**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP-BPBR01)**

IFAD-ICRAF PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE BIOFUEL CROPS

**About the organization**

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) is an independent research institution which generates science-based knowledge about the complex role trees play in agricultural landscapes and rural livelihoods. As part of the Centre’s work to bring tree-based solutions to bear on poverty and environmental problems, researchers – working in close collaboration with partners – are developing new technologies, tools and policy recommendations for increased food security and ecosystem health.

The Centre’s headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya, and research is conducted in 31 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and receive funding from over 50 different donors.

To learn more about our organization, please visit our website: [www.worldagroforestry.org](http://www.worldagroforestry.org)

**Background**

Supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the four-year ***IFAD-ICRAF Programme for the Development of Alternative Biofuel Crops*** is being implemented by the World Agroforestry Centre in India, Brazil, and Africa, in partnership with global centres of excellence. The Programme comprises three complementary components: research and development; local energy provision to enhance food security (through the development of pilot subprojects); and knowledge sharing and capacity building, together with policy studies and awareness campaigns.

By pursuing a landscape approach, the Programme targets integrated food and energy systems while promoting native, non-edible, and multifunctional crops such as macauba, pongamia, simarouba and neem. These are underdeveloped crops with high potential for energy production (along with animal feed, fertilizers, and other co-products) and GHG savings, many of which grow well on marginal and degraded lands.

In Brazil, the Programme focuses on addressing, through partnerships, current research gaps that limit the development and scaling up of pro-poor value chains based on the production of biofuels and co-products from macauba (*Acrocomia aculeata*). Experiences with silvopastoral systems have shown that high seedling costs represent an investment barrier and thus limit growth trajectories of the macauba industry in the country, which is still in its infancy. Associated with relatively long payback periods (since fruit production starts only after 4-5 years), such high costs discourage the integration of smallholder farmers into the value chain. Therefore, developing cost efficient means and techniques to produce macauba seedlings, plant and maintain them in the first years is highly relevant for inclusive agroforestry systems based on macauba.

**Purpose of this Request for Proposal**

The World Agroforestry Centre hereby invites public and private organizations to submit proposals for partnering with ICRAF in the context of the Programme for the Development of Biofuel Crops, envisaging the optimization of production processes for macauba seedlings, as well as for their cost-efficient integration into existing pastures in Brazil. In particular, the proposals must target the following specific objectives:

1. Improve the processes to produce macauba seedlings in a cost efficient manner:
   * Identify the most cost efficient way to break seed dormancy; and
   * Assess the production technique for saplings.
2. Integrate saplings in pastures in cooperation with smallholder farmers:
   * Optimize planting techniques;
   * Optimize maintenance: irrigation, fertilization, clearing; and
   * Evaluate how to protect saplings from cattle.
3. Demonstrate the potential of co-products from macauba value chains:
   * Review literature and compile case studies of current experiences in Latin America.

**Duration of Assignment**

June 2014 – May 2016

**Qualification and expertise**

Applicants should ensure an appropriate mix of the following:

1. Technical knowledge of biological and agronomic aspects of oilseed crops, in particular macauba;
2. Demonstrated experience in developing pro-poor bioenergy value chains, especially with macauba; and
3. Relevant experience with silvopastoral systems and smallholder cooperatives in Brazil.

**Proposal details**

The proposal should include the following:

1. Institutional information on the applicant organization and its proposed partners, if any;
2. CVs of the key personnel who will be assigned to carry out the work;
3. Details of the qualifications and experience of the institution and individuals relevant to this assignment;
4. Detailed work plan with the proposed methodology, strategy and specific activities, as well as expected results, including full justification for procedures to be adopted;
5. Financial proposal in USD; and
6. Three references (with contact details) on recent relevant work by the organization or/and key personnel to be assigned.

**Budget**

The maximum budget available for this entire assignment is USD 100,000.

**Award of contract**

Proposals could form the basis for a contract (partnership agreement) between the applicant institution and ICRAF. This letter is not to be construed in any way as an offer to contract with any institution. The World Agroforestry Centre reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to annul the solicitation process and reject all Proposals at any time prior to the awarding of the contract, without incurring any liability to the applicant or any obligation to inform any of the applicants of the grounds for its action.

ICRAF will award the contract to the qualified applicant whose proposal, after being evaluated by an internal committee chaired by the Director of the Programme for the Development of Alternative Biofuel Crops, is considered by the committee to be the most competitive and appropriate for the required assignment. The award of the contract will also be subject to prior assessment by ICRAF of the financial management capability of the intended implementing partner, as well as the satisfactory provision of any additional institutional information that may be requested by the Centre.

**Submission**

Proposals, including a cover letter, must be submitted online to [n.sablok@cgiar.org](mailto:n.sablok@cgiar.org) (with the reference code RFP-BPBR01on the subject line) until **16 May 2014**.

Please note that only short-listed applicants meeting the above requirements will be contacted.

Further information on the IFAD-ICRAF Programme for the Development of Alternative Biofuel Crops is available at: <http://worldagroforestry.org/research/climate_change/projects/alternative-biofuel-crops>