



INVITATION

to submit an **Expression of Interest (Eoi)** -
To conduct Risk Assessment of Field release of
Aedes aegypti mosquitoes carrying *Wolbachia* in India

No.ICMR-VCRC/Den.Wolb-RA/Eoi/2019/01

June 12, 2019

The ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR-VCRC), Puducherry invites interested Scientific Research based Agencies/Organizations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to undertake the above task.

Aedes aegypti is the major vector of dengue and chikungunya in most parts of India. A novel approach of dengue control could be the introduction of symbiotic bacteria in the vector population. One such effort has been the successful production of *Ae. aegypti* trans-infected with *Wolbachia* endosymbionts in the ICMR-VCRC laboratory, with the technical inputs from Monash University, Australia. Before launching field release of *Wolbachia* carrying *Ae. aegypti* to control/reduce transmission of dengue/chikungunya the possible risk involved in field release needs to be ascertained.

In this context, it is expected that the interested Agency/Organization should:

- I Identify and characterize the undesirable implications for the safety of humans and environment that possibly happen by releasing *Wolbachia* carrying mosquitoes. The unwanted harms are to be estimated over a period of 30 years, aiming to answer the following questions.
 - Which hazards can happen?
 - How could harm occur?
 - How likely is that to happen?
 - How serious could the harm be?
 - What is the level of risk?
- II Describe the tools, process, and methodology to be used in the risk analysis to identify and assess potential hazards of releasing *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes containing *Wolbachia* into a naturally occurring population.
- III Ensure the overall end product [deliverables] comprises of the results of risk analysis, details of specific hazard domains identified, the model (preferably Bayesian) networks constructed to explore the hierarchal structure and relationship of the hazards, and the final expert-derived estimates of risk associated with the release of the *Wolbachia* carrying *Ae. aegypti* in India.

Director
ICMR – VCRC

Interested Agencies/Organizations are required to submit their Eoi by email to vcrc@vsnl.com or directorvcrc@gmail.com
The closing date for the submission is 27th June 2019.

The Director, ICMR-VCRC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Eois without assigning any reason.