

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

I. SUMMARY

Project Title:	Addressing Synergies and Trade-Offs in the Food System Transformation: Global CGE Simulations of Policy Bundles
RFP Issued:	08 December 2021
Proposals due:	22 December 2021 11:59pm (23:59) EST (Washington, DC time)
Anticipated project start date:	10 January 2022
Duration and type of contract:	January-October 2022, fixed price contract
Value of contract:	A maximum of 100,000 USD plus VAT
Contact:	Andrea Oyuela (andrea@eatforum.org)

The Food System Economics Commission (FSEC) is commissioning a study on synergies and trade-offs of different policies in the food system transformation, with support from the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

This study will provide a number of scenarios exploring synergies and trade-offs in pursuing the different objectives in terms of environment, health and inclusion required to shift food systems towards the Food System Development Pathways proposed by the FSEC.

Against this background, a fixed price-type contract will be awarded to the successful bidder to undertake this study.

The FSEC expects the following final products:

- A background paper, detailing all results and findings of this work
- A short policy brief, including a non-specialist summary of the work's main findings.

II. BACKGROUND

About the Food Systems Economic Commission

The Food System Economics Commission (FSEC) is an independent academic commission set up to equip political and economic decision-makers with tools and evidence to shift food and land-use systems. Convened by EAT, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), and the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), the FSEC builds on the vanguard of integrated assessment modelling and evidence-based policy design to study and synthesize knowledge on the inclusion, health, and environmental dimensions of the economics of food systems. The Commission's overarching objective is to further the transition to healthy, inclusive, and sustainable food systems by providing a comprehensive assessment of the economics of current food systems, their unaccounted costs (defined as environmental, dietary health and social costs) and the distributional impacts of the transition; and by rigorously assessing evidence and providing new tools to support policy design.

Project Objectives

The proposed study, part of the Policy and Political Economy workstream of the FSEC analytical program, aims to explore synergies and trade-offs between a range of policies that pursue different objectives in terms of environment, health, and inclusion required to shift food systems towards the Food System Development Pathways explored by the FSEC modelling workstream.

III. SCOPE OF WORK & OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

The bidder/research team will:

1. Work closely with a dedicated working group within the FSEC Secretariat to set up the baseline for the model, and the design of specific groups of scenarios.
2. Produce draft results for the scenarios and discuss them with the working group of the FSEC Secretariat as appropriate.
3. Present progress to plenary or working group sessions of the FSEC, as required.
4. Prepare a background paper including all relevant results and findings.
5. Prepare a short policy brief, including a non-specialist summary of the work's main findings.

Methodology

The analysis of synergies and trade-offs between policies seeking to reach different food system goals will be conducted using a global computable general equilibrium (CGE). Progress on key variables in terms of environment, health, and inclusion, as well as overall fiscal impacts and economic growth will be tracked.

As the analysis of inclusion effects is key to FSEC analytical focus, the disaggregation of labor in different skill types will be a key component of this work. It is expected that the outcomes will be tracked for up to 10 groups of countries, derived from some combination of national income, geography, and food system characteristics. The time horizon will be a 10-year period (to 2030).

The policy scenarios will include:

- a. The implementation of one or more policy bundles constructed on the basis of at least one policy instrument for each of the three objectives considered (e.g., red meat tax and/or subsidies on fruits and vegetables for health; wage subsidies for low-skilled agricultural workers and/or compensation packages for low-skilled workers both within and outside agriculture to address rising food prices; and taxes on inputs and/or on emissions to address environmental objectives).
- b. The implementation of a global GHG tax, whose proceeds are redistributed internationally. Different criteria for redistribution could be considered, such as targeting low and lower middle-income countries, or concentrating resources on tropical forest countries to prevent deforestation.
- c. Combinations of scenarios (a) and (b) above where the national policy bundles are considered jointly with international redistribution schemes.

As the exact specification of policies in different scenarios has not yet been finalized, the degree of disaggregation of agriculture into sub-sectors and the ability to model interventions on specific agricultural inputs or outputs will be paramount to ensure flexibility in the scenario design stage.

IV. TIMELINE

This study is planned to start on 10 January 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter and will last until 30 October 2022.

The research team will share a preliminary draft of the background paper to FSEC for comments by 10 June 2022.

A final draft of the background paper, together with the short policy brief, will be submitted by 30 September 2022.

V. BUDGET

The total costs of this study are expected to amount to no more than USD 100,000.00 plus VAT.

VI. GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Requirements

The selected organization or consultancy research team will be able to demonstrate capacity to deliver high-quality outputs on related issues, particularly:

- The research team will have relevant postgraduate qualifications such as economics, climate change, development studies, public administration, or a related field.
- The team's specialization as evidenced by past publication records will be on CGE modelling, ideally on food system-related issues.
- The Lead Researcher(s) on the team will have at least 8 years of relevant professional experience.
- The research team will have strong analytical and writing skills and a proven track record in writing high-quality research reports in English.

Content of the Proposal

The proposal must include the following documents:

- A statement of interest describing the proposed research approach and in particular:
 - the model to be used, with a special emphasis on the disaggregation of labor in different skill types, the disaggregation of agriculture into sub-sectors, and the possibility of modelling interventions on specific agricultural inputs or outputs;
 - the key output variables relating to health, environment, and inclusion which can be produced with the model; and
 - the different types of policy interventions which could be modelled in relation to the health, environment, and inclusion dimensions of food systems.
- A team description of the proposed research team members and their roles, and how the suggested team composition meets the requirements detailed above.
- CVs of team members (max. 3 pages), including detailed publication records.
- Examples of and references of previous work, comparable in nature to the task here described.
- A proposed budget, including cost categories such as personnel, direct costs, and overhead.
- A suggested summary workplan.

Deadline for Questions

Please submit any questions related to this tender to:

Andrea Oyuela
Program Manager, Food System Economics Commission
(andrea@eatforum.org)

by the 22nd of December 2021.

Deadline for Submissions

All bids must be sent in electronic format to Andrea Oyuela (andrea@eatforum.org) by **11:59pm (23:59) EST on 22 December 2021 (Washington, DC time)** with “Proposal, CGE Simulations” in the subject line.

All files must be submitted in PDF format and should not exceed 20 MB.

All tenders submitted after that date will be rejected.

VII. EVALUATION & SELECTION

Evaluation Criteria

The successful submission will be assessed on technical content, value for money, relevance, and expertise. The following elements will be the primary considerations in evaluating all proposals submitted in response to this Request for Proposals:

- Completed submission of all required elements.
- Model ability to cover all relevant aspects of the analysis, including modelling impacts on health, inclusion, and environment.
- Model ability to provide as disaggregated as possible a picture of labor by skill, sector, and sub-sector type.
- Model disaggregation of the agricultural sector in terms of subsectors and in terms of agricultural inputs and outputs that can be separately modelled.
- Team’s technical competency as evidenced by relevant experiences, publication records and collaborations on major global publications.
- Proven past performance and ability to deliver complex deliverables in a timely fashion, as evidenced by previous collaborations with major global publications.
- Overall value of the vendor’s proposal. **For this procurement, non-price aspects such as model relevance to the task at end and relevant previous research outputs are more important than price.**

Selection Process

The quality of each proposal will be evaluated in accordance with the above criteria. EAT may award to the bidder offering best value without discussions. However, EAT reserves the right to seek bidder clarifications and to negotiate with those bidders deemed to be within a competitive range.

The successful tenderer will be informed in writing that its tender has been accepted.

No proposal development costs shall be charged to EAT/ all expenses are to be borne by the bidders.

EAT may, at its discretion and without explanation to the prospective providers, choose to discontinue this Request for Proposals without obligation to such providers.

Offers will be rejected if any illegal or corrupt practices have taken place in connection with the prospective providers.