Request for Proposals

Project Name: Rosebud Farm Company – Specialty Crops Feasibility Study

Company Name: Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO)

Project Due Date: February 25th, 2022.

Contact: Koby Hagen

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Introduction

The Rosebud Farm Company (RFC) is a subsidiary of the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO). Founded in 2013, RFC has managed 1,400 acres of irrigated farmland and 600 acres of non-irrigated farmland through local farm contracts. It has been steadily building its capacity to directly farm this acreage as well as develop a long-term strategic agricultural plan to support food sovereignty for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe).

While the Sicangu Lakota Oyate's food practices have not historically centered around large-scale agriculture, creating regional food and agricultural hubs and sub-hubs is an essential piece of economic development and food sovereignty for tribal communities across the United States. According to the Native American Agricultural Fund (NAAF), Native American farmers sold $3.54 billion worth of agricultural products ("Reimaging Native Food Economies: A Vision for Native Food and Agriculture Infrastructure Rebuilding and Recovery"). This was only 8% of the food's total value, where the remaining revenue earned was generated in food processing, trade and food services by non-tribal entities.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe is land rich yet infrastructurally deficient. Its land area span about 1,970.362 square miles, where 85% of the 34,947 enrolled tribal members reside. Within this landscape, there are only three grocery stores, eight convenience stores, and three stand-alone venues to purchase prepared foods on the reservation. Most of the products within these food sources are imported from afar, nutritionally deficient, and are not relevant to sustaining cultural food practices into the future. Moreover, many of these agricultural products sold are not organic and they are vulnerable to climate change weather extremes. If reliance on these imported agricultural products continues, food insecurity

will increase and food system economic development will be hindered within tribal communities like the Sicangu Lakota Oyate.

To counteract food insecurity, build food sovereignty, and create a circular food and agricultural economy, RFC is planning to implement specialty crop production, investment in innovative farm practices and infrastructure that can withstand climate change, and build regional agricultural hub operations to foster local economic development.

Project Overview

In the next five years, RFC aims to bolster food security through local production of regional food demands, starting with eggs. To do this, we need to create a feasibility study of an innovative and quadruple-bottom line layer hen operation model. This layer hen operation will be able to produce enough eggs to meet the demand of all tribal member residents of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (~34,000 people) while sustaining profit, training and employing tribal members, protecting local ecological functions, and upholding Sicangu cultural values.

We want to explore a hybrid operation model: a central egg production and processing facility along with mobile layer hen houses. For both of these visions we want to explore what avenues there are for carbon-negative facility design, costs to implement and subsequent long-term operating efficiencies and savings. The central facility will operate year-round, with rotational pastures for free-range layer hens. The mobile layer hen houses will rotate to local tribal farmer fields to foster a closed-loop fertility cycle for soil improvement and to add supplementary income to each farmer's farm plan. This operation will be an exemplary model of holistic egg production.

Project Goal

By 2023, RFC will implement a regenerative organic layer hen facility that will meet the following goals:

- A free-range layer hen egg production facility that produces nutrient-dense organic eggs for 34,000 resident tribal members
- Demonstrate a carbon-negative hybrid model, whereby mobile hen houses operate alongside a central processing facility; this assists in closing the soil fertility loop for local tribal farmers and farmland

To do this, we are seeking a regenerative egg production operation feasibility study to understand how much it will cost to design, implement and sustain as well as identify planning, financing and market resources for this project.

Scope of Work

The scope of work will highlight the feasibility of a regenerative egg production operation with an additional second-phase operation option. The first phase would be a LEED-certified central organic egg production facility. LEED-certification is one idea of many to make sure the buildings and energy we invest in are as carbon-neutral as possible. If there is a higher standard on the market at this time, then this should be part of the scope of work as well.

This feasibility study will also analyze a second-phase option of a mobile hen house operation. Initially, there will be a set number of mobile hen units based at the central operating facility that can be placed at farm fields during the main growing season. A feasibility study will include the costs, personnel and potential implementation timeline of this option. The following deliverables must be included in the scope of work to complete this feasibility study.

Deliverables

We aim to have a feasibility study that contains the following deliverables for both of first phase and optional second phase for a regenerative egg production operation.

- An outline of the main operational needs for a year-round layer hen operation with an operational flow chart
- Regional organic egg supply and demand analysis
- Annual revenue and profit projections
- Staffing requirements to run the central facility operation and staffing requirements to operate and manage the mobile hen houses
- Infrastructural requirements and costs; Recommendations for a carbon negative facility and mobile hen house units
- Equipment requirement and costs
- A list of best breeds for triple-bottom line layer hens that include brooding, cold heartiness, and high-yield egg laying
- Layer hen requirements and costs
- Detailed list of potential buyers and regional markets
- 2022-2023 Implementation Timeline and Total Costs chart
- A list of financing and grant options to jump-start the operation design and implementation
- Overall assessment of the feasibility of the main operation facility and the optional mobile hen house vision

Anticipated Selection Schedule

The Request for Proposal timeline is as follows:

Request for RFP: October 18th, 2021

Deadline for Questions: November 5th, 2021

RFC Responds to Questions: November 8th, 2021

Quotes from Service Providers Due: November 19th, 2021

Selection of Service Provider: November 23rd, 2021

Project due: **February 25th, 2022**

Time and Place of Submission of Proposals

Respondents to this RFP must submit one original and five copies of their proposal, received no later than November 19th, 2021. Responses should be clearly marked "RFP - **Rosebud Farm Company – Regenerative Egg Production Feasibility Study**" and mailed or delivered to the contact person listed above. Responses may also be submitted via email: please email koby@sicangucorp.com with the subject line "Request for Proposal - **Rosebud Farm Company – Regenerative Egg Production Feasibility Study**" with the proposal attached as a pdf.

Timeline

The project is to be completed by **February 25th, 2022.**

Elements of Proposal

A submission must include, at a minimum, the following elements:

1. Description of the firm or organization including a general overview and names and credentials of the team who will be completing the project.
2. A one-page narrative outlining the organizations strengths and distinguishing skills or capabilities as they relate to the project.

3. A proposed budget for the project, including a breakdown of the time and cost requirements for each deliverable outlined in the 'Project Goals; 'Scope of Services' and 'Deliverables' sections.
4. Testimonies from past clients.
5. May include previous examples of completed feasibility studies.

Evaluation Criteria

The successful respondent will have been operating continuously and offering consulting services for a minimum of 24 months.

The education, experience, knowledge, skills, and qualifications of the firm and the individuals who will contribute to the project.

The competitive cost of services.

The expertise of the firm in completing similar studies or projects.

Tribal affiliation will also be considered. REDCO is a tribally chartered corporation under the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST), and as such follows the tribe's procurement policies. Indian preference therefore applies. However, all service providers are invited to apply, and evaluation of other criteria in addition to tribal affiliation will play a significant role in the selection process. The selected service provider will be required to have or obtain a Rosebud Sioux Tribe business license prior to commencement of the project.

Budget

The ideal project budget is $20,000, with the possibility of up to $25,000 for the right proposal. The budget includes all costs incurred by the service provider in completion of the project, including any travel expenses that may be necessary for visits to the Rosebud.