

USAID Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan Activity (RASS)

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Issue date: 06, June 2022

Deadline: 20, June 2022

Request No: RASS-JBA-22-0056

Recruitment of two (2) seeds production short term technical Assistants to identify and prioritize sustainable Agricultural practices that will be promoted to increase productivity among the producer groups in DAI/RASS Activity

**NOTICE:** Prospective Consultants who have received this document from a source other than the RASS Activity should immediately contact [rass\\_procurement@rassactivity.org](mailto:rass_procurement@rassactivity.org) and provide their name and mailing address so that any amendments to this RFQ or other solicitation-related communications can be sent directly to them. Any prospective Consultants who fail to register their interest with DAI/RASS assumes complete responsibility if they do not receive communications prior to the closing date of this RFQ. Any amendments to this solicitation will be issued via email.

Issuance of this RFQ in no way obligates DAI to award an Independent Consultant Agreement and Consultants will not be reimbursed for any costs associated with the preparation of their application. No discussions or negotiations are permitted with Consultants under this RFQ. Consultants shall submit their best and final price.

USAID RASS  
Activity



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River side, Stadium Road  
Hai Malakal, Juba, South Sudan  
Tel: +211 929 554 609  
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## Request for Qualifications – Individual Consultant recruitment

**Overview:** DAI Global LLC, a legally registered company in South Sudan and implementer of the USAID-funded Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity, hereby invites eligible Individual Consultants to provide Individual Consultant Services as seeds production technical assistants. The RASS Activity will improve food security and community household recovery and resilience in 13 target counties, reducing long term reliance on humanitarian assistance (HA).

1. RFQ No.	RASS-RFQ-JBA-22-0056
2. Issuance Date	June 06/2022
3. Title	Seeds production technical assistants recruitment
4. Issuing Office	DAI Global LLC USAID-funded RASS Activity Afex Camp River, Hai Malakal, alongside Nile River, Juba, South Sudan
5. Email Address for Submission of Quotations	All quotes must be submitted by email to <a href="mailto:rass_submissions@rassactivity.org">rass_submissions@rassactivity.org</a> with "Consultancy Services for Joint County Planning-Name of consultant" in the email subject line. Any other form of submission will not be accepted.
6. Deadline for Receipt of Quotes	17:00 CAT, 20 <sup>th</sup> June/2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.
7. Submission of Questions / Clarification Requests	Consultants may submit questions and requests for clarifications by email no later than June 20, 2022 at 15:00 CAT. Please only submit questions to: <a href="mailto:rass_procurement@rassactivity.org">rass_procurement@rassactivity.org</a> . All questions received will be compiled and answered in writing and distributed to all registered Consultants.
8. Anticipated Award Type	DAI anticipates awarding an Independent Consultant Agreement (ICA) for the services
9. Basis for Award	Any application that does not meet the technical minimum score of 70 out of 100 points will be rejected. Any application that does not meet the mandatory criteria set out in Attachment B will be rejected. The candidate who meets the selection criteria will be invited for an interview. The final candidates that successfully pass the interview will be recommended for award upon satisfactory reference checks, document verification for successful candidates and screening requirements. To be considered for award, Consultants must follow the instructions provided in this RFQ, submit a complete application (see section 11), and meet all of the requirements identified in Sections 10, 12 and 13 prior to award.
10. Technical Specifications and Requirements	See Attachment A – Terms of references See Attachment B – Evaluation criteria
11. Complete Applications Response	A complete submission in response to this RFQ includes:  1. Attachment C – Application submission form Form 1. CV with relevant attachments

<p>12. General Instructions to Consultants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each seeds production technical assistance is responsible for reading very carefully and understanding fully the terms and conditions of this RFQ. Failure to do so will be at the Consultant's risk.</li> <li>• All communications regarding this solicitation are to be made solely through the Issuing Office and must be submitted via email.</li> <li>• If this RFQ solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions not modified through the amendment shall remain unchanged</li> <li>• By submitting an application, seeds production technical assistance fully understand that their quote must be valid for a period of 30 days, which shall be indicated in the cover letter submission.</li> <li>• Prior to any award the Offeror must meet all determination of responsibility requirements as listed in Box 13.</li> <li>• Consultants shall submit applications</li> </ul>
<p>13. Procurement Ethics</p>	<p>By applying, seeds production technical assistance certify that they have not/will not attempt to bribe or make any payments to DAI employees in return for preference, nor have any payments with Terrorists, or groups supporting Terrorists, been attempted. Any such practice constitutes an unethical, illegal, and corrupt practice and either the Bidders or the DAI staff may report violations to the Toll-Free Ethics and Compliance Anonymous Hotline at +1 855-603-6987, via the DAI website, or via email to <a href="mailto:FPI_hotline@dai.com">FPI_hotline@dai.com</a>.</p>



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## Attachment A

### TERMS OF REFERENCES

#### 1) RASS ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

USAID's four-year (2021-2025) Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity will improve food security and community household recovery and resilience in 13 target counties, reducing long term reliance on humanitarian assistance. To achieve this ambitious aim, RASS will employ a resilience pathways approach to improve the effectiveness of local systems and strengthen the capacities of community groups to achieve gender responsive and diversified market-sensitive production; facilitate increased production of diverse nutritious foods by strengthening productivity, reducing food loss, and improving nutrition behaviours; and strengthen and expand household and community opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods. RASS targets graduating communities from high integrated food security phase classifications to low IPC acute food insecurity and support a change from a focus on humanitarian assistance to inclusive development assistance and economic growth.

USAID has designed the RASS Activity as a vital companion to the many humanitarians' relief and recovery efforts. Layering, sequencing, and integrating development activities with these efforts, RASS will strengthen capacities to sustain gender-responsive, diversified, and market-sensitive agricultural production; increase availability of, access to, and utilization of diverse, safe, and affordable diet; and expand opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods, thereby graduating communities from emergency to insecure, per the IPC classification.

#### 2) BACKGROUND

South Sudan's rural areas are generally remote, with poor infrastructure, limited health and education services, weak institutions, lack of opportunity, and a nascent private sector. Largely outside the formal economy, livelihoods are resource-based and often insufficient to enable households to sustain and recover from reoccurring shocks and stresses and break out of poverty. According to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) scale, most of South Sudan is in a state of acute food insecurity (phase 3), or worse, in a food emergency (phase 4), indicating severe levels of acute and chronic malnutrition.

Extended periods of intense conflict for more than 40 years have weakened social cohesion, eroded trust within and between communities, and resulted in significant levels of trauma and gender-based violence (GBV). Women have had less access and agency in economic, political, and social decision making and opportunities due to existing gender inequalities, patriarchal social norms, and an aggressive form of masculinity. Polygyny and early and forced marriage are legal and constitute an impediment toward women's agency, equality, and result in severe negative consequences for girls/women's health. Historic tensions, a "gun culture," increasing competition for natural resources, lack of employment options, inflation of the "bride price," and the combination of weak infrastructure and unpredictable civil insecurity present a challenging operating environment.



### 3) CONTEXT OF THE SEED PRODUCER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GENERAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A key tenant of resilience programming is convergence, the bringing together of USAID implementing partners (IPs), other donor activities, and the four corners of the local community to work together. By doing this, RASS will focus resources and activities of IPs and other donors to meet prioritized needs as voiced by local communities.

As part of RASS' start-up foundational activities, RASS will facilitate Juba and county-level inception workshops in collaboration with existing USAID implementing partners, other donor activities, and the four corners of the local community—traditional authorities, civil society (including faith-based organizations and women and youth groups), the private sector, and local government—to introduce the RASS Activity to local stakeholders, identify root causes of recurrent crisis in target counties, and define the initial set of activities to be implemented in coordination with partnerships and other implementers and stakeholders during year one.

### 4) PERIOD AND PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is expected from July 1, 2022, and end on October 31, 2022. DAI/RASS will contract the seeds production technical Assistants on the following Level of Efforts (LOE):

	County	Estimated Number of Days for Completion
	Wau and Jur river	Total 32 days per consultant

### 5) EXPECTED RESULTS AND SUPPORT

#### 5.1) RASS expectations of the seeds production technical Assistance.

Under the supervision of the Objective Team Leads that will provide overall technical direction and acceptance of all Seeds Production Technical Assistance deliverables, the Seeds Production Technical Assistance is expected to:

The seed production technical assistance will ensure that farmers are well capacitated and strengthened in seed production, post-harvest handling, and storage. Specifically assisted in critical areas such as:

- **Productions site selection and registration as a seed producer:** Poor choice of land can result in compromised seed quality thus resulting in losses. Ensure that farmers are guided on key aspects of land suitability such as slope, and accessibility, among other factors.
- **Planting:** Planting is a key practice in seed production. Issues such as field preparation, isolation distances, planting time, spacing, seed rate, seeds per station, etc. must be gotten right
- **Field management:** Good agronomic practices are key to quality seed production. The farmers need to be trained in weed control, field inspections, pest and disease control like

scouting, fertilizer application, rouging out of off-types, and others to ensure good quality and quantity of harvestable seed

- **Harvesting and post-harvest handling of seed:** Timely harvesting at the right maturity and moisture content given the lack of artificial drying facilities is critical, otherwise seed is compromised. Choice of natural drying mechanism, e.g., spreading harvested seed in thin layers to expose and allowing wind and sun to dry them, field drying them before harvesting, or using open storage such as in open-sided cribs
- **Seed quality and purity:** Ensure that seed quality assurance procedures and guidelines are applied to pass the minimum quality standards. This includes seed sampling, seed testing (simple tests such as the germination test), and both physical and genetic purity. Farmers need to be equipped with skills to identify features that fall out of acceptable specifications such as removing differently colored, shriveled, broken, or rotting seeds.
- **Seed packaging and storage:** Train farmers on important elements of proper packaging and good storage to minimize the effects of excessive heat and humidity. Prior to distribution, farmers need to store seed appropriately and are encouraged to use uncontaminated storage sack/hermetic bags or cribs, use of pallets, and well-ventilated rooms and spaces.

## 7) QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE SEEDS PRODUCERS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

The seeds producers technical Assistance must possess the following skills and experiences:

### Education and qualifications

- A Bachelor's Degree with 2 years' experience or Diploma in Agriculture/Agronomy or Seed production with 3 years practical experience

### Professional experience

- At least 2 years of field experience in seed production and a good understanding of the associated procedures, processes, and regulatory issues in seed production, conditioning, treating, packaging, and warehouse/storage.
- Knowledge of and experience working with different community-based seed production models like farmers' unions, cooperatives groups, organized out-growers, farmer entrepreneurs, etc.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment to inspire communities to succeed
- Knowledge of English written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of local language for effective communication with farmers

**DAI Organization and Values:** DAI is a global development company with corporate offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, EU, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Palestine and project operations worldwide. We tackle fundamental social and economic development problems caused by inefficient markets, ineffective governance, and instability. DAI works on the frontlines of global development. Transforming ideas into action—action into impact. We are committed to shaping a more livable world.

DAI and its employees are committed to confronting racism and holding ourselves accountable for positive change within the company and in the communities, cultures, and countries in which we live and work. DAI is committed to attracting and retaining the best employees from all races and backgrounds in our continued effort to become a better development partner. DAI upholds the highest ethical standards. We are committed to the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment as well as other ethical breaches. All of our positions are therefore subject to stringent vetting and reference checks.

DAI is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer with a commitment to diversity. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

## ATTACHMENT B EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Mandatory criteria

The seed production technical Assistance will be eliminated if its application does not demonstrate that it meets the following minimum mandatory criteria:

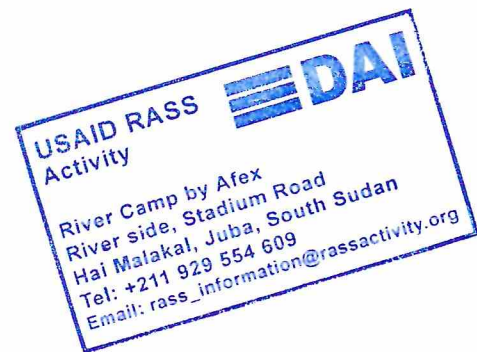
### Evaluation criteria

#	Evaluation criteria	Maximum Points
1	<u>Education and qualifications</u>	20
1.1	A Bachelor's Degree or Certificate/Diploma in Agriculture/Agronomy or Seed production	20
2	<u>Professional experience</u>	80
	2-3 years of field experience in seed production and a good understanding of the associated procedures, processes, and regulatory issues in seed production, conditioning, treating, packaging, and warehouse/storage.	30



#	Evaluation criteria	Maximum Points
2.2	Knowledge of and experience working with different community-based seed production models like farmers' unions, cooperatives groups, organized out-growers, farmer entrepreneurs, etc.	30
2.3	Ability to work independently and in a team environment to inspire communities to succeed	10
2.4	Knowledge of English written and oral communication skills	5
2.5	Knowledge of local language for effective communication with farmers	5
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>100</b>

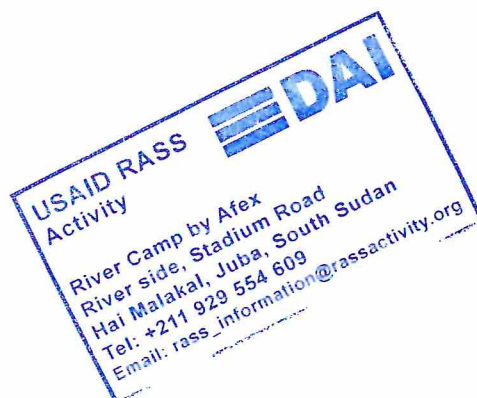
To be qualified, the seed producer technical Assistants, you must obtain a minimum of 70/100 points. The final candidates that successfully pass the interview will be recommended for the award upon satisfactory references.



Attachment C  
APPLICATION'S SUBMISSION FORM

1. Form 1. CV

Seed producer technical Assistants must provide his/her complete and updated CV/Resume with a recent work plan or technical report that was originally authored by him/her. The CV must specify his/her Nationality.



## 2. Form 3. Past performance references

The Seeds Production Technical Assistants must provide at least 3 past performance references information. The Seeds Production Technical Assistants may include any good performance certificate he/she may have received during his/her past performance.

### Reference # 1

Name of Project:	
Location of Project:	
Period of Performance:	
Description of Services Provided:	
Reference Contact Name:	
Reference Contact Number:	

### Reference # 2

Name of Project:	
Location of Project:	
Period of Performance:	
Description of Services Provided:	
Reference Contact Name:	
Reference Contact Number:	

### Reference # 3

Name of Project:	
Location of Project:	
Period of Performance:	
Description of Services Provided:	
Reference Contact Name:	
Reference Contact Number:	

