

Request for Proposals: Evaluating Environmental, Economic, and Social Impacts of a Regenerative Agriculture Project

Responses to Questions on the Solicitation

4/27/23

- 1. Is this RFP soliciting a third party to only do an audit of the data, methodologies, and results or is it soliciting a third party to recreate the research using the same data with a different methodology?**

Answer: The solicitation is seeking a third party to use the existing dataset to complete analyses, create written technical reports on those analyses and other analyses already completed by the project partners, and create a final public report synthesizing the results.

- 2. Was sociological and economic research conducted by the original project team?**

Answer: The original CIG project team, including their contractor Sustainable Environmental Consultants (SEC), will complete the execution of the financial assessment and social assessment per the CIG requirements. Financial T-Chart data will be available. Social summary producer impact information and project-level impact information will be available.

- 3. Can the data and existing results be reviewed by prospective applicants before submitting a proposal?**

Answer: No, data collected from participating farmers is strictly confidential and will only be shared after a contractor is selected. Data have been collected consistent with the NRCS CIG templates for [Field Operations](#) and [Soils data](#). See also the CIG instructions [here](#) and [here](#).

- 4. The RFP lists Task 2 with a completion date of April 2024, Task 3 due in December 2023, Task 4 due in December 2023, and Task 5 completed in May of 2024. Is this the correct timeline?**

Answer: The expected completion dates are correct. The Task 2 Soil and Environmental Assessment task can be completed only after the final round of field soil samples (collected fall 2023) are analyzed by the lab. All other data have already been collected and those analyses may be completed earlier.

- 5. Are there any remote sensing, geospatial data, or carbon/hydrology/nutrient/sediment models currently being used in the existing approach?**

Answer: NFWF and Danone have collected and measured field-level data with partner EcoPractices. Danone and EcoPractices have already invested in an accounting system to manage and analyze farm data to assess profitability and key environmental outcomes related to soil health such as greenhouse gases, water quality, water quantity and biodiversity. In addition, various measurement tools and models are used to improve outcome measurement, including WEPS, RUSLE2, NTT, and COMET-Farm. Data are geospatially modeled and aggregated from a sub-field soil type basis. SEC uses remote sensing to determine field boundaries, tillage classification, and presence of cover crop.

**6. Can the proposal contain more than one organization/company?**

Answer: Per the Selection Procedure section of the RFP, "Only one award will be made for this project. If multiple institutions are involved, they should be handled through subcontracts."