

Expression of Interest for engaging as internal auditor for KFRI for FY 2026-27, 2027-28 (No. D107/KSCSTE-KFRI/Estt./HRC/202) Dated 29-04-2026

1. Expression of Interest is invited from eligible **Audit firms** for all internal audit requirements of KFRI as per scope for two financial years and onward extension subject to satisfactory performance.
2. Interested firms to submit following documents by hand/post at **KFRI, peechi, Thrissur-Pin 680653** or by mail at **registrar@kfri.org:-**
 - a) EOI form I duly filled
 - b) Annexure "A" on auditing firms letter head
3. Last date for receipt of application is **15 May 2026**

Information & Forms (Downloads)

- 1 [Terms and Conditions](#)
2. [Agreement](#)
3. [EOI form I](#)
4. [Annexure "A"](#)

Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

SUB: APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR CONDUCTING INTERNAL AUDIT OF THE KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25 INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST- REG.

Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is an institution of the Kerala State Council for Science and Technology (KSCSTE) organised under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Kerala.

1. SCOPE OF WORK (TOR)

The Internal Auditor is expected to suggest preventive measures apart from remedial measures to avoid audit objections.

A brief description of the scope of work is detailed below: The same is indicative and not exhaustive as the scope of work of the internal audit function is expected to evolve with the growth of the KFRI.

The function of the internal audit is broadly designed to cater to the present needs of the KFRI so as to ensure the following and not limited to the same:

- i. The accounting system is appropriate and is being run efficiently.
- ii. Adequate internal controls are established in the KFRI to safeguard the assets, ensure propriety of expenditure and to exercise control on receipts and payments.
- iii. Verification of books of accounts on a regular basis.
- iv. Grants and loan assistance are received from various sources and the covenants there of are complied with.
- v. Sanction/disbursement of grants and loan assistance to various Agencies for implementation of projects are in accordance with proper procedure and the various sanctions and disbursement covenants are complied with.
- vi. Reconciliation of funds released or transferred to Agencies for implementation of the projects including the advances released for the community development/external programmes is done & confirmation of balances obtained at periodic intervals.
- vii. Verification of other advances and deposits. Utilization Certificates to be verified for the physical progress for the settlement of the Advances and deposits.
- viii. Verification of administration expenditure bills, staff advances, Festival Advances, bills and other payments, receipts are checked and physical progress ascertained before releasing payment.
- ix. Verification of expenditure incurred by the various implementing agencies on the project

with respect of terms of sanction, cost of the project and individual components, mode of incurring expenditure and compliance with procedural aspects for incurring of the expenditure are carried out.

- x. Analysis of physical progress vis – a – vis financial progress in comparison with actual progress with project goals and analyzing reasons for short fall in performance are done.
- xi. Verification of bank and fee reconciliation statement and action taken on outstanding items are done.
- xii. Verification of compliance with statutory deductions and their remittance to appropriate authorities are done.
- xiii. Verification of investment, realization thereon along with verification of interest or dividend received/receivable on investment are done.
- xiv. Verification of draft final accounts along with schedules and compliance of Government / Institute orders in presentation of annual accounts.
- xv. Verification of compliance with project implementation guidelines, including loan recovery from the beneficiaries, their utilization, repayment and accounting, financial guidelines.
- xvi. Expenditure is made with due regard to economy, efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- xvii. Applicable laws, regulations and other external or donor requirements and policies of the KFRI and directives / guidelines are being complied with.
- xviii. To provide recommendation for required changes in the various statutory Acts and compliances.
- xix. Verification of expenditure and income with budget estimates.
- xx. Verification of all files with accounting standards, budget, mandatory deductions and KFRI procedures
- xxi. Any specific issue referred by the KFRI.

(2) The Extent of verification is 100%.

In order to efficiently carry out their obligations and provide assurance to the KFRI, the internal auditor of the KFRI shall.

- i. Examine the financial and operating activities of the KFRI
- ii. Undertake detailed testing of balances, transactions and procedures.
- iii. Physically verify assets that are created and also provide assurance on the safeguard of them.
- iv. Identify, classify and report such information that may be in deviation with any set practices, statutory guidelines and KFRI directives of donor agreements.
- v. Identify and report any deviation from Accounting Standards / procedures adopted by the KFRI

3. Schedule for completion of tasks:

SR.	Deliverable / milestones	Time frame
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No.		
i	Quarterly Audit Report (Including Monthly UDIN Generated Reports)	30 days from the completion of the quarter
ii	Verification of Annual Accounts	As per Schedule given by KSCSTE/ CAG / 30 days from the completion of the financial year, whichever is earlier.
iii	Verification of Annual certification in prescribed formats for submission to Externally funded agencies.	As per the covenants with the External agencies.

* Monthly Filing work of GST and RECO thereof.
(GSTR7, GSTR 1 and GSTR 3B)

* Quarterly TDS return filing from TRACES Login of KFRI.

* Updates in law rules of Income Tax, GST etc. having direct impact on CSCL.

*Preparation and compilation of Balance sheet (On quarterly basis for KFRI Reporting and on Yearly basis for Statutory Audit Purpose)

*Compilation and preparation of Monthly Cash Flow and profitability for KFRI reporting.

4. To meet the requirements of the KFRI, it is essential that the Internal Auditor shall:

- i. Nominate one of its partner as a nodal person to interact with the Co-ordinator of the KFRI in all matters related to internal audit. He will be required to attend all the meetings and address all the issues. He shall be the single source of contact with the firm.
- ii. Engage adequate manpower commensurate with the nature and quantum of work on all working days and working hours of KFRI and on the days as required by the KFRI. The firm shall deploy its own personnel for the assignment and shall not outsource the job. The persons mentioned in the proposal shall alone be engaged for the work. In case, there is change in the personnel, prior approval of the KFRI shall be taken. Any change in the personnel may entail reduction of not less than 10% of the charge rate/man month rate.
- iii. Ensure that at least one qualified person/partner is available at all times during the year for discussions and clarifications.
- iv. Prepare audit programme / schedule (including the names of persons engaged for the assignment) of the KFRI for each quarter. The same shall be sent in time to enable the KFRI to make necessary arrangements for records, information/clarifications etc.
- v. Ensure periodical meetings (at least twice every month) of its nominee / partner with the Finance Officer of the KFRI to discuss the progress of audit, any important issues related to audit etc.

(5) Data, Services and Facilities to be provided by KFRI:

KFRI would provide all necessary assistance required to complete the task.

(6) Final output / Reporting:

The internal auditor shall report their findings to the KFRI on quarterly basis immediately within 30 days from the closure of each quarter. Annual accounts and financial statements including fee and bank reconciliation have to be completed within 30 days from the end of the financial year concerned. The method of reporting and other related aspects shall be decided in consultation with the Finance Officer of the KFRI. Both hard and soft copies of the report shall be handed over.

7. It will be the responsibility of the internal auditor to:

- i. Comment on the accounting records, system and controls that were examined during the course of internal audit, identify deficiencies and weakness in the system and to make recommendations to improve them as also suggest new systems wherever required.
- ii. Highlight the mistakes that are material and have significant impact on the performance of the KFRI or any project handled by the KFRI.
- iii. To undertake & cover any other work which is related & involved with the present assignment without claiming additional fee/remuneration.
- iv. To audit any other matter as may be deemed fit by the Auditors in the interest of the KFRI.
- v. Action taken on the findings of previous report(s) shall form part of each report.
- vi. The Internal Auditor shall be required to revise the report if required.
- vii. Act as a warning system and report any issues and suggest necessary actions; If any issues require remedial actions, it needs to be suggested immediately.

(8) Time Frame:

- i. The Internal Audit firm/company shall be appointed for a period of 1 year, but the performance be reviewed by the KFRI to continue the appointment. Extension of work of firm beyond this period shall be subject to the decision of the KFRI.
- ii. The internal Audit shall commence within 10 days from the date of issue of appointment order.
- iii. The Internal Auditor should submit quarterly report within 30 days from the date of closure of each quarter.

(9) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL BID

Technical Proposal submission form –

- 2A. Eligibility Criteria- Qualifications
- 2B. Consultant's references
- 2C. Comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference and on data services, and facilities to be provided by the KFRI.
- 2D. Description of the methodology and work plan for performing the assignment
- 2E. Team composition and task assignments
- 2F. Format of Curriculum Vitae of proposed key professional staff
- 2G. Time schedule for professional personnel
- 2H. Activity (work) schedule

(10) Eligibility Criteria (As per section 138 (1) of the Companies Act, 2013)

Chartered Accountant/Cost Accountant Firms fulfilling the following eligible criteria as listed below shall be empaneled with the KFRI. Any form of Joint Venture / Consortium of firms will not be allowed for participation in the empanelment process. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

Digitally signed by

JOHNSON THOMAS Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant Firm should be a partnership Practicing

Date: 01-03-2026 have a turn over more than 2 crores.

19:22:10 Firm should have HO / Branch office in two district in Kerala near KFRI Peechi.

- iii. The Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant Firm should be in Practice for a period of not less than 5 years.
- iv. Should have never been issued notice for failure to submit deliverables and cancellation of work order, forfeiture of EMD, etc., by any Government/semi Government/Autonomous entities. An undertaking to be submitted by the Firm to that effect.
- v. Should not have been barred from appointment by any Government and / or Semi Government / Autonomous entities. An undertaking in the form of an affidavit on Rs.100/- or an equivalent amount in multiple stamp paper to be submitted by the Firm to that effect. That the firm/person was not block listed by Government department.
- vi. Should have experience of Government audit.
- vii. Should have been C&AG empanelled
- viii. Should have experience of conducting audit of Companies & PSU's.
- ix. Should have ICAs approved firm.

EOI FORMS

Form I

**On Auditing Firm's Letter
Head Technical Proposal**

To,

The Registrar,
The Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi P O, Thrissur
Kerala 680 653

Sub: Appointment of Audit Firms for conducting internal audit for the Financial Year 2026-27- reg.

Sir,

With reference to your Notice No:dated for appointment of Audit Firms for conducting internal audit of The Kerala Forest Research Institute for the Financial Year 2026-27, I/we wish to apply for the appointment as internal auditor of KFRI and the particulars are as follows:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Point per criteria	Points Per Criteria (Maximum)	Response by bidder	Supporting documents required
1	No. of years of experience	Minimum 10 years- 4 points per year (1 point each for every 10 years above the minimum 5 years)	25		Copy of Certificate of Practice from the Institute.
2	No. of qualified ISA/DISA/CISA/CIA/ Partner or Employee	Minimum 1 person- 5 points for each person	10		Copy of Certificate in the name of the Partner/employee.
3 # #	No. of Qualified staff (CA/CMA) (Post Qualification	Minimum 3 persons-	25		Copy of Certificate of Practice from the Institute.

	experience of at least 1year)	5 points per qualified Staff (preferably with Law Degree)			
4	Experience of Internal Audit / Statutory Audit assignment in Central Government / State Government / PSU in last three year: No. of assignments	Minimum 3 Nos. 5 points per every 3 assignments	20		Work Order and copies of completion certificate of respective PSU's/proof of final payment received.
5	Experience of Internal Audit / Statutory Audit in Educational Institutions / Colleges / Universities in last three years. : No of assignments	Minimum 3 Nos. 5 points per every 3 assignments	20		Work Order and copy of completion certificate /proof of final payment received.
	Maximum marks		100 #		
	Minimum marks required for qualification		50 #		

#Professional firms which obtain at least 50% marks based on the technical parameters would be considered for opening financial bids for selection of bidder based on the lowest commensurate fees quoted by the professional firm.

CA / CMA firms are eligible for award of work of Internal Audit for KFRI.

1. Further, I/we hereby certify that:
I/we have read the provisions of the all clauses and confirm that notwithstanding anything stated elsewhere to the contrary, the stipulation of all clauses of Tender are acceptable to me/us and I /we have not taken any deviation to any clause.
2. I/we further confirm that any deviation to any clause of Tender found anywhere in the bid, shall stand unconditionally withdrawn, without any cost implication whatsoever to KFRI.
3. Further, it is to confirm that our offer shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of 90 days from date of opening of bids.

Signature.....

Full name.....

Designation/Firm Name.....

Address with Phone.....

FAX & Mobile No:

E-Mail :.....

Seal

Note:

- a) In absence of above declaration/certification, the response is liable to be rejected and shall not be taken into account for evaluation.
- b) Bidders are requested to tick the respective checklist of documents being submitted.
- c) Bidders not submitting the required supporting documents for fulfilling the criteria will be summarily rejected without any further clarification.

ANNEXURE "A"

On Auditing Firm's Letter Head

To,
The Registrar,
The Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi P O, Thrissur
Kerala 680653

Sub: Appointment of Audit Firm for conducting internal audit of KFRI for the Financial Year 2026-27

Table for Quoting Fee for the Assignment in terms of the Tender.
(To be kept in a separate Envelope sealed properly while sending the proposal)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Fee in INR ()	
		Price bid shall be quoted	
1.	All-inclusive Lump sum fee (including travel and other out of pocket expenses, etc.) for the entire scope of work covered under the Terms of Reference on a Firm price basis (with no escalation provision for whatever reason) valid till the complete execution of the assignment.	<u>In Figure</u>	<u>In words</u>

Please Note: GST, if any, will be paid extra at the applicable rates and is not to be quoted above. In case of any discrepancy in Fee between figures and the amount mentioned in Words, the Fee mentioned in Words shall be taken into cognizance.

Date:
Place:

Signature.....

Full name.....
Designation/ Firm Name.....
Address.....

Phone.....FAX.....
Mobile No.....
E-Mail.....

Seal

AGREEMENT

Agreement executed at _____ on this _____ of 2026 between Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is an institution of the Kerala State Council for Science and Technology (KSCSTE) organized under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Kerala having its Head office at Thiruvananthapuram represented by its REGISTRAR hereinafter referred to as the KFRI which expression shall include its assignees, legal representatives, administrators and executors, being the party of the FIRST PART.

And

_____ hereinafter referred to as the FIRM which expression shall include its successors, assignees, legal representatives, administrators, and executors, being the party of the SECOND PART.

Whereas the KFRI (FIRST PARTY) had invited Expression of Interest for the appointment of Internal Auditor for conducting internal audit of KFRI for the financial year 2026-27 as per the conditions set out in the Notification NO. _____ dated _____ (hereinafter called the SCHEDULED WORKS)

_____ (SECOND PARTY) has submitted a proposal to the KFRI for the said SCHEDULED WORK.

Whereas the KFRI has accepted the FIRM's proposal to carry out the SCHEDULED WORK subject to the conditions as stipulated in the Notification No. _____, in respect of the work mentioned below:

NOW THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS

- i. The FIRM agrees to carry out the SCHEDULED WORK according to the specified timeline.
- ii. The KFRI shall provide all documents required for the SCHEDULED WORK as and when required by the FIRM. The FIRM shall not be responsible for any delays due to late submission of inputs.
- iii. **The KFRI shall pay the firm for the financial year 2026-27 for the SCHEDULED WORK as part or in lump sum as per the submission of bills by the FIRM, on completion of the required tasks, as per the terms and conditions stipulated in the Agreement.**
- iv. **This Agreement shall be valid with effect from _____ or up to the date of completion of the scheduled tasks as stipulated in the Agreement.**

1. SCOPE OF WORK (TOR)

The Internal Auditor is expected to suggest preventive measures apart from remedial

measures to avoid audit objections.

A brief description of the scope of work is detailed below: The same is indicative and not exhaustive as the scope of work of the internal audit function is expected to evolve with the growth of the KFRI.

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- xiv. Verification of draft final accounts along with schedules and compliance of Government / Institute orders in presentation of annual accounts.
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(5) Data, Services and Facilities to be provided by KFRI:

KFRI would provide all necessary assistance required to complete the task.

(6) Final output / Reporting:

The internal auditor shall report their findings to the KFRI on quarterly basis immediately within 30 days from the closure of each quarter. Annual accounts and financial statements including fee and bank reconciliation have to be completed within 60 days from the end of the financial year concerned. The method of reporting and other related aspects shall be decided in consultation with the Finance Officer of the KFRI. Both hard and soft copies of the report shall be handed over.

7. It will be the responsibility of the internal auditor to:

- i. Comment on the accounting records, system and controls that were examined during the course of internal audit, identify deficiencies and weakness in the system and to make

- recommendations to improve them as also suggest new systems wherever required.
- ii. Highlight the mistakes that are material and have significant impact on the performance of the KFRI or any project handled by the KFRI.
 - iii. To undertake & cover any other work which is related & involved with the present assignment without claiming additional fee/remuneration.
 - iv. To audit any other matter as may be deemed fit by the Auditors in the interest of the University.
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 - vi. The Internal Auditor shall be required to revise the report if required.
 - vii. Act as a warning system and report any issues and suggest necessary actions; If any issues require remedial actions, it needs to be suggested immediately.

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- i. The Internal Audit firm/company is appointed for a period of ONE year, but the performance shall be reviewed by the KFRI to continue the appointment. Extension of work of firm beyond this period shall be subject to the decision of the KFRI.
- ii. The internal Audit shall commence within 10 days from the date of issue of appointment order.
- iii. The Internal Auditor should submit quarterly report within 30 days from the date of closure of each quarter.

In witness whereof the KFRI and the FIRM have hereunto set and subscribed their respective hands (and seal) on the day, month, and year signed.

Digitally signed by
JOHNSON THOMAS

REGISTRAR

Date: 01-03-2026

19:21:15

(For and on behalf of the KFRI)

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

(For and on behalf of the Firm)

Witnesses

1.

2.