



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) NOTICE
(Date of First Publication: September 06, 2025)

Reference No: UAHEP/IPP/RFI/082-83/01

Upper Arun Hydro Electric Limited (UAHEL) invites eligible training institutes to submit a Request for Information (RFI) with indicative cost proposals for conducting livelihood enhancement and vocational training programs in the project area.

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| a) Commercial Vegetable Farming | b) Poultry Training |
| c) Home Stay Operator Training (CTEVT) | d) Mason (Stone + Brick) Training (CTEVT) |

Interested Training Institute should provide information demonstrating their qualifications and relevant experience in delivering such services, along with indicative cost proposals for the above-listed programs. The RFI must be submitted to the address below, either in person, by mail, or by e-mail, no later than 21st of September 2025.

Note: This RFI is solely for information gathering. It is not a solicitation for bids, and no contract will be awarded through this process. A formal competitive procurement process will be undertaken at a later stage.

The Detailed RFI notice is published in UAHEL website: www.uaHEL.com.np

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) NOTICE

Upper Arun Hydro-Electric Project (UAHEP) Request for Information for Cost Estimation of Livelihood Enhancement and Vocational Training Programs for IPP

■ Date of Publication: 06/09/2025

■ Reference Number: UAHEP/IPP/RFI/082-83/01

1. Background

1.1 Project Overview

The Upper Arun Hydro-Electric Limited (UAHEL), a subsidiary of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), is implementing the Upper Arun Hydroelectric Project (UAHEP), a strategically significant hydropower project with an installed capacity of 1,063.36 MW. The project is located on the Arun River within Bhotkhola and Makalu rural municipalities of Sankhuwasabha District, Koshi Province. The site lies approximately 200 km east of Kathmandu and about 10 km south of the China border.

The project includes the development of major infrastructure components: a hydropower plant, a 21.19 km access road connecting the plant site to the Koshi Highway, and a 5.9 km transmission line for grid evacuation.

The Project's Direct Impact Area (DIA) includes 29 small agricultural villages comprising approximately 1,400 households. The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) covers all these households, representing diverse indigenous groups including Bhote (68%), Rai (15%), Tamang (11%), Gurung (3%), and others.

Land acquisition for the plant and access road will displace 335 households (1,614 people) economically and 22 households (109 people) physically. These communities hold deep economic, cultural, and spiritual ties to their land and surrounding environment.

1.2 Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and Training Programs

In recognition of the socio-cultural sensitivity of the project and its potential impacts on indigenous communities, UAHEP has developed a comprehensive Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP). The IPP was prepared through a two-year Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process involving inclusive consultations, technical working groups, and good-faith negotiations with community representatives.

The IPP was adopted through a tripartite agreement signed on 11 December 2022 between the Upper Arun Hydro-Electric Limited (UAHEL), the Adivasi Janjati Advisory Council (AJAC) — a community-based body formed for the Upper Arun Project and the Bhotkhola Rural Municipality, the responsible local government authority. This agreement established a joint commitment to implement the IPP in a coordinated, inclusive, and participatory manner.

Subsequently, an Indigenous Peoples Plan Implementation Guideline was developed in accordance with the provisions of the IPP to operationalize the implementation process. The guideline defines institutional roles, coordination mechanisms, and program selection and delivery mechanisms and responsibilities among the three partners.

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As per the guideline, AJAC has been entrusted with identifying and prioritizing a broad range of programs, including livelihood and vocational training, local infrastructure development, and socio-cultural development initiatives. In turn, UAHEP has been mandated to implement the selected programs in close coordination with AJAC and Bhotkhola Rural Municipality.

Four (4) livelihood enhancement and vocational training programs have been selected for implementation in the current fiscal year as pilot initiatives. These pilot programs are expected to enhance employment opportunities, foster economic inclusion, and provide foundational insights for broader program rollouts in subsequent phases.

2. Objective of this RFI

This Request for Information (RFI) aims to:

- Gather indicative cost proposals for delivering livelihood enhancement and vocational training in the project area
- Understand technical capacities of service providers
- Inform internal planning, budgeting, and design of upcoming procurement processes

Note: This RFI is solely for information gathering. It is not a solicitation for bids, and no contract will be awarded through this process. A formal competitive procurement process will be undertaken at a later stage.

3. Scope of the Training Package (Grouped by IPP Themes)

The following four (4) pilot training programs will be implemented under the IPP, categorized by thematic area:

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Short-duration, income-generating training programs.

Training 1: Commercial Vegetable Farming

- Duration: 3 days (non-residential)
- 35 commercial vegetable farming trainings, each for ~30 trainees, reaching approximately 1,050 participants across multiple villages
- Curriculum: Provider-developed
- Objective: Equip participants with basic technical knowledge and practical skills for engaging in commercial vegetable cultivation to improve household income and food security
- Certification: Participation-based
- Includes: Logistics, Allowance for Trainee for Travel Day, fooding, Training materials and distribution of Plastic Tunnel and seed support.

Training 2: Poultry Training

- Duration: 3 days (residential)
- 30 participants.
- Curriculum: Provider-developed
- Objective: Build foundational skills in poultry farming to support income generation and nutritional benefits at the household level
- Certification: Participation-based
- Includes: Logistics, Allowance for Trainee for Travel Day, fooding, Training materials and post-training starter kits

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B. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Longer-term, CTEVT-certified residential training programs with direct employment potential.

Training 3: Home Stay Operator Training

- Duration: 390 hours (55 days, residential)
- 22 participants
- Curriculum: CTEVT-accredited
- Objective: Develop participants' capacity to manage home stays and promote local eco-tourism, contributing to community-based tourism and cultural preservation
- Certification: CTEVT Certificate
- Includes: Logistics, Skill test fee, Allowance for Trainee for Travel Days (TADA if training is conducted outside project area for travel days), fooding.

Training 4: Mason (Stone + Brick) Training

- Duration: 320 hours (45 days, residential)
- Curriculum: CTEVT Basic Mason curriculum
- Objective: Provide certified masonry skills for rural infrastructure construction and increased employment in local and regional markets
- Certification: CTEVT Certificate
- Includes: Logistics, Skill test fee, Allowance for Trainee for Travel Days (TADA if training is conducted outside project area for travel days), fooding and post-training toolkits

Trainee Selection

The list of trainees for each program will be provided by UAHEL during the implementation phase. Trainees will be selected from households covered under the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), encompassing all 29 villages in the project's Direct Impact Area—not limited to displaced households. Training service providers are not responsible for participant selection but should ensure their training design is inclusive, culturally appropriate, and accessible to the diverse communities within the IPP area.

General Training Requirements:

- Inclusive and gender-sensitive approach
- Training must accommodate the social, cultural, and linguistic diversity of the IPP communities across all 29 villages, ensuring equitable access for indigenous peoples, displaced households, women, and other marginalized groups.
- Cultural and linguistic appropriateness
- Practical and theoretical components
- Certification upon completion
- Tools and equipment provided post-training

4. Information Requested from Firms

A. Firm Profile

- Registered name, VAT/PAN, tax clearance certificate
- Registered and operating locations
- Ownership and management details
- Parent company or joint ventures (if any)
- Organizational history and staff capacity



B. Technical and Financial Estimates

Cost breakdown for each training program, including:

- Trainer/facilitator fees
- Training materials, equipment, and toolkits
- Lodging and fooding (as applicable)
- Venue setup and logistics
- Certification costs
- Administrative and other related expenses

C. Training Structure

- Duration and proposed curriculum (where applicable)
- Minimum/maximum number of trainees per batch
- Participant-to-trainer ratio

D. Institutional Capacity

- Experience in conducting similar trainings, particularly in remote or indigenous areas
- Familiarity with coordination with community and government stakeholders
- List of qualified trainers or facilitators

E. Assumptions & Operational Considerations

- Mobilization time and logistics
- Constraints and support required
- Any assumptions for costing

5. Submission Instructions

- Deadline for Submission: September 21, 2025
- Submission Method:
Email: uahepnea@gmail.com
OR
Hard Copy Submission To:
Upper Arun Hydro-Electric Project (UAHEP)
Maharajgunj, Kathmandu
- Subject Line or Envelope Label: "RFI Submission – Livelihood Enhancement and Vocational Training Programs for IPP"

Note: Interested firms are required to register their organization with the UAHEL at the above address prior to participate in the forthcoming procurement process.

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6. Costs of Preparing the Response

UAHEP will not reimburse any costs associated with preparing or submitting responses to this RFI.

7. Confidentiality and Disclaimer

All responses will be treated as confidential and used solely for internal planning and budgeting. This RFI does not imply any contractual commitment or procurement action.

8. Contact Information for Queries

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