



CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP No: KCIC/2025/191

Research and Knowledge Management Spoke Partner

Client: Kenya Climate Innovation Center

Country: Kenya

Issued on: 24th March 2025



Terms of Reference (TOR)

Research and Knowledge Management Spoke Partner

1. Background

The Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC), with funding from the Mott Foundation, is implementing a Distributed Renewable Energy Ecosystem Model (DREEM) HUB and Spoke Model project in Kenya over a three years period, aimed at reducing Greenhouse gas emission that causes climate change by facilitating the increased adoption of solar energy for Productive purposes within Key agricultural value chains while enhancing community livelihood transformation through youths and women Agri solar entrepreneurship development, skill development, deploying innovative financing and enhancing market access opportunities.

The DREEM Hub operates under a Hub-and-Spoke model, where KCIC serves as the central coordinating unit (Hub), while various spoke partners provide specialized services, including access to finance, skills development, enterprise support, community impact, and research & knowledge management. The program is being implemented in **four counties (Kitui, Isiolo, Makueni, and Laikipia)** and targeting 15 dairy and horticulture farmers cooperatives/groups, with a long-term vision to expand to other counties and value chains.

2. Objective

As part of the DREEM Hub and Spoke Model, KCIC is seeking a Spoke partner to implement the **Research and Knowledge Management pillar**. The objective of this partnership is to generate research-driven knowledge products that will inform the best practices and guide the scale-up of solar-powered solutions in agriculture. The selected partner will collaborate closely with other spoken partners to ensure the successful execution of this component.

3. Scope of Work

The selected Research and Knowledge Management Partner will be responsible for:

A. Conduct Research to generate knowledge-based products

The partner will conduct in-depth research to address key areas related to Agrisolar technology and its integration into Kenya's agricultural sector, including:

- Solar energy needs in agriculture: Can solar energy meet these needs? Are additional renewable energy sources required?



- Agrisolar Technology assessment: Evaluation of efficiency, existing gaps, emerging technologies, and potential innovations in Agrisolar solutions. What are the market dynamics in Agrisolar adoption/PUSE sector?
- Scalability: How scalable are Agrisolar technologies? And what are the barriers to widespread adoption?
- Policy and regulation analysis: How do policies, regulations and financial incentives influence agrisolar adoption?
- DREEM Hub interventions documentation: Research on technological, financial, and capacity-building interventions.

B. Knowledge Product Development

The Spoke partner will develop research-based products to facilitate knowledge dissemination, inform policy, and support the scaling of PUSE solutions. These may include but are not limited:

- Case studies showcasing DREEM Hub interventions and outcomes.
- Best practices guide for utilizing Agrisolar solutions.
- Technical insights into solar energy technologies used in agriculture.
- Impact/success stories measuring program effectiveness.
- Policy position papers aimed at driving sector-wide impact and sector-wide learning.
- Capacity-building webinars on Agrisolar technology, policy, and business models.
- Market feasibility and technology feasibility studies identify potential for scaling Agrisolar solutions.
- Business model documentation to support the development of financially viable Agrisolar enterprises.

NOTE: KCIC will rely on the spoke partner's advisory for additional research products to be conducted during the program's lifecycle.

C. Program reporting

- Submit quarterly narrative and financial reports on progress and research findings.
- Support KCIC's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team in conducting semiannual and annual impact assessments.
- **Impact assessment:** The spoke partner may be called upon to support program evaluation / impact studies beyond the program period.



4. Deliverables

The partner is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- Periodic Research studies- In-depth analyses addressing key knowledge gaps, emerging technologies, market dynamics, policy shift etc in agrisolar adoption/PUSE sector
- Case studies- Documented implementation success and lessons learned
- Best practice guides and technical reports- Comprehensive resources on solar energy applications in agriculture.
- Policy recommendations and advocacy materials- Position papers aimed at driving sector-wide impact.
- Capacity-building sessions- organize and deliver Webinars for agrisolar entrepreneurs and stakeholders.
- Progress reports- Regular updates on activities, milestones, outcomes, and key insights.

Note: Interested firms should propose quantifiable deliverables aligned with their quoted budget.

5. Duration and Location

This DREEM Hub's Research and Knowledge management spoke pillar will be over a period of **24 months**, commencing on the date of signing of partnership agreement, with the possibility of extension based on performance and funding availability.

6. Qualifications and Experience

The ideal Spoke Partners' must meet the following criteria:

- a) Proven expertise in research and knowledge management, particularly in renewable energy nexus in agriculture.
- b) A track record of developing knowledge products such as case studies, policy briefs/position papers, impact/success stories and best practices guides.
- c) Experience in the productive use of solar energy (PUSE) in agriculture, especially in the dairy and horticulture sectors.
- d) Strong technical expertise in Agrisolar technologies and their application.
- e) Capacity to deliver high-quality research and knowledge products within set timelines.
- f) Membership in a recognized professional research body is an added advantage.



7. Application deadline and Submission Details

The submission for both technical and financial proposals on two different zip folders should be submitted to this official email: procurement@kenyacic.org by **4:00pm on Wednesday 16th April 2025**.

Any proposal received after the deadline will not be opened, and no amendments to the technical or financial proposals will be accepted after the deadline. Proposals submitted in contrast to the instructions given above will not be accepted by the KCIC.

All inquiries relating to the TOR shall be communicated in written form to the above-mentioned email address.

Evaluation Criteria

Technical proposal (15-page):

- Approach and methodology
- **24-months** (2 years) Implementation plan
- examples of similar tasks (e.g. past research or projects in solar adoption in agriculture value chains (Dairy and horticulture) for productive use)
- Profiles of the key project team that would work on this project

Financial proposal (KES).

- Provide a Budget breakdown
- Propose a payment schedule (Grant disbursement will be structured around milestone-based deliverables)

The Technical and financial proposal will be assessed based on; The methodology and approach, Relevant experience in conducting impact assessments and research, Understanding of the dairy and horticulture value chains in Kenya, Expertise of the proposed team and Cost-effectiveness of the proposed budget.