



**Call for Expressions of Interest**  
**TO SELECT CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**  
**PROJECT “REGIONAL TRAINING NETWORK FOR SCALING UP OF**  
**PRO-POOR VALUE CHAIN PROGRAMMES”**

**Background**

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (<https://www.helvetas.org/>) and Hivos (<https://www.hivos.org/>), which are not-for-profit organisations, are implementing a 4-year project, the **Regional Training Network for scaling up of Pro-poor value chain initiatives** (hereinafter **the Project**), funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The overall goal of the Project is that Governments and IFAD implementing partners in the Asia Pacific Region, specifically Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam are identifying, designing, successfully implementing, measuring and scaling up pro-poor value chain initiatives that increase incomes of the rural poor.

For this purpose, a network of regional and national training and service providers will be established and strengthened, to provide technical expertise and training required to support IFAD’s executing partners. The network will develop and offer trainings and associated technical services to a range of clients on a sustainable pricing basis.

Establishing the Regional Training Network (**RTN**) on Value Chains requires the identification of qualified regional/national training partners (hereinafter **Centers of Excellence**) with competencies in the value chain programming, certified trainers and relevant training curricula responsive to client demands. The selected Centers of Excellence will become members of the RTN.

The Project will support the Centers of Excellence with updated curricula and master training programs as well as support for network formation and management. The Centers of Excellence will be able to provide technical expertise and training required to support IFAD’s executing partners in developing and scaling up pro-poor value chain initiatives as well as utilise their new expertise and network membership to sell training services to other clients. They shall actively participate in knowledge sharing of the network; and act as a part of a Board to manage the RTN. They shall be part of a research team with other national academia to undertake policy research, which will use evidence to

develop relevant policy briefs and recommendations and support scaling up of effective value chain initiatives and approaches.

### **Details of the Call**

This Call for Expressions of Interest aims to select qualified training organisations to become members of the RTN to provide technical expertise and trainings for IFAD executing partners on value chains.

The Project Coordination Unit, on behalf of IFAD, will manage this call and oversee the selection process.

Interested organizations are invited to respond to this call of interest by supplying the requested organizational information and addressing the following selection criteria:

1. Experience in providing training on value chain analysis or market-system based approaches.
2. Network of staff or associates down to local level.
3. Experience in implementation of value chain development projects and programs in addition to training on value chain analysis.
4. Membership and (preferably) demonstrated leadership roles in other networks
5. Existing international linkages and exchange
6. Experience in research, training or project implementation related to social inclusion

The expected result of this Call is a shortlist of Centers of Excellence that qualify as prospective members of the Regional Training Network on Value Chains. Shortlisted applicants shall be invited to submit a detailed proposal for final selection of Centers of Excellence that will participate in the Project and participate in the RTN board.

### **Who can apply under this Call?**

This Call is open on equal terms and without distinction of origin to any organisations legally established and located in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Myanmar. Public and private organisations who have experiences and expertise in provision of training and services in value chain and market system development can express their interest to the Call.

### **Procedure for submission of Expression of Interest**

Expression of interest must be filled-in in English using the standard application form

The expression of interest should be submitted electronically to the following email address: [Helvetas.vietnam@helvetas.org](mailto:Helvetas.vietnam@helvetas.org)

Request for clarification can be made at the email address given above. All written communications in the frame of this Call must be in English language.

**Deadline for submission of expressions of interest**

The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is **30th June 2016, 23:00 Hanoi time.**