

Invitation for bids for the development of an Agricultural Value Chain Automation System/software

Issued by: Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation Trust

Date: 15 September 2025

Submission Deadline: 26 September 2025

1. Introduction

Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organisation (TSURO) Trust is seeking proposals from experienced software development companies who have developed automated systems for Zimbabwe's agricultural marketing value chains. The purpose of this platform is to empower farmers, enhance agricultural productivity, and streamline interactions between various stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

2. Background

Zimbabwe's agricultural sector faces numerous challenges, including inefficiencies in communication, lack of access to markets, and insufficient financing options. TSURO Trust with financial support from the World Peace Service (WFD) is implementing a 5 year project in Chimanimani entitled "Bringing back biodiversity and water tables; scaling up agro-ecology for food security and environmental protection". As part of this big project, one of the main thematic areas of the project is supporting farmers in Cashel Valley irrigation schemes to improve their livelihoods and income levels by producing for known markets, a process we call market-led production. The project also aims to support farmers aggregate their produce and sell through Nhedziwa Farmers Market (A very spacious and elaborate infrastructure supported by World Vision). The proposed software or e-platform is therefore meant to be housed and used at Nhedziwa farmers market for storing both farmers' and buyers' information and also processing farmers' payments in relation to deliveries as may be necessary. This platform aims to provide a comprehensive solution that connects farmers with buyers and other stakeholders.

3. Features and Objectives

We seek a system with a comprehensive backend administration, mobile (iOS/Android) and web application with offline capabilities covering:

- Farmer profiling and registration
- Production planning and tracking
- Market linkages and price discovery
- Advisory services and best practices

- Auction and Online Ordering Sales Platform
- Payments via escrow accounts, distributing funds accordingly after delivery
- Virtual wallet system linked to bank or mobile money providers.
- Notifications for user activities, approvals, and transaction updates through SMS, email, or WhatsApp.
- Multi-language support (local languages essential)
- OTP-based registration and approval process for all users.

4. Technical Requirements

- The platform must be mobile-friendly and accessible across different devices.
- It should be built using scalable technologies to accommodate future enhancements.
- Ensure data security, adhere to international standards and compliance with local regulations.
- Provide user-friendly/clean interfaces for all stakeholders.

5. Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested companies should submit the following:

1. Company profile, including relevant experience in software development for agricultural marketing or related sectors.
2. Detailed product specification outlining all system modules, data flow, implementation strategy, timelines, and budget.
3. Proposed deployment approach, support and maintenance plan post-deployment.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- System functionalities and proof of live similar platforms.
- Technical approach and innovation.
- Cost-effectiveness.

- Project timeline and deliverables.
- Quality of previous work and references.

9. Submission of bids

Technical and financial proposals together with the specified accompanying attachments to be send strictly by email to the following address before close of business on Friday 26 September 2025

consultancy@tsurotrust.org