

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Research on Effective Low Carbon Farming & Regenerative Ag Practices in Coconut

Project Overview:

The Sustainable Coconut Partnership is seeking proposals for a research project focused on advancing sustainable coconut farming through the identification, assessment, and promotion of effective low carbon and regenerative agricultural practices. The objective is to assess opportunities and business models to support farmer livelihoods and crop sustainability through low carbon and regenerative agriculture farming while reducing the carbon footprint of coconut production, identifying gaps and missed opportunities in this nascent space.

The geographic focus for this research is on 4 countries in Asia: Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka.

Deliverables expected:

1. LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS & DERIVED LAND USE CHANGE

- I. Review current Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) calculations for coconut farming and propose necessary improvements based on updated information: Collect and disclose existing life cycle analysis emission factors from databases in coconut oil, sugar, desiccated, milk, water, charcoal disclosing the results per Ha and teqCO₂ including the sub categories that compose the emission factor
- II. LUC: Describe in particular the calculation methodology used for the statistical land use change emission factor estimation.
- III. Going from a statistical LUC EF to a Derived LUC EF: Provide a calculation methodology to estimate what an updated land use change emission factor (from databases) derived from updated deforestation maps (made available for this project to the service provider) showing various level deforestation in key jurisdictions.

Deliverable 1: Table with all LCA factors and their sub components + Calculation of S-LUC EF + proposed adjustment to D-LUC EF for key jurisdictions taken as example

2. META ANALYSIS - LOW CARBON & REGEN AG IN COCONUT:

- i. Identify and make a brief review existing low carbon and regenerative agriculture **programs** specific to coconut farming covering the main descriptive areas of programmes (project description, intervention, proponents, methodology used) and enclose the high-level, verifiable results/potential demonstrating the reduction of the carbon footprint / regen ag KPI's in coconut production.
- ii. Identify and list in a repository of **research** on (a) low carbon and (b) regenerative coconut inclusive of the main practices: intercropping, regenerative agricultural practices, farm residues management, biochar, processing emission reduction and conservation efforts in coconut landscapes globally capturing high-level, verifiable results demonstrating the reduction of the carbon footprint in coconut production
- iii. Identify verified carbon reduction/avoidance/removal and regen ag **methodologies**, models and approaches (inclusive of methodology / certification used) applicable to coconut farming. Results should include the potential of using remote sensing MRV.
- iv. **Identify potential** opportunities and gaps in methodologies (additional/lack of research, methodologies for certain practices, additionality concerns...) as compared with the following sectors: cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber to enhance the resilience of coconut farming communities to climate change while reducing the carbon footprint of coconut production

Deliverable 2: Repository inclusive of above mentioned (a) programmes, research, (b) researches, (c) methodologies + concept note on potential to enhance the resilience of coconut farming communities to climate change while reducing the carbon footprint of coconut production based on opportunities and gaps identified comparatively to other smallholder crops more advanced on carbon and regen ag.

3. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION - CBA

- Use the above identification report and LCA analysis to highlight a selection of up to 5 most promising regen ag/carbon reduction approaches in coconut agreed with the Sustainable Coconut Partnership after deliverable 1,2
- Include a **cost-benefit analysis (CBA)** inclusive of **co-benefits** for the communities, an associated **SWOT for farmers and project proponents** for each of these approaches.

Deliverable 3: a concept note in PPT format highlighting the top 5 recommended approaches + high level recommendations compiling actionable next steps for the sustainable coconut partnership's working group on low carbon and regenerative coconut to (a) create the enabling conditions to support farmer livelihoods and crop sustainability through low carbon and regenerative agriculture farming and (b) for its individual industry members to advance towards low carbon & regen ag in their sourcing practices. (It is expected that this concept note includes infographics and multimedia materials for easy sharing/communication across the coconut industry.)

Timeline

- Contracting & start of work before February 15th 2024
- Delivery by April 1st 2024

Submission Guidelines:

Please provide your proposal by **February 8th 2024** in electronic format to info@coconutpartnership.org

We are accepting proposals on either the full or the partial scope as follows to accommodate bidding organizations.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Partial scope:</p> <p>Only Deliverable 1</p>	<p>Partial Scope:</p> <p>Only Deliverable 2 + Deliverable 3</p>	<p>Full scope:</p> <p>Deliverable 1 + Deliverable 2 + Deliverable 3</p>
<p>LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS & DERIVED LAND USE CHANGE</p>	<p>META ANALYSIS + RECOMMENDATION WITH CBA</p>	<p>LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS & DERIVED LAND USE CHANGE + META ANALYSIS + RECOMMENDATION WITH CBA</p>
<p>Budget available: 8,000 US\$</p>	<p>Budget available: 12,000 US\$</p>	<p>Budget available: 20,000 US\$</p>

Your proposal should address the following key elements:

Expression of interest with the scope chosen: A brief cover letter expressing your interest, understanding of the project, and commitment to delivering high-quality results.

Company Profile: An overview of your research firm, including your experience in agricultural research and sustainability projects.

Methodology: A detailed description of your proposed research approach, data collection methods, and analysis techniques.

Team Expertise: A list of key team members who will be involved in the project, along with their qualifications and relevant experience.

Work Plan: A project timeline outlining key milestones and deliverables.

Budget: A detailed breakdown of your proposed budget, including all costs associated with the project.

Evaluation Process: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of experience and expertise in agricultural research.
- Clarity and thoroughness of the proposed methodology.
- Qualifications and experience of the project team.
- Realistic work plan and timeline.
- Competitive and well-structured budget

We look forward to receiving your proposal. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Gregory Bardies – Executive Director, Sustainable Coconut Partnership at gregory@coconutpartnership.org.

Thank you for considering our request. We eagerly anticipate your proposal and the potential to collaborate on this critical research endeavour.

Sincerely,

The Sustainable Coconut Partnership