Tender Notice:
Request for Quotation (RFQ) – Conducting Action Research

Subject: Request for Quotation – Action Research on **developing package of practices for Opportunity Crops** to support pathways to Food System Transformation

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Issued by: Abhivyakti Foundation

Background

Abhivyakti Foundation is a registered trust working across Jharkhand and adjoining regions to strengthen sustainable agriculture and community-led development. As part of our Food System Transformation program, we are inviting research institutes/universities to submit quotations to conduct an action research on developing package of practices for opportunity crops and Neglected & Underutilised Species (NUS) based on experiences from two landscapes located in Deoghar (Jharkhand) and Koraput (Odisha).

Problem Statement:

Despite having rich biodiversity, Deoghar (Jharkhand) and Koraput (Odisha) face high rates of malnutrition and climate vulnerability. The agricultural landscape has shifted towards high-input, paddy-wheat-centric monocultures that have already displaced climate-resilient indigenous crops integral to local food systems. This dangerous systemic shift has triggered not only genetic erosion of indigenous species like millets and tubers, pulses, oilseeds, NTFP, etc but also manifested in to a multiple crisis in the ecosystem resulting due to higher dependency on expensive chemical inputs leading to making essential nutrients less available to plants. loss of organic matter, disruption of soil biology, there by transition to starch-heavy diets, nutritional hunger and economic fragility.

Keeping that in mind, this **action research** aims to address the ecological and nutritional decline in the Deoghar and Koraput landscapes by positioning Opportunity Crops and Neglected and Underutilised Species (NUS) at the centre of food system transformation. By implementing field trials in both landscapes, the study will develop package of practice for few selected opportunity crops. This shift is critical to addressing genetic erosion and nutritional poverty, as it seeks to restore a "local food basket" that is culturally aligned and ecologically adapted, mostly nurtured through natural/ecological farming practices. Beyond the field, the research will present the evidence in a formal publication designed for policy dialogue.

Objectives

To identify and develop agronomic practices for some selected NUS/opportunity crops suitable for Deoghar and Koraput landscapes.

Action points

1. **Participatory Mapping & Knowledge Building:** Document extent of opportunity crops and Neglected and Underutilised Species (NUS) (millets, tubers, pulses, forest foods or any other) with their economic, ecological and social relevance. And

priorities 3~4 such crops per location through participatory exercises.

2. **Co-Design Field Trials:** Conduct field trials in the farmer's field to identify suitable package of practice under various conditions (eg. Mixed cropping, intercropping, monocropping) and ecological treatments.
3. **Policy paper:** Leverage the data, yields, and narratives gathered from the field trial and develop PoP, research documents and policy brief for promotion of the opportunity crops/NUS.

Proposed Landscapes

- Deoghar, Jharkhand: Characterised by undulating terrain and forest-fringe communities.
- Koraput, Odisha: A GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System) site.

Scope of Work

The selected institute will be responsible for:

- Documenting existing OC/NUS crops with its social, ecological, ecological importance.
- Designing and implementing participatory field trials in Koraput and Deoghar.
- Conducting agronomic optimization and soil health studies.
- Preparing evidence-based reports and publications for policy dialogue.
- Ensuring farmer/community participation in the process.

Deliverables

- Detailed research design and methodology.
- Documentation of OC/NUS crops
- Field trial data and analysis reports.
- Package of practice
- Final Action Research Report.
- Policy briefs and dissemination materials.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested institutes must submit:

A. Technical Proposal

- Institutional profile and relevant experience in agroecology/NUS research.
- Proposed methodology and work plan.
- Team composition and expertise.

- Timeline for completion.

B. Financial Proposal (see format below).

Financial Proposal Format

Cost Head (For Example, see below)	**Details**	**Amount (INR)**
Research Design & Planning		
Field Trials (inputs, logistics)		
Data Collection & Analysis		
Documentation & Reporting		
Dissemination & Policy level documentation		
Total Quotation Amount		

4. Evaluation Criteria

Quotations will be evaluated based on:

- Technical soundness and methodology.
- Institutional credibility and past experience.
- Financial competitiveness within available budget.
- Ability to engage with tribal, small, and marginal farmers.

5. Submission Deadline

All quotations must be submitted by 20th November, 2026

Send your proposal with Technical and financial bids to Email:
procurements@avfindia.org

All bids in this response to this tender shall have a clear subject line as follows:

Subject Line: *Quotation – Conducting Action Research on NUS*