

Call for Proposals

Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Component 2: Finance and Investment of GEF-funded FARM Global Child Project

1. Introduction

The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) is a global community of policy, business and finance professionals and organizations committed to collaboratively generating, managing and sharing knowledge on the transition to an inclusive green and circular economy. The GGKP is led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and World Bank. The mission of GGKP is to empower government decision-makers, companies and financial institutions with evidence-based knowledge that can best support them to contribute effectively to the green and circular economy transition.

Among other projects, GGKP is the executing agency (EA) for the Global Child Project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM) Programme, and for which UNEP is the implementing agency (IA).

FARM is a five-year, \$341 million initiative, which seeks to reduce and manage the use of harmful pesticides and plastics in agricultural production and encourage the adoption of low- and non-chemical alternatives. In addition to the Global Child Project, FARM consists of seven child projects led by UNEP and implemented by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIDO. The execution of the child projects is carried out in-country by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and relevant country institutions in Ecuador, India, Kenya, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

The Global Child Project, managed by GGKP, aims to address the global and regional knowledge capacity of policy, finance and value chain actors to sustainably regulate, finance and reduce pesticides and plastics through its three core components – policy and enforcement, finance and investment, and value chains and public demand.

Component 2, focused on finance and investment, aims to engage public and private finance actors to share and use FARM and FARM-related knowledge to reorient financial resources to the reduction and sound management of chemical and plastic pollution in the agriculture sector. This outcome will be achieved in two complementary efforts, one targeting private financial institutions (Output 2.1) and another focused on public finance actors and coordination with national child projects (Output 2.2).

In 2024, the inception of the FARM Global Child Project marks a crucial milestone. The project endeavours to conduct a comprehensive scoping study and develop associated knowledge products to map and identify knowledge gaps and needs related to finance and investment across its child projects. A pivotal roundtable discussion held in March 2023 during the project's inception meeting surfaced key knowledge gaps and needs, setting the stage for targeted interventions through the upcoming scoping study and relevant training initiatives.

2. Objective

GGKP seeks proposals from universities, research centres, think tanks and non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance for addressing knowledge gaps and needs related to of Component 2: finance and investment of the FARM Global Child Project.

3. Technical assistance required

This technical assistance will be expected to include:

- a scoping study to include: research of policy instruments aimed at incentivizing finance for low/no agrochemicals; finance instruments in the context of FARM, including alternative financing mechanisms like green bonds, impact investment funds, payment for ecosystem services, de-risking mechanism etc.; and trend analysis
 - a. the scoping studies should include successful case studies and lessons learnt from FARM and non-FARM countries
- Support the development of knowledge products based on the scoping study, including as relevant, databases, expert blogs, best practices, or case studies, training modules, etc.
- Conduct trainings and policy event to FARM stakeholders
 - a. delivering thematic training to child project IAs and EAs based on the scoping study
 - b. deliver a finance session at the first FARM Biennial Forum based on the findings of the scoping study
- a recommendation summary for how the project could address knowledge needs on finance during the project period; and how global child project could enhance public-private collaboration through knowledge, communication and stakeholder engagement activities

Specially, the knowledge gaps and technical assistance identified are described in the following table.

Table 1. Topics/issues to be addressed

Topic/issue	Description	Technical assistance
Understanding finance-related policy instruments	Participants lack understanding of effective policy instruments such as subsidies, incentives, and regulations aimed at incentivizing financing for low/no agrochemicals, and the importance of having a whole package of support not distorting market.	1. Desk research of policy instruments aimed at incentivizing finance for low/no agrochemicals and trend analysis
Understanding finance instruments, including alternative financing schemes	Participants raised the need to better understand finance instruments and their relations to agrochemicals/plastics within the context of FARM, including alternative financing mechanisms like green bonds, impact investment funds, payment for ecosystem services, etc., hindering the ability to incentivize the adoption of sustainable agriculture and reduce reliance on chemical inputs.	1. Desk research of finance instruments in the context of FARM, including alternative financing mechanisms like green bonds, impact investment funds, payment for ecosystem services, etc., and trend analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the research should include successful case studies and lessons learnt covering FARM and non-farm countries. Additional analysis on replicability of the solution in

		FARM countries will be required
Facilitating access to finance across the value chain	Participants highlighted to need to facilitate access to finance across the value chain, especially for SMEs, which are the "missing middle", and small-scale actors, acknowledging the facilitating role of cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct 2 consultations with SMEs, cooperatives and financiers to understand the challenges of access to finance 2. a case study to demonstrate how SMEs or cooperatives successfully access to finance
Enhancing public-private collaboration and de-risking mechanisms	Participants highlighted the complementary roles of public and private finance actors and the need to enhance dialogue and partnerships' struggle to enhance public finance's role to catalyse private finance and support innovation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A recommendation for how global child project could enhance public-private collaboration through knowledge, communication and stakeholder engagement activities 2. Conduct 1 regional dialogue on PPP at FARM biennial forum

Based on the information requested below, the applicant entity must demonstrate that it is duly qualified and has the necessary experience to carry out the service described in the scope, duties and responsibilities of the technical assistance. Only non-profit organizations will be eligible.

4. Activities, expected duration and deliverables/products

It is anticipated that this technical assistance will require approximately 12 weeks. The completion of the assignment should take no longer than eight months. Expected deliverables and a preliminary timeline can be found in the table below.

Activities	Deliverable	Timeline
Develop scoping study	1 proposed inception report	End of month 1
	1 proposed outline of scoping study based on reviewing child project activities and relevant event summary reports, including proposed best practices and solutions in FARM and non-FARM countries	
	At least 2 consultation meetings with GGKP, UNEP, and child projects conducted	End of month 2
	Final report developed and published	End of month 4
Develop knowledge products	3 expert blogs developed and published in FARM knowledge platforms and partners' platforms	End of month 4
	At least 3 best practices and lessons learnt of comprehensive country examples of each topic	End of month 5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective policy instrument succeeds incentivizing finance for low/no agrochemicals • alternative financing mechanisms succeed in contributing to low/no agrochemicals or agri-plastic usage • a case study to demonstrate how SMEs or cooperatives successfully access finance 	
	Support knowledge management database on finance policy and market developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the database includes a list of finance policies and market innovations in the global agricultural sector highlighting those that are related to the management, reduction, or elimination of hazardous materials and waste within the value chain. • the database template should be aligned to the format/template of the Financial Measures Database in the Green Finance Platform 	End of month 5
Conduct consultations/events with FARM stakeholders	Conduct at least 1 consultations with SMEs, cooperatives and financiers to understand the challenges of their access to finance	End of month 8
	Conduct 1 regional dialogue at FARM biennial forum based on scoping studies	End of month 8
Conduct training for child projects	2 trainings for child projects conducted by region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 training concept notes developed • 2 training summaries developed and published in FARM knowledge platforms and partners' platforms 	End of month 7
	Provide regular expert views/insights in FARM Finance Community of Practice (monthly)	Monthly

All summary reports detailed above should be prepared in English.

5. Qualifications

The selected entity shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Extensive experience with finance in the agri-food sector
- Familiarity with agriculture and finance development programmes
- Prior experience with carrying out agricultural finance research projects similar to this assignment
- Prior experience in conducting trainings to multiple stakeholders
- Prior experience with the GEF and/or other bilateral or multilateral development institutions
- Excellent command of the English language, both written and oral

In addition, the following qualifications are preferred, but not required:

- Ability to conduct consultation and lead discussions with multiple stakeholders
- Experience in database development and management
- Strong networks with financial institutions at country, regional and global level

6. Proposal submission requirements

The proposing organization should provide GGKP with the information below.

General information

- Name of the proposing entity
- Country of origin and registration
- Type of legal entity/organization
- Date of formation
- Address
- Website
- Name of contact person
- E-mail address
- Phone
- number

Technical proposal

- *Organizational profile*: Present a brief description of the proposing entity, including size (number of workers), type of activities carried out and the geographical scope of its work (max 250 words).
- *Demonstrated experience*: Provide samples of work that demonstrate experience with the services listed in Section 3. You may provide a link to an online portfolio.
- *Proposed work plan*: Brief description of how you would conduct the scoping study and develop knowledge products/training, and the timeline for specific deliverables.
- *Staff*: Provide a short biography(ies) and CV(s) of proposed staff, showing expertise required per Section 5.
- *Financial proposal*: Provide a cost estimate for services by using the table below, including anticipated attendance at the FARM biennial forums (see Section 3, Additional Considerations). Please note that the purchase of office equipment, rental of workspace and any other costs associated with the day-to-day operation of the entity are not eligible expenses.

Type of expense	Unit	Cost per unit	Total cost

The proposal should be limited to no more than 10 pages total, excluding CV and references. Applicants are also encouraged to comment on the Call for Proposal and include in their proposal suggestions to enhance the achievement of objectives under this project (e.g. aspect(s) overlooked in the services requests or aspects to refine, etc.).

7. Timeline

Submissions are due **28 June 2024**, no later than **17:00 CEST**. Partial proposals and merged proposals are encouraged. Proposals should be sent by email to Xi CAO, FARM Global Child Project Manager, at xi.cao@un.org, and cc'd to Joe Maina, Administration Assistant, joe.maina@un.org.

8. Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on relevant experience, proposed work approach and value delivered for cost.