Call for expressions of interest to provide agronomist services

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| **EIT Food is looking for an agronomist firm (hereinafter “Subcontractor”) that would provide external agronomist services in the framework of EIT Food CLC North-East sp. z o.o. (hereinafter “EIT Food”) activities.**  **Application deadline:** Monday 20 June 2022, 5 pm CEST.  **Application template:** see Annex (Application Form). |

Further details about EIT Food can be found at [www.eitfood.eu.](http://www.eitfood.eu/) With respect to the present call, **EIT Food will not provide new information that has not already been included in this call document** butcan assist potential applicants by explaining the contents of this document (interested applicants are encouraged to contact Ms. Monika Linkowska ([monika.linkowska@eitfood.eu](mailto:monika.linkowska@eitfood.eu)).

1. Background information

EIT Food is one of the largest and most impactful food-related initiatives worldwide. As a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), EIT Food connects partners from leading businesses, universities and research centres across Europe. It is a people-centric and resource-smart transformer of the European food system, driving consumer confidence and improved global health.

EIT Food’s vision is to put Europe at the centre of a global revolution in food innovation and production, and its value in society. EIT Food will engage consumers in the change process, improve nutrition and make the food system more resource-efficient, secure, transparent, and trusted. EIT Food has six strategic objectives:

* *Overcome low consumer trust*: support Europeans in the transition towards a smart food system that is inclusive and trusted;
* *Create consumer valued food for healthier nutrition*: enable individuals to make informed and affordable personal nutrition choices;
* *Build a consumer-centric connected food system*: develop a digital food supply network with consumers and industry as equal partners;
* *Enhance sustainability*: develop solutions to transform the traditional ‘produce-use-dispose’ model into a circular bioeconomy;
* *Educate to engage, innovate and advance*: Provide ‘food system’ skills for more than 10,000 students, entrepreneurs and professionals through advanced training programmes;
* *Catalyse food entrepreneurship and innovation*: foster innovation at all stages of business creation.

EIT Food boosts the skills and entrepreneurial spirit in the sector and unlocks the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which in turn will accelerate innovation, create jobs, benefit businesses and increase Europe’s competitiveness.

The pan-European EIT Food is headquartered in Belgium, and its partnership brings together changemakers in all relevant sectors and fields. EIT Food is well-positioned to achieve the maximum impact on the challenges outlined above. The highly committed partnership will conceive, develop, evaluate and adopt new market-oriented approaches to innovation. It is structured around five Co-Location Centres (CLCs), established in Warsaw (with partners from Central-Eastern Europe and Nordic countries), Reading (with partners from the UK, Ireland and Iceland), Madrid (with partners from Spain, Italy and Israel), Leuven (with partners from Belgium, France and Switzerland) and Freising (with partners from Germany and the Netherlands).

1. Scope of agronomist services (hereinafter “Services”)

The scope of the Services is as follows:

* Provision of a manual on regenerative agriculture on three, popular crops in Poland and CEE region,
* Presenting EIT Food Regenerative Agriculture Programme at events in Poland and CEE region,
* Following practical training, supporting farmers from EIT Food Regenerative Agriculture Programme in Poland, and the CEE region in their transition to regenerative farming practices,
* Building the database of latest technological innovations that farmers could implement on their farms such as microbiological soil tests, biofertilizers, precision agriculture solutions and others.

1. Additional information

* Services should be provided up to 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, with events also taking place on weekends.
* Agronomist services will be provided in English and Polish.
* The remuneration for Services covers all costs such as office and IT equipment. EIT Food, upon prior approval, will reimburse the Subcontractor for the travel and accommodation costs to meet farmers on their farms and attend trainings and events. The travel costs reimbursement will be in line with the Regulation of the Minister of Labor and Social Policy on duties for employees working in a state or local budgetary entities for Business travel of 29 January 2013 (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 167).
* The Subcontract Agreement may be renewed in a form of annex for a successive period of one (1) year if CLC confirms fulfilment of the specific criteria, based on objectively measurable indicators. Once after the first renewal, this Agreement will not be renewed automatically. The Agreement shall automatically end when the Model Grant Agreement ends. CLC may at any time terminate this Agreement upon notice if the Model Grant Agreement is terminated or not concluded for a given year.

1. Timeframe of the provision of Services

* From the date of signing the contract until December 31, 2022.
* The deadlines for the provision of individual agronomist services will be determined on the basis of the EIT Food project work schedule and the arrangements made each time with the EIT Food.
* The Subcontractor undertakes to confirm the readiness to perform a given service within 3 days of receiving the order.

1. Eligible applicants

Agronomist firms registered in Poland*,* irrespective of a legal form of their activity.

1. Selection process

Criteria for evaluation and selection of the offers are as follows:

1. When selecting an offer, EIT Food will be guided by the criteria of price (60%) and quality (40%).
2. All proposals will be evaluated taking into account the following criteria:

Knowledge about the theory and/or the practice of regenerative agriculture (10%)

Practical experience in advising or training farmers (10%)

Previous experience in public speaking (10%)

A good level of spoken English (10%)

1. When assessing the price criterion, the following formula is used: lowest offered net price / net examined price x 60% x 100.
2. The offered net monthly price is the sum of the net values referred to in point 6 of the Annex.
3. When assessing the quality criterion, EIT Food will assign a 10% weighting of the evaluation to each of the criteria enumerated in point 7,8,9,10 of the Annex.
4. The offer which obtains the highest total number of points in both criteria will be considered the best.
5. If two or more offers contain the same number of points, EIT Food will call the applicants who submitted these offers to submit additional offers. Applicants in additional offers will not be able to offer higher prices than those in the offers already submitted.
6. If the applicant whose offer is selected fails to provide the Services, EIT Food will select the most advantageous offer from among the remaining offers.

The selected Subcontractor will be required to sign a subcontract agreement with EIT Food based on the agreement template published as part of this call documentation. This call does not constitute an obligation of EIT Food to conclude a contract. This call may be cancelled at any time without giving reasons. In any case, no remuneration is provided to the applicants to cover the costs of preparation of the offers. Incomplete applications or applications submitted by ineligible applicants will be rejected. Complete applications received by EIT Food will be evaluated by an expert committee using standardized selection criteria. EIT Food reserves the right to contact the applicants by e-mail asking for additional explanations or supporting documents. All applications will be evaluated using transparent selection criteria, and all applicants will receive feedback, sent to an e-mail account indicated in the application template.

**General disclaimer**

The present General Disclaimer shall be applied to all documents related to the EIT Food Call for expressions of interest to provide external agronomist services. Please note that the launch of the new European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe is expected in spring 2021. New provisions of Horizon Europe Partnership Agreement (“PA”) and Model Grant Agreement (“MGA”) will be applied for the execution of the projects, including any documents related to the announcement, implementation and completion of the projects, as well as subcontract agreement. These changes shall also be applied to the projects and offers already selected. Consequently, EIT Food reserves the right to introduce changes or additional conditions subject to the new provisions of the Horizon Europe and Horizon Europe PA and MGA. Should your offer be selected, the proposed budget, accounting requirements, or any other contractual provisions might be adjusted according to the provisions of Horizon Europe PA and MGA before the signature of the subcontract agreement, if necessary. EIT Food will announce the changes as soon as possible. Due to the changes, the present Call may also be revoked or invalidated, if necessary. Applicant shall acknowledge and accept that EIT Food shall not be responsible to the applicant for any changes, modifications or additions to be applied in accordance with the new provisions of Horizon Europe and Horizon Europe PA and MGA. In particular, if the changes or the measures related thereto would cause additional costs to the applicant, the applicant may not enforce them and may not bring any claim or action on any basis against EIT Food.