

# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) DOCUMENT

FOR

DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

OF

RURAL RESOURCE INFORMATICS CENTRE (RRIC) PROJECT



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## 1. Purpose of the EOI

The National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) is an organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) with a mandate to promote rural higher education. It has been established in 1995 with the purpose of advancement of rural areas through rural higher education based on Gandhian principles.

The Rural Resource Informatics Centre (RRIC) of the NCRI was proposed to equip rural institutes with value-added information and develop them as knowledge centres.

NCRI invites expression of interest, suggestions, recommendations and creative ideas in the design, development, and implementation of Rural Resource Informatics Centre (RRIC). This is not a Request for Proposal (RFP). The information gathered through this EoI will be used to define and identify various approaches and technical solutions capable of meeting the project's current and future needs, and to generate an RFP that promotes vendor competition and creative technical solutions to meet the felt needs.

## 2. Background

Current worldwide thrusts in education and human resource development are placing special emphasis generating information and knowledge-centric initiatives for systematic monitoring, management, coordination of various programmes. It draws attention to the urgent need to raise awareness and promote extensive efforts to develop capabilities and methods to utilise them to further refine and upgrade the current approaches, for wider dissemination and application.

Using knowledge as a tool, an empowered rural India can bridge the rural-urban divide. Knowledge connectivity to rural areas through education, skill training for farmers, artisans and craftsman, and for entrepreneurship can empower communities to mobilise local knowledge and resources for sustainable livelihoods. Information access supported by infrastructure and services to rural communities brings knowledge connectivity to villages. This can be achieved through Rural Institutes (RI) and organisations working in rural areas.

A centralised informatics centre is the need of the hour. It can serve as a focal point for providing knowledge support for planning and for developing conceptual and methodological inputs in design and structure of programmes meant for the rural institutes and organisations working in rural areas to optimise their delivery systems.

## 2.1 About National Council of Rural Institutes

The vision of the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) is unique and centered on Gandhian ethos. Its mission is related to Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas of education so as to take up the challenges of micro-planning at the grassroots level for the transformation of rural areas.

NCRI proposes to closely interact and work with several agencies involved in the area of human resource development with a view to integrate the higher education needs. Modern advancements in technology, especially information technology, receive due emphasis in the new initiatives and endeavors of NCRI.

## 2.2 Rural Resource Informatics Centre (RRIC)

The concept of RRIC is based on the premise that notwithstanding the access to new technologies and availability of information/knowledge/databases in various sectors of development, there are still missing links in the implementation strategies that resulted in a wide gap in the levels of the development between urban and rural areas.

RRIC will also provide value-added services with area specificity as per the needs of Rural Institutes for sustainable rural livelihoods. The role of RRIC would be crucial in creating knowledge capital in helping the Rural Institutes in becoming effective development centres. RRIC, as a knowledge platform, provides support and facilitates Rural Institutes to play an active role at the grassroots level using higher education in bringing about significant changes in rural areas.

RRIC will network with various national and international databases such as ENVIS, NRDMS, NRRMS, educational statistics with DISE--District Information System for Education, and similar other databases to utilise them in providing information services essential for rural advancement.

### 2.3 Rural Institutes as vehicles of Rural Higher Education in providing sustainable livelihoods

Rural Higher education is the conceptual field linking the broad purposes of RRIC and Rural Institutes, the organisational outfits through which the objectives of the RRIC are sought to be realised. This point is being elaborated in the following lines.

Rural Higher Education aims at the alleviation of rural poverty by providing life skills to target population for improved quality of life. The emphasis will be on experiential learning of the rural people as it is sensitive to their indigenous mores and values.

A Rural Institute also aims at creating techno-managerial cadres needed for the development of the specific region, especially with regard to entrepreneurship. It will take up the responsibility of development of a well defined region and will be a facilitator of development in the social and economic self-governance as also the cultural dimension. It will carry out its programmes in collaboration with the local self-governance structures.

NCRI has been focusing its efforts on expanding the number of Rural Institutes. In the RRIC context, we refer to them as potential Rural Institutes. Their number is quite large.

### 2.4 Stakeholders of RRIC

Stakeholders of RRIC primarily include existing and potential Rural Institutes, Nai Talim institutions, other Gandhian institutions such as Ashrams, Gandhian centres of various academic institutions, non-Governmental and voluntary organisations working towards empowering rural people in tune with NCRI objectives. RRIC aims at promoting their extension services, and action research of relevance to the emerging challenges of rural society; economic and industrial activity on the one hand and promotion of new knowledge, expertise, technologies, inventions and R&D efforts of the industry on the other.

## 2.5 Functions of RRIC

1. *Training*: Leadership, promotion of livelihoods, and vocational and entrepreneurship skills
2. *Education*: Curriculum development; design of need-based market-driven vocational/skill development courses
3. *Information*: Providing information on livelihoods, training and vocational programmes, government schemes, etc.; maintenance of community databases on socio-economic indicators, local and natural resource endowments, maps, etc. (for purposes of micro-planning)
4. *Technology*: Identification and propagation of indigenous/local technologies; technology transfer, improvement of rural products through intermediate technologies etc.
5. *Planning and resource utilisation*: Collection and processing of data relevant to planning; identification of indigenous skills, art forms, crafts, etc. for purpose of micro-planning; propagation for the replication of best practices
6. *Processes*: Technological aids for decision making, monitoring and evaluation

## 3 Objectives of the EOI

NCRI is soliciting information regarding approaches for establishing a system by which rural institutes across the nation can be equipped with requisite information that would help them in their programme implementation. NCRI is especially interested in the views and recommendations of individuals and organisations on the best way to develop this capability, with particular regard to receiving information on the **creation of systems that strengthen the collection and dissemination of a wide range of information services** to be made available to Rural Institutes.

NCRI encourages all interested parties / organisations/agencies with requisite potential to respond.

The objectives of this EoI are:

- Definition of the problem.
- Identification of the scope of work outlined in this EoI.

- Organisational apparatus, manpower and technical support systems required at the NCRI and the recipient institutions.
- Approach, strategies, analytical methods, and Implementation methodology of RRIC.
- Possible revenue models to sustain the activities envisaged under the scheme.

This EoI is issued for the purpose of obtaining information for consideration by NCRI on the above items. This EoI does not constitute a commitment to conduct procurement, or an offer of a contract or prospective contract. NCRI shall not be liable for any costs incurred by any potential vendor in the preparation and submission of information in response to this EoI.

Following a review of the prospective vendors' responses, NCRI will shortlist qualified prospective vendors for the purpose of issuing the RFP for preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and soliciting formal proposals. The NCRI may also schedule a vendor forum and/ or contact prospective vendors to request for presentations or submission of more detailed information, if found necessary.

## 4 Project Overview

Rural Resource Informatics Centre (RRIC) supports Rural Institutes in developing integrated rural higher education by equipping them with value-added information.

### 4.1 Envisaged operations/services :

The services required to be undertaken include:

- Advisory/Consultancy services
- Guidance & Referral services
- Need-based information services related to skill development, vocational training, employment, entrepreneurship, marketing of rural products, etc.
- Value added services like identification of user groups, innovators and entrepreneurs in various functional areas
- Conducting need based training programmes for stakeholders

#### 4.2 Desired Outcomes of RRIC include:

- Sector specific resource information
- Assistance in curriculum design for rural higher education / skill development / technology improvement
- Dissemination of need-based information
- Creating a platform for training programmes relevant to the project
- Interface with NCRI segments
- Evaluation of the economic profile and impact assessment
- Identification of viable revenue models for sustenance of the project

#### 5 Proposed Project Timelines

S No.	Event	Schedule Date
1.	Release of EoI	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
2.	Due Date for Submission of Responses to EoI	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2010

#### 6 Response Requirements

Organisations, agencies and companies interested in the above are required to have the following qualifications:

- a) A registered organisation under the various laws of Indian government or State laws and in existence at least for the last 5 years,
- b) Should have an annual turnover of at least Rs 10 crores for the last three years,
- c) A net worth of at least Rs 5 crores for the last three years,
- d) An organisation with at least 75 qualified employees.
- e) Knowledge in educational support programmes,
- f) A demonstrated knowledge and experience of integrating systems
- g) Experience in similar areas of work, if any and the resources available to handle the proposal

Evidence qualifying for all the above should be produced.

Response Date:

1. Responses to this EoI are due on or before 5 p.m., 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010.  
Responses must be submitted to the Coordinator, RRIC, NCRI .

Copies of Response:

2. Respondents must submit one (1) electronic copy in CD format of their response to this EoI to the designated point of contact by the date and time specified in this EoI. Please ensure that the size of the response shall not exceed 50 pages (in double space), including annexures , if any.

## 6.1 Designated Point of Contact

NCRI's official single point of contact for this EoI and the delivery point for responses and correspondence is :

Coordinator,RRIC

National Council of Rural Institutes

(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)

#5-10-174, Shakar Bhavan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500 004

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