

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CAPACITY BUILDING SERVICE FOR AGRO-INPUT DEALERS

Mercy Corps is an international non-governmental organization that exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities. Mercy Corps is fully registered as an NGO and has been operational since 2006 in Uganda. Mercy Corps programs, focus on building resilience and enabling economic growth, improving opportunities to attain better health and nutrition, improving governance and conflict management, and providing humanitarian support in different parts of Uganda.

With funding from United States Agency for International Development - USAID, Mercy Corps is implementing a five year USAID Food for Peace Apolou Activity to improve food and nutrition security in the Karamoja Region. The program seeks to create sustainable progress in the region through four interrelated objectives (1) Inclusive and effective governance (2) improved health and nutrition (3) Improved WASH conditions and (4) adolescent specific capacity development.

### The Request

Apolou Recognized that the Karamoja Input business is faced with a few setbacks that have trickled down to farmer access of inputs leading to several shot comes in the food security cluster. Apparently the structure of the input market is structured in way that all the Agro dealers in Karamoja have to access their quality inputs majorly (seed) from recognized National input companies located in Kampala. This long distances between the supplier companies and the Karamoja Agro dealers has contributed to increase in market prices of the inputs leading to farmer incapability to afford such expensive inputs majorly during the seasons of planting. Apolou recognizes that there's need to strengthening technical, financial and institutional capacity of agro-dealers meeting government requirement to do business in agricultural inputs particularly seeds and push them to the level of establishing Karamoja-based regional input outlet and to develop the Karamoja agro input agent networking to village farmer level. This can successfully be done upon capacity gap assessment of agro dealers and their agent networking capability to reach out farmers in need of critical agricultural inputs. Basing on identified gap, provide capacity building support to meet government requirements to do seed business at full capacity, facilitating agent networking and be able to opening village agro-input shop through their agent is what is envisioned in this partnership.

To this effect therefore, Apolou is pleased to announce the request for technical and business proposals filling-in the Expression Of Interest from a willing Registered and certified National input company in Uganda that has the desire and capacity to conduct capacity gap assessment, fill identified gaps of the 9 agro-dealers, realize agro-dealers-agent networking, operationalize the expansion of 5 rural village agricultural shops in 5 less served villages across the four districts of Apolou interventions (Kotido, Kaabong, Moroto and Amudat) and set out a regional input outlet in Karamoja.

### Eligibility Criteria:

To be considered for this program, companies must meet all of the eligibility criteria listed below and provide the required enclosures listed in the EOI form below. Meeting these criteria does not guarantee the company's selection for an award to engage in capacity building activity for agro-dealers:

- Business registration under URA
- Operational license.
- Existing in Uganda.
- Evidence of tax payments.
- Experience in conducting gaps assessment and capacity building of input dealers with evidenced recommendation from third party involved in the training once conducted.
- Fill in Mercy Corps Price Offer sheet.

Request for expression of interest documents can be requested by email from [ugtenders@mercycorps.org](mailto:ugtenders@mercycorps.org) or hard copies can be picked from any of our field offices mentioned above from **16th December 2019**.

To be eligible interested National Input Company must provide evidence that they meet the eligibility criteria specified in this REOI, complete the REOI form, and submit the REOI form and eligibility evidence electronically to the following address [ugtenders@mercycorps.org](mailto:ugtenders@mercycorps.org) OR deliver hard copies sealed in Envelope with subject matter to any of our field offices mentioned above at any time before **January 10th, 2020 at 5:00pm**.