

Farming Smarter – Accelerating Agroecology across the UK

Introduction

The Food, Farming and Countryside Commission is looking to commission an individual or organisation for a short term (up to 6 weeks initially) placement, to support the rapid development of our programme; *Farming Smarter* – the economic case for agroecology. In particular it will support our on-the-ground work with farmers by mapping current activity, and work by organisations, farming networks, educators, advisors and others working on agroecology at both a local and national scale (more information below).

This will suit you if you have:

- Expert knowledge of farming and farm business economics, with a good network of stakeholders in these sectors around the UK
- Self-direction, able to take initiative on an open brief and work independently, as part of a virtual networked team
- A shared sense of purpose for our mission, with commitment to finding practical solutions to complex and interconnected problems.

Proposals in line with the guidance below should be submitted before **Friday 23rd April at midday**. We are looking for someone to start as soon as possible and may make a decision before this date if a satisfactory application comes in before then.

The Brief

In November we launched *Farming Smarter - the case for agroecological enterprise*, a report that made the business case for agroecology and the need to accelerate agroecological enterprise (<https://ffcc.co.uk/library/farming-smarter-executive-summary>). Earlier this year, we launched Farming for Change (<https://ffcc.co.uk/news-and-press/farmingforchange>) which outlined a model that demonstrates how a full shift to agroecology in the UK is feasible, allowing the UK to feed a growing population while delivering positive outcomes for nature, climate and health. Later in March, we will be launching the next in our series of reports, *Farming Smarter – investing in the future*. This introduces the arguments for new bodies, working with and building on existing arrangements, to deliver the finance and other resources needed, such as advice and training at scale, to support UK farmers to transition to agroecology.

With momentum building, and the pace of change increasing, we want to develop these ideas quickly, supporting and not duplicating the existing work many organisations are already undertaking. This is about accelerating progress by brokering more resources into agroecology and helping to align research and development, and investment.

This short term contract will deliver the scoping research that will enable us to effectively design longer term programmes, to support the adoption of agroecology, with partners. Specifically, it will

- Investigate, map and summarise current work and provisions happening around Agroecology, at regional and national scales (local regions to be decided)
- Support the writing of proposals and briefs for funders, stakeholders and investors.

- Identify and convene stakeholders, setting up interviews and meetings to develop the programme in more detail and depth.
- Any other tasks as necessary to support the above intention.

The tender

The tender should be no more than 5 pages of A4 that outlines:

1. A brief overview of you and/or your organisation
2. Your understanding of what is needed and how you'd undertake the brief.
3. Your experience of undertaking similar work.
4. A breakdown of budget, including all costs, expenses and VAT, if applicable, specifying all day rates, the number of days proposed and cost of particular activities.
5. Your CV or if applying as an organisation, CVs of those involved, with examples of similar work you have delivered.
6. A statement of how you will project manage and quality-assure your work.
7. The contact details of two previous clients with direct knowledge or experience of your work relevant to the work we require. Please specify how the referees know your work and if they can be contacted by us straight away.
8. Any other relevant information that will assist us in our decision.
9. Your contact details, including email address and phone number.

Contract term: 6 weeks initially (with option to extend)

Place of work: Home based

Contract value: Proposals will be considered up to £7000 (inclusive of any applicable VAT)

Start date: Immediate

Closing date: Midday, Friday 23rd April

To apply: Please send your tender, as outlined above, to hello@ffcc.co.uk