

**Aga Khan Rural Support Programme**

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The Regional Programme Office of Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) under the FCDO funded project Building Resilience and Addressing Vulnerability to Emergencies (BRAVE) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the qualified Research Experts based in Gilgit Region, for the following topics.

### **Seed Germination in Extreme Environments (Ghizer)**

* Research how seeds of various plants, crops and various vegetable species germinate under extreme environmental conditions, such as high saline soil, extreme temperatures, or high altitudes. Research focus would around identification of species that are more resilience and climatic to conditions.

### **Climate Change and Its Effects on Fish Population Dynamics (Ghizer)**

* Investigate how climate change (e.g., temperature changes, altered precipitation patterns) impacts fish populations and restocking efforts in lakes. Following the comprehensive approach that covers various aspects of climate change impacts on local fish population

1. **THE STUDY OF DOMESTIC CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS (ASTORE)**

**Term Of reference**

**About the Organization:**

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is a private non-profit company, established by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) to help improve the quality of life of the people of Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral (GBC). The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) has been working in Gilgit Baltistan and Chitral since 1982.

**About the Project:**

The British High Commission (BHC) Pakistan has allocated funds for the "Building Resilience and Addressing Vulnerability" (BRAVE) initiative, assigning Concern Worldwide as the lead organization. The primary objective of BRAVE is to enhance climate resilience in Pakistan, focusing on strengthening the Government of Pakistan (GOP) and local communities' capacity to respond and adapt to climate-related shocks. The program's emphasis is on establishing adaptive shock protection systems, with a target of beneficiaries of 1.5 million individuals across five climate-affected districts.

Following consultations with stakeholders, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and other BRAVE partners, the program expanded its scope to include the Gilgit and Chitral region. Concern Worldwide manages funds and reports to FCDO, leading a consortium that includes The Aga Khan Foundation, this collaborative effort underscores a collective commitment to addressing climate challenges and building resilience in vulnerable communities.

Keeping in view the target districts under Phase 1, the **Knowledge Hub** (Ghizer and Astore) formed comprised of the relevant line departments at district levels. The knowledge hub in BRAVE project helps technical backstopping and provides technical knowledge in different CSA, IPM, Watershed management models and other activities with climate change lenses at district level. Knowledge Hubs will generate evidence of the best practices and will regularly backstop the policy and advocacy campaigns through advance knowledge with government line departments and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the recommendation of Knowledge hub AKRSP is seeking for experienced researchers to conduct research on the above-mentioned topics.

Researcher on these topics will involve the local rural communities’ indigenous knowledge and practices by identifying gaps in existing policies and developing recommendations for integrating climate resilience practices.

**Scope of the work:**

The BRAVE project is designed to build climate resilience and adaptation in vulnerable communities in Ghizer and Astore Districts. The project focuses on implementing innovative solutions for climate resilience, with an emphasis on engaging with local communities, government authorities, and other stakeholders.

This research will involve gathering and analyzing indigenous knowledge from the rural communities in Ghizer and Astore Districts. The focus will be evaluating the performance of current plants, crops, vegetable species, fish in the lakes and medicinal plants under extreme weather conditions specific to these districts. Based on research findings, provide recommendations for cultivation of high value resilient species in extreme environments and climate smart agriculture practices. The results of the research could support policy advocacy, and the development of tailored climate smart agricultural practices suited to the local environment.

**Qualifications:**

* A master’s degree or higher in Environmental Science and Agriculture.
* At least 5 years of experience in conducting research related to climate change effects, indigenous knowledge regarding plants, crops, vegetables, fish and medicinal plants, Agro-ecological zones, or related areas, preferably in Gilgit Baltistan and the Chitral regions or similar mountainous areas.
* Extensive experience in field data collection, especially in rural and remote areas like District Ghizer and Astore, with a strong understanding of local customs, languages, and social dynamics.
* Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and local languages (e.g., Shina, Khuwar, Brushashki, Wakhi).
* Strong organizational skills, with experience in managing research projects, timelines, and budgets.
* Ability to work collaboratively with local communities, universities, and government institutions.
* Share at least two research papers Published by the researcher.