

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST (REOI)
NATIONAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST FOR FOOD AND DRUG DEPARTMENT
TO SUPPORT COMPONENT 3.1
REFERENCE No. DOA – ICS – 099

The Government of Lao PDR, through MPWT, MAE, MOIC, MOPS, MOH, and MOF, is implementing the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity Project under financing from the World Bank's International Development Association. The project duration is six years, from the fourth quarter of 2022 to May 2028.

The project aims to improve domestic and regional transport connectivity and logistics facilities, supported by policy reforms to increase economic activity along selected transport corridors in Northern Lao PDR. The project supports transport and logistics improvements, trade facilitation, border crossing management, and agricultural trade along the National Road 2 corridor and in five corridor catchment provinces, Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, Oudomxay, Xayabouli, and Luangprabang. NR2 is 295 km long and forms part of the ASEAN Highway network, with NR2 West linking to Thailand via Huai Kone and NR2 East linking to Vietnam via Tay Trang in Dien Bien Phu province. The corridor crosses the Lao China rail corridor at Muang Xai, creating opportunities for multimodal connectivity on both north south and east west routes connecting Lao PDR with Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, and China, and supporting the national objective to become a land linked country through increased investment, trade, and jobs.

The Project Development Objectives are to improve regional and domestic trade and climate resilient transport connectivity along an east west corridor in Southeast Asia, and to provide immediate and effective response in case of an eligible crisis or emergency.

Capacity building for SPS management focuses on strengthening MAE, MOH, PAFOs, DAFOs, and border checkpoints to improve compliance with SPS requirements and reduce trade barriers in targeted provinces and districts. Key activities include technical assistance to review and improve SPS related legislation, training to strengthen institutional and operational capacity in SPS management, and technical assistance to assess, upgrade, and accredit or recognize laboratory testing services.

The project includes activities under Component 3.1 to strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary and food safety systems, including laboratory services that support regulatory decision making and trade facilitation. The National Center for Food and Drug Analysis (NCFDA), Food and Drug Department, Ministry of Health is a key national institution for food safety testing. Reliable laboratory results are required to support risk-based controls, food safety compliance, and acceptance of test results by national authorities and trade partners. The NCFDA Food Safety Laboratory requires structured support to align laboratory technical operations with ISO IEC 17025 requirements, implement Good Laboratory Practice, strengthen method performance, and establish the core mandatory SOP package for accreditation readiness.

The Department Planning and Finance, Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) now intends to engage a qualified and experienced National Laboratory Management Specialist for Food and Drug Department to Support the Component 3.1, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental (MAE) to undertake the tasks under Component 3 as described in the Terms of Reference (ToR). The full ToR for the assignment can be found at the following website <http://ppmd.mof.gov.la> or can be sent to candidates upon written request to the e-mail address below.

The total estimated input for this assignment is full-time (time-based) for twelve (12) months with possibility of renewal based on satisfactory performance review and Project requirements. The assignment is expected to start in August 2026.

Interested Consultant should provide information (CV, Expression of Interest, other supporting information, if any) demonstrating that s/he has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Food Chemistry, or a closely related field.
- Minimum 5 years of professional experience in testing laboratories, with practical experience supporting food safety testing, laboratory operations, technical documentation and implementation of quality system.
- Working knowledge of ISO/IEC 17025 requirements, Good Laboratory Practice, document control, laboratory records management and laboratory implementation follow-up.
- Practical familiarity with analytical instrumentation and laboratory workflows relevant to pesticide residue, mycotoxin analysis including aflatoxin, and heavy metal testing in food matrices is desirable.
- Practical experience operating and troubleshooting advanced analytical instrumentation, including GC MS or GC MS MS, LC MS MS or HPLC, and AAS or ICP systems as applicable to the laboratory scope is desirable.
- Fluency in both Lao and English, written and spoken.
- Strong computer literacy with full command of MS Office for documentation, data review, and reporting.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" 4th edition of November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **10 July 2026, 17:00** o'clock Lao time (submissions via email are also acceptable). Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Project Management Unit, Department Planning and Finance (DPF)
Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Attention: Mr. Vannasone K. Thepvongsa, Deputy Director General, DPF
Email: proc.dpf.mpwt@gmail.com with Cc: ssouphanh@gmail.com and maxmahaxay11@hotmail.com.



Mr. Vannasone K. Thepvongsa

Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Finance (DPF - MPWT)
Deputy Head of Project Procurement Committee
Date: 22 June 2026