

 **INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS**

**TRIALLING RETAILER LED INTERVENTIONS IN FARM STAGE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE IN THE UK**

**INTRODUCTION**

WWF-UK and Tesco are working to reduce the scale and impact of farm stage food loss and waste (FLW). In order to enable this, we are calling on retailers to alter practices and policies which contribute to driving levels of food loss occurring on farms.

We are seeking an experienced consultant to help us design, facilitate and analysis a number of retailer led interventions in farm stage food loss. The work would include working with WWF-UK and Tesco’s FLW and Sustainable Agriculture teams to scope out potential interventions, then designing, implementing and monitoring interventions and measuring the impact of the intervention on loss rates. The work will span a range of commodities and supply chains.

**CONTEXT**

In July 2021 WWF-UK released *Driven to Waste*, a report which estimates the scale and impact of farm stage food loss. The findings of this report suggest that 1.2billion tonnes of food is lost on farms globally each year, making it the largest contributor to food loss of all stages in the supply chain. The growing and disposal of food which never makes it past farm gates is responsible for 16% of all agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 4% of total GHGs, making reducing this figure pivotal to climate action, sustainable agriculture and the development of sustainable food systems. This food also consumes an area of land larger than the sub-continent of India, meaning reducing its volumes holds to potential to reduce our land footprint and prevent further expansion of agricultural lands in order to feed a growing population. Despite this, FLW work in this area is limited, in part due to the silo method of managing FLW where each stage of the supply chain is managed in isolation.

*Driven to Waste* illustrates that many of the drivers of farm stage food loss stem from decisions made beyond the farm gate by market actors and policy makers. Whilst there are many environmental, technological and agronomical issues which contribute to food loss, it is evident that without changes in the wider supply chain success in minimising loss rates will be limited. Within retail practices decisions or policies such as last-minute changes to orders, aesthetic standards and contractual practices can increase the volume of food lost at farm stage. As such, this work focuses on designing and trialling retailer led interventions in farm stage losses. The outcomes of this work should centre on changes to policy and practice that can be implemented from a retail level in order to minimise the volume of food loss on farms.

**MAIN PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The core objective of this work is to trial the impact of retailer led interventions on food loss occurring on farm in order to enable WWF and Tesco to make policy and practice recommendations to the wider retail market. We are seeking a highly experienced consultant with expertise in agriculture to design and facilitate the interventions and monitor their impact on food loss rates on farm. For example, an area we are interested in exploring is reducing the loss rates in dairy farming due to withdrawal of milk during and after antibiotic use. Once engaged the consultant would lead efforts to exploring the potential methods of enabling this, assess their feasibility and scalability, implement a selected method and monitor its impact.

We are aiming to explore interventions in 3 to 5 commodity types (e.g. milk, chicken and wheat) depending on scale and cost. These should span a range of commodities within the Tesco supply chain and must be scalable in the event that they successfully contribute to a reduction in food loss. This work will include the following stages:

Stage 1: Identifying the key interventions

Stage 2: Designing of intervention

Stage 3: Field work (Measure current loss rates, implement intervention, measure loss rates post intervention)

Stage 4: Report on impact of intervention

Throughout these stages the consultant will have access to key stakeholders in Tesco and WWF for guidance and information relating to supply chains, e.g. the agriculture team, commercial team and sustainability team. Additionally, where possible Tesco will seek to engage farmers within their supply chains on behalf of the consultant to participate in the field work portions, however in some cases the work may require recruiting farmers to participate in the research.

**KEY OUTPUTS AND TIMELINE**

Intervention design and implementation

Final Report including summary of research methods, outcomes and recommendations

Presentation of results to key internal stakeholders

**PROPOSED TIMELINE**

Deadline for proposals: 30th November 2021

Kick off meeting: w/c 13th December 2021

Intervention implementation plans delivered by: w/c 21st Feb 2022

Draft report: w/c 31st October 2022

Final report: w/c 19th December 2022

**REPORTING TO:**

Responses and questions should be sent to Dr Lilly Da Gama, Food Loss and Waste Programme Manager, ldagama@wwf.org.uk.

**PROPOSALS:**

We recommend that proposals are limited to four sides in length. In your proposal, please include the following:

* A method statement to explain your proposed approach to carrying out the work.
* A brief project plan, showing key milestones and any interdependencies.
* Details about similar projects you have undertaken or your relevant experience in this field.
* A fee proposal including resource allocations and charging rates for all individuals, and any third party costs.
* Confirmation that you would be to accept the WWF Standard Terms and Conditions as the basis for contracting.

**BUDGET RANGE:**

We have approximately £40-50k including VAT to support this work.

Thank you for expressing an interest in working with and supporting WWF-UK with this important piece of work.  We look forward to receiving your response.

**RELEVANT SUPPORTING WWF MATERIAL**

WWF-UK (2021) Driven to waste: The Global Impact of Food Loss and Waste on Farms. Woking.

WRAP (2019) Food waste in primary production in the UK. Banbury.