

Expression of Interest (EOI)

For

Establishment of Rice Processing Units and Cold Storage Units for Farmer Market Collectives (FMCs) of Rice and Fisheries Value Chains

1. Background

Sindh Agricultural and Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO), started its developmental journey from a small initiative, launched in 1986 by a group of five social activists led by Mr. Suleman G. Abro. Concerned about depleting sources of livelihood and employment, increasing poverty and social deprivation in rural Sindh and propelled by its own vision of sustainable, equitable and just society, SAFWCO initiated a process of social mobilization in District Sanghar initially. It was apparent at that time that there will be no effective grass roots development and real improvement in living standards of the poor, without an integrated development initiative focused at targeting development initiative focused at targeting poverty from different aspects. From beginning, social mobilization has been a key aspect of SAFWCO's development strategy. SAFWCO started its activities with an objective to facilitate people's participation in development on self-help basis; and facilitating to build institutional infrastructure in their villages to achieve the goal of sustainable development. SAFWCO believes in institutional building at grass roots level to support in bringing social change in the society. Hence a common platform that is created and owned by the poor is a pre-requisite through which the poor can make themselves count in the development process. It has made social mobilization as core activity and entry point followed by different development interventions including social and physical service delivery projects, coordinating and networking while emphasizing on gender balance and good governance.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) was established in 1962. It is today one of the largest private organizations working in the area of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in Germany. The organization is non-profit-seeking, non-partisan and non-denominational. Donations from the population at large fund our work in over 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, WHH receives grants from the Federal German Government, the European Union, and the United Nations for International Development.

SAFWCO has partnered with Welthungerhilfe (WHH-an International NGO) for the project titled "Support for Agricultural Micro-Enterprises and Integration in Value Chains to Increase Food Security in Thatta".

The project aims to improve food security in Thatta, strengthen smallholder farmers and fisheries producers through value chain development, enterprise promotion, and collective marketing mechanisms. Under the project, Farmers Enterprise Groups (FEGs) and Farmers Market Collectives (FMCs) have been formed to support collective production, processing, storage, and marketing.

To strengthen FMC enterprises and reduce post-harvest losses, SAFWCO plans to establish Rice Processing Units and Fisheries Cold Storage Facilities in District Thatta.

SAFWCO therefore invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified suppliers/companies for following:

2. Objective of the EOI

The purpose of this Expression of Interest (EOI) is to identify technically competent suppliers and companies with relevant experience in establishing rice processing units and fisheries cold storage facilities. Through this EOI, SAFWCO intends to gather technical information and potential solutions from the market for the establishment of enterprise facilities for the rice and fisheries value chains in District Thatta.

These facilities will support Farmers Market Collectives (FMCs) in improving product handling, storage, processing, and marketing.

3. Planned Facilities

SAFWCO plans to establish the following enterprise facilities in District Thatta:

Facility type	Description
Rice Processing Unit	Small-scale rice processing unit for milling, sorting, grading, and packaging
Fisheries Cold Storage Facility	Cold storage and fish handling facility for maintaining fish quality and reducing post-harvest losses

Interested suppliers/companies are expected to propose technically appropriate solutions, and list of equipment with specifications, and BOQ suitable for rural enterprise operations.

4. Scope of Work

The vendor/company will be responsible for:

- Plan a visit for SAFWCO to their already existed rice processing unit and/or cold storage
- Site assessment and technical recommendations
- Facility (Rice Processing Unit and/or Cold Storage for Fisheries) design and layout planning
- Preparation of Bill of Quantities (BOQ)

The vendor/company must ensure that the proposed systems are efficient, durable, and appropriate for small-scale rural enterprises.

4.1 Fisheries Cold Storage Facility

The fisheries cold storage facility should include appropriate systems for fish storage and handling. The vendor/company is expected to propose a suitable technical solution that may include:

- Cold storage/freezer unit (approximately -5°C to -10°C)
- Insulated cold storage room or prefabricated cold room
- Refrigeration system and temperature control equipment
- Fish handling tables and storage racks
- Fish weighing scales
- Fish packaging tools or equipment
- Solar with basic electrical and safety installations

The system should ensure maintenance of fish quality and reduction of spoilage losses.

4.2 Rice Processing Unit

The rice processing unit should support small-scale processing operations and may include:

- Rice husker or mini rice mill
- Rice polishing or milling equipment
- Rice grading and sorting equipment
- Rice cleaning equipment
- Weighing scales
- Rice packing machine
- Storage bins and handling equipment
- Solar system for machinery operation
- Basic office equipment for enterprise management
- Storage bags (Hermetic bags)

The unit should improve processing efficiency, product quality, and market readiness of rice produced by smallholder farmers.

5. Eligibility Criteria

Interested suppliers or companies must meet the following criteria:

- Legally registered with SECP/FBR with valid NTN
- Demonstrated experience in similar assignments
- Availability of technical staff for installation and maintenance

Experience working with development organizations or donor-funded projects will be an added advantage.

6. Required Documents

Interested suppliers are requested to submit the following documents:

- Company profile
- Proof of company registration
- Similar Purchase Orders of the Previous Work (If any)
- Technical experience and capacity of the firm
- Brief concept proposal describing the proposed technical solution

7. Submission of Expression of Interest

Interested suppliers may submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) at the following email addresses

satram.suther@safwco.org

waheedhyder.zaor@safwco.org

Deadline for submission: **24 March 2026**