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Call for offers

Donau Soja is seeking an

Expert for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of soya bean production at Donau Soja / Europe Soya production sites

The Donau Soja Organisation (hereafter: the commissioner) hereby invites organisations/individuals (hereafter: the service provider) to send in their proposal for the provision of the services described in this Call for offers. The service provider selected will fulfil an expert role in the life cycle assessment (LCA) of soya bean production. This service will be conducted under the framework of the Strategic Partnership between Donau Soja and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Background

Donau Soja

Donau Soja is an independent, international, non-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation aiming to effectively meet protein market demand and to provide a baseline for the development of high quality soya cultivation in the Danube region (www.donausoja.org). The organisation is based in Vienna, Austria.

Strategic Partnership Programme

At the beginning of 2017, Donau Soja and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) started the Strategic Partnership Programme in Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina planned to be implemented until August 2023. The overall objective of the programme is to build sustainable, inclusive and well-functioning value chains (local, regional and international) for non-GM soya and organic soya in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

The programme proposes measures in nine areas (components: Production and processing, Value chain development, Awareness raising and sensitization, Certification and labelling, Business environment and policy framework, International market development, Knowledge and technology management and transfer, Project development and technical assistance, General administration and programme management) planned to be implemented by Donau Soja through numerous measures and activities. All programme activities are to be implemented according to General Contract Conditions (Allgemeine Vertragsbedingungen), guidelines and requirements described in Guidelines for Visibility, considering DS and standards in international development, with special emphasis of DCED Standard (<http://www.enterprise-development.org/dced-guidance/>).

The work of the expert

Goal: develop LCA datasets of Donau Soja / Europe Soya-certified soya beans on country level (in compliance with requirements of relevant LCA databases)

Scope:

The functional unit of the LCA is defined as 1 kg of Donau Soja / Europe Soya-certified soya beans from most relevant Donau Soja / Europe Soya production regions (up to five European countries, e.g. Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Romania, Russia).

Note: the actual countries and number of countries will be defined with the service provider; The service provider is requested to provide a modular offer for up to five countries considering decrease in additional costs per additional country.

In the LCA all relevant impact categories shall be assessed, following applicable international guidance (e.g. PEFCR feed¹, FAO-LEAP²).

The assessment shall be based on the following data sources (not exhaustive):

- Primary data on agricultural production: Starting with direct Land Use Change (dLUC) as far as applicable; the inputs (seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, diesel, electricity, water...) and transport of the beans to the "entry into the European market". (e.g. the farm gate for large farms delivering directly to oil mills, or the nearest warehouse, including transport (with tractor) to the warehouse).
- Optional satellite images: For land that was converted more than 20 years ago, no Land Use Change (LUC) is included in the calculation of the climate impact (in line with the FAO-LEAP approach²).

The assessment shall be in line with international standards and norms (ISO 14040/44) and in line with requirements for branded datasets of international databases (e.g. Agri-footprint, GFLI), including requirements on critical review by an independent third party.

The following phases and services are foreseen:

1. Preparation of LCA

The service provider will participate in a Kick-off Workshop with Donau Soja. The service provider will prepare methodology for the study, define a benchmark for comparison and prepare data sheets for data collection incl. mandatory activity data (yields, fertiliser use etc.).

2. Data collection and interpretation

The service provider is available for requests during data collection. Data collection coordination and execution will be done by Donau Soja staff. The service provider analysis and interprets the data. The results (including hot spot analysis) are presented to Donau Soja.

¹ PEFCR feed for food producing animals:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/smgp/pdf/PEFCR_feed.pdf

² <http://www.fao.org/3/mj751e/mj751e.pdf>

3. Reporting

The service provider reports on the results in form of a report for publication. Additional technical details (incl. overview of all data sources used) are provided in a separate internal report.

The service provider will be contracted to deliver the following intermediary and end products:

1. LCA of soya beans from Donau Soja / Europe Soya cultivation in up to five European countries (with a focus on SEE/CEE)
2. An intermediary presentation to discuss the main findings with the commissioner
3. A final report for publication explaining the assumptions, methodology, results and interpretation of results
4. A technical document stating all resources used to develop the calculations
5. Dataset available in international databases

Donau Soja supports the service provider by establishing contacts with partners in the supply chain and facilitating cooperation with the respective producers and experts and by providing information and evidence in regard to dLUC.

Donau Soja does not provide access to LCA databases and cannot cover costs for such access.

Requirements

The service provider shall meet the following requirements:

- Excellent record on LCA of agricultural products, including soya beans
- Access to LCA databases
- Solid research and analytical skills;
- Ability to write clearly and concisely in English;

In addition, the service provider is required to support high standards of social and environmental performance in the project and demonstrate gender and diversity competences.

The assignment is part-time/ short term, and the services will be provided based on a work plan mutually agreed between the service provider and Donau Soja Organisation.

The service provider is expected to use his/her own office and technical equipment.

Reporting

The service provider will report directly to the *Project Manager Sustainability*.

Close cooperation with Donau Soja team is required in regards to European soya supply chains.

The service provider is expected to submit written reports on work conducted twice (intermediate presentation and final report).

The service provider is expected to keep records of time, cost and activities spent on the project.

Additionally, outputs (such as Intermediary presentation, final report) can be considered as proof of expert work.

Remuneration

The service provider will work under a framework agreement.

Remuneration installments will be based on offer and agreement between Donau Soja and the service provider. The detailed remuneration plan will be defined in the framework agreement.

Payments will be done based on issued invoices.

The fees will be paid based on services provided - against accepted time recording and other agreed terms.

Travel costs and other cost can be paid directly by the contractor or by the service provider - against proof of evidence - (incl. written confirmation of contractor, invoices for transportation, tickets/boarding passes, hotel invoices, entrance tickets etc.)

Selection criteria

The evaluation will be done based on following criteria:

1. Price
2. Strategic approach proposal (understanding of task, plausibility, level of detail)
3. Detailed plan for each work package of the assignment (incl. methodology, timeframe, budget,...)
4. Professional experience with LCA of agricultural products, including soya beans
5. Professional experience with assessing Land Use Change (LUC) as part of an LCA, experience of assessing LUC in relation to certification schemes is an asset
6. Reputation of service provider/references
7. Fulfilment of the formal requirements defined in the ToR
8. English language skills

Documents to be provided

Tenders are to be sent by email to dreyer@donausoja.org by 25.04.2021, indicating "Expert for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of soya bean production at Donau Soja/ Europe Soya production sites" in the subject, with the following documents (in English or German):

1. Short interpretation of the assignment
2. Description of strategic approach including planned activities for each part of the assignment, methodology of each part of the assignment, results and time frame
3. Project management plan, including milestones and feedback moments
4. A curriculum vitae for each of the staff expected to be engaged in the work.
5. References (at least three relevant examples of projects executed that show experience with this type of assignments)
6. Financial offer including detailed budget overview (days per activity, costs per day)