

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Validation/Verification Body Assessment of VCS Methodology for Improved Management in Paddy Rice Production Systems

February 15, 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

Verra is a global leader helping to tackle the world’s most intractable environmental and social challenges. As a mission-driven nonprofit organization, Verra is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving livelihoods, and protecting natural resources by working with the private and public sectors. We support climate action and sustainable development with standards programs and tools that credibly, transparently, and robustly assess environmental and social impacts and enable funding for sustaining and scaling up projects that verifiably deliver these benefits.

The [Verified Carbon Standard \(VCS\) Program](#) is our flagship program. It allows vetted projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals into tradable carbon credits called Verified Carbon Units (VCUs). Since its launch in 2006, the VCS Program has grown into the world’s largest voluntary GHG program with over 1,900 registered projects in 88 countries that have cumulatively generated more than 1 billion VCUs.

An integral component of the VCS Program is the [Methodology Development and Review Process, v4.3](#) (MDRP), which allows stakeholders to develop new methodologies that set out procedures to monitor and quantify the emission reductions and removals of new project activities, thus expanding the eligibility of project activities under the VCS Program. Such new methodologies are submitted to Verra for review before undergoing a technical assessment by an approved, accredited validation/verification body (VVB).

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Verra is accepting proposals for a VVB assessment of the [VCS Methodology for Improved Management in Paddy Rice Production Systems](#) as per Section 3.5 of the *MDRP, v4.3*. Verra is leading the methodology development process as per Section 2.1.1(2) of the *MDRP, v4.3* with ATOA Carbon hired as the consultant to undertake the development of the methodology. ATOA Carbon will also lead the engagement during the VVB assessment.

The proposed methodology applies to projects that decrease GHG emissions in rice production systems through the implementation of improved management practices (like alternate wetting and drying, dry seeded rice, furrow irrigation, avoided burning of residues, more efficient use of energy and nitrogen management, and shortened cultivation periods). The proposed methodology covers a broad set of activities and consolidates elements of methodologies currently approved for use within the VCS Program and from other rice methodologies in other GHG crediting programs, which include the following:

- 1) [VM0042 Methodology for Improved Agricultural Land Management, v2.0](#)
- 2) [VMD0053 Model Calibration, Validation, and Uncertainty Guidance for the Methodology for Improved Agricultural Land Management, v2.0](#)
- 3) [VMD0029 Estimation of Emissions from Non-CO₂ GHGs from Soils, v1.1](#)
- 4) [AMS-III.AU.: Methane emission reduction by adjusted water management practice in rice cultivation, v4.0](#), CDM (inactive under the VCS Program)

The proposed methodology includes improvements to represent current best practices and streamlined approaches to project implementation and measurement, reporting, and verification systems.

Verra is funding and managing the development and assessment process for the methodology, including the costs of VVB assessment.

The assessment will follow an alternative process as allowed for in Section 2.1.2. of the *MDRP*, v4.3. The VVB assessment will follow procedures set out in Section 6 of the *MDRP*, v4.3 but will focus exclusively on a) structure, clarity, and consistency of the methodology, b) quantification of emission removals and reductions and monitoring approaches, and c) auditability of the methodology. Note that the VVB assessment will be carried out simultaneously with the 30-day public stakeholder consultation (i.e., Steps 4 and 5 in Section 3 of the *MDRP* will run in parallel).

3. QUALIFICATIONS

Verra is seeking a VVB that conforms with the requirements set out in Section 5 of the [VCS Program Guide, v4.4](#).

Verra will use the following specific criteria for evaluating proposals, in descending order of importance:

- Experience of and performance on methodology assessments
- Subject matter expertise in all areas relevant to the proposed project activities
- Experience of and performance on rice project assessments (both validations and verifications)

- Cost, to ensure that the proposed level of effort is consistent with the outcomes
- Availability to comply with the proposed timeline

4. MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE

The duration and timeline of the assessment must be outlined by the respondent within the proposal and should be consistent with Sections 3.5 and 6 of the *MDRP, v.4.3*.

The VVB assessment is planned to start in April 2024, and the duration of this consultancy will be approximately three months (12 weeks). As specified above, the VVB assessment will be initiated simultaneously with the 30-day public consultation. An indicative timeline for meeting key milestones and deliverables follows:

TASK 1: Prepare the draft Methodology Assessment Report.	4 weeks
TASK 2: Iterate with the methodology developer to resolve open findings and responses to public comments and produce the final Methodology Assessment Report.	8 weeks

5. RESPONSES TO THE RFP

Respondents are requested to submit the following as part of their proposals:

- A two- to three-page narrative detailing how the VVB will execute the scope of work and deliverables as set out in Section 2 of this RFP, including a work plan and estimated timeline for the assessment
- Total number of methodologies assessed and a list with the names of the methodologies, the name of the GHG program under which each methodology was assessed, the sectoral scope, and the date on which the assessment report was issued
- Total number of rice projects validated and a list with the names of the projects, the name of the GHG program under which each project was assessed, and the dates on which the validation report was issued and the project was registered
- Detailed cost proposal (including work hours required for different personnel)
- Disclosure statement of services (conflict of interest statement) provided to the methodology developer in undertaking the scope of work

- One-page summary of qualifications and experience of consultant or consulting team in methodology and rice project assessment, and separately appended resumes/CVs (not to exceed two pages each)

Please send all application materials via email to Carolina Cardoso Lisboa, manager, Agriculture Innovation (clisboa@verra.org) with the subject “VVB Proposal for the Assessment of the VCS *Methodology for Improved Management in Paddy Rice Production Systems*”. **The deadline for submitting a proposal is March 22, 2024.** Verra will share these with the methodology developer, and we will finalize the selection of the VVB by the end of March 2024.

Interested respondents should feel free to submit clarifying questions on any of the above information to the same email address with the subject “Clarification: VVB Proposal for the Assessment of VCS *Methodology for Improved Management in Paddy Rice Production Systems*.”

LEGAL NATURE OF RFP

This RFP is an invitation for proposals, and Verra is under no legal obligation to accept any proposal nor proceed with the RFP. Verra reserves the right to amend the requirements at any time.