leaders and experts is linked to high potential Ugandan vanilla processing companies, organized as the Ugandan Vanilla Export Association (VANEX). CRS and VANEX have strong working relationships with the Government of Uganda (GoU) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), who are working to expand CRS' ongoing vanilla sector revitalization activities. This established team will more than double average vanilla yields from 0.22 kg/vine, estimated at project baseline, to 0.50 kg/vine, increase average farm production from 65kg, estimated at project baseline, to 150kg, improve vanilla quality and safety, deepen market linkages and by creating a new brand for Ugandan vanilla, generate the essential "market pull" to increase cure vanilla exports from 73 MT to 200+ MT. This will directly transform the lives of 16,200 farmers and will create 1,236 new full-time jobs (756 self-employed service and input providers and 480 processor employees) and 14,940 new seasonal on-farm jobs and processing jobs to reach 17,466 vanilla stakeholders; and provide international buyers with a new source that will stabilize the extreme global price volatility for this unique commodity.

Purpose and Scope of the Vines MEAL system review and adaptation based on the DCED standards:

The Vines project Midterm evaluation recommended for a review and potentially enhancement of the existing MEAL system to respond to the rapidly changing vanilla industry. The report recommended for the adaptation of the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) Standard for result measurement which offers robust MEAL practices through its seven interdependent components to respond to the complex and changing project environment. If the project is to fully align with an adaptive system like the DCED Standard, a thorough comparison and adjustment of the current MEAL system against the Standard's requirements is necessary.

To effectively manage this process, the Vines project intends to hire a technical consultant to review the current vines MEAL system in line with the DCED standards for result measurement, make appropriate and practical recommendations on how the project can improve its MEAL system.

Solicitation Documents:

Tender Package Available from: (Thursday 6th June 2024)	**Tender Package Pickup Location:** **Request for tender package by** **Email:** **ug_procurementinquiries@crs.org**
Deadline for Offer Submission: (Thursday 20th June 2024, by 5:00 PM)	**Submit Offers by Email: ug_procurement@crs.org** **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS ONLY: Hard copy submissions will not be considered**

Deadline for receipt of queries or inquiries pertaining this procurement: (Wednesday, 12th June 2024, 5:00PM)	If any, submit questions or inquiries in writing to: ug_procurementinquiries@crs.org Questions will be answered through: ugnoreply@crs.org
***NOTE: Only bids from consultants who requested the tender package through Catholic Relief Services tender email: ug_procurementinquiries@crs.org will be considered. Ensure to indicate procurement reference # UG6595 in your email subject as you submit bids.	

All eligible consultants MUST request for tender documents using the procurement reference number, UG6595.

***CRS reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the solicitation process