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UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India – 695034
(Established as University of Travancore by the Travancore University Act in1937 and reconstituted as University of Kerala by the Kerala University Act of 1957 and presently governed by the Kerala University Act of 1974 passed by the Kerala State Legislative Assembly)
(Re-accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade)

74459/PLANNING D/2025/UOK 20.11.2026

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Call for Expression of Interest

Sub: Inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) for Soft Component - Item No.28: Sustainable Development Initiative - Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) Farms - funded by PM-USHA - reg:-

1. Background & Context

Under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme, the University of Kerala has sanctioned the Sustainable Development Initiative – CSA Farms project under Item No. 28 of the Soft Component. In accordance with the decisions taken in the 4th PMU Meeting (held on 06.07.2026) and subsequently approved by the 6th Board of Governors (held on 14.07.2026), the CSA Farms project has been remodelled into a multidisciplinary, community-centric, and research-oriented initiative.

Expressions of Interest (EoI) are hereby invited from interested teaching faculty members (individually or as multidisciplinary teams) of the University of Kerala to lead and implement this remodelled project.

2. Core Objectives & Focus Themes

The remodelled project aims to bridge academic research, undergraduate/postgraduate learning, and community engagement. Proposed activities and proposals should integrate sustainable agriculture, community outreach, and multidisciplinary research.

Key thematic areas under the project include, but are not limited to:

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Action plans for native flora/fauna preservation, agro-biodiversity mapping, and ecologically sustainable farm designs.
- **Soil and Water Quality Assessment:** Scientific monitoring, organic soil rejuvenation, water table management, and eco-friendly irrigation techniques.
- **Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture:** Cultivation of bio-fortified, indigenous, and nutrient-dense crops, connecting produce directly to community health.
- **Community-Based Sustainability Models:** Developing working models of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) that engage local stakeholders, residents, and consumers.
- **Integration with FYUGP:** Designing field studies, internships, research modules,

and hands-on projects directly aligned with the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) curriculum.

3. Scope for Multidisciplinary Participation

To ensure a holistic approach, faculty members across diverse academic disciplines are encouraged to participate and collaborate. A brief list of departments but not limited to are provided below for refrence:

- **Science Disciplines (Botany, Environmental Sciences, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Zoology, Physics, Mathematics):** Ecosystem health, soil/water analysis, crop breeding, and pest management.
- **Social Sciences & Humanities (Sociology, Economics, Demography, Social Work):** Community outreach, economic viability models, impact assessment, and farmer-consumer network building.
- **Computer Science / Computational Disciplines:** IoT-based farm monitoring, smart irrigation tracking, and data analytics.

4. Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be permanent teaching faculty members of the Departments / Centres of the University of Kerala.
- Proposals involving collaborative / inter-departmental teams with a designated **Principal Investigator (PI)** and **Co-Investigator(s)** from different streams will be given preference.

5. Proposal Submission Guidelines

Interested faculty members are requested to submit their proposal in the prescribed format (Annexure A) detailing:

1. **Title of the Proposed CSA Model / Action Plan**
2. **Multidisciplinary Team Structure & Key Departmental Role**
3. **Methodology & Implementation Plan** (incorporating CSA principles, outreach, and research)
4. **Integration Plan with FYUGP Activities / Student Internships**
5. **Expected Deliverables & Community Impact**
6. **Estimated Budgetary Breakup** (MAX: 10 lakhs)

6. General Conditions

The proposals will be subject to scrutiny and process in accordance with the approved DPR, recommendations of the PMU, applicable PM-USHA guidelines and the norms of the University. Hence the contents of the proposals and selection criteria shall be appropriate to the objectives of the programme and the proposals if any for selection process shall be in a fair and transparent manner. On approval of proposal, it shall be implemented within the sanctioned budget ceiling of ₹60,00,000/- (₹10,00,000/- per Programme). Any financial or administrative commitment beyond the scope of the approved proposal shall

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be subject to separate approval of the competent authority. The implementation of the programme and its outcomes will be placed before the Board of Governors (BoG), PM-USHA, as applicable.

7. Timeline & Submission Details

- **Last Date for Submission:** [14 working days from issuance]
- **Submission Mode:** Soft copy via email to planningd@keralauniversity.ac.in
- **one signed hard copy forwarded to:** Registrar, University of Kerala.

RESMI R
Registrar(i/c)

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The document is digitally approved. Hence signature is not needed.

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ANNEXURE A:

APPLICATION FORMAT FOR EoI

1. **Name of the Applicant / Principal Investigator (PI):**
2. **Designation & Department:**
3. **Contact Details (Email & Phone):**
4. **Co-Investigator(s) Details (Name, Designation, Department):**
5. **Project Title:**
6. **Alignment with Key Themes (Tick applicable):**
    - Biodiversity Conservation
    - Soil & Water Quality Assessment
    - Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture
    - Community-Based Sustainability Models
    - FYUGP Student Engagement / Coursework
7. **Brief Executive Summary of the Proposal:**
8. **Detailed Work Plan & Methodology:**
9. **Budget Requirement & Breakup:**
10. **Declaration & Signatures of Applicants:**

Signature