

Market consultation

Assessment of Water Use, Biodiversity Impacts and Sustainability Opportunities in Colombia's Hass Avocado Sector in Support of Dutch–Colombian Water and Food System Cooperation - IUC ref. 202606093

Organisation: the Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (in Dutch: Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, RVO) supports private and public organisations with funding, international business partners, knowledge, and regulations.

More information about RVO can be found on: www.rvo.nl and <http://english.rvo.nl/>.

Context and ambition

The water-biodiversity-food nexus is one of the cornerstones of the Partners for Water programme and particularly also the bilateral cooperation with Colombia. Past projects have focused on increasing water efficiency, availability and quality for commodities that include coffee, palm oil and bananas. In close alignment with the Combi-track Strategy of the Government of the Netherlands, this assessment aims to independently investigate the possibilities of positioning Colombia's Hass avocado sector as a sustainable sourcing origin, with particular attention for the water use and associated environmental impacts.

The assessment serves as an input to policy- and cooperation-related discussions and programmes between The Netherlands and Colombia and is envisaged to enable international buyers to make informed decisions, and support the sector in balancing growth with environmental stewardship.

Scope

The contractor will evaluate the environmental performance of Colombia's Hass avocado sector, focusing on how these impacts can be measured in the field and which indicators are needed to understand them. It will explore which indicators (potentially supported by Dutch technologies) can be used to assess biodiversity, water use, and broader ecosystem interactions. In doing so, the assessment also aims to better understand the suitability of avocado cultivation across different Colombian landscapes and its interactions with surrounding environmental systems.

Focusing on two representative landscapes, the assessment should produce actionable insights into the food–water–biodiversity nexus in areas undergoing rapid land-use change:

- **Manizales, Caldas province:** Historically a coffee-producing region now experiencing rapid conversion to avocado cultivation. The study will focus on avocado crops within the supply chain of FLP, a Colombian export company participating in Albert Heijn's regenerative agriculture programme. This case enables a better understanding of the impacts of these sustainability practices and the role of the Dutch private sector in fostering cross-country collaboration.
- **Sonsón, Antioquia province:** An area where avocado expansion overlaps with high-value ecosystems, including the Páramo de Sonsón. Given the páramo's crucial function in water provision and ecological balance, this case will be key to understanding potential trade-offs and synergies between production and conservation.

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Purpose of the assessment, goals and deliverables

The purpose of the assessment, its goals, and deliverables are outlined in the terms of reference, attached as Appendix 1.

Extent and duration

The assignment will run for a year after the commencement of the contract and is expected to start at 1 November 2026.

Budget indication

Max € 115.000 excluding Dutch VAT and including local foreign VAT, all other costs and fees and the travel costs of the consultant.

Purpose of the notification

The purpose of this market consultation is to identify the interest of qualified organizations to carry out this assessment.

Interested parties are requested to express their interest and answer the questions below.

Name company	
Website	
Name contact person, position + e-mail address	
Can the party carry out the assignment in accordance with the terms of reference?	Yes / No
Can the party carry out the assignment within the maximum budget?	Yes / No
Is the party available to carry out the assignment from November 2026 up to November 2027?	Yes / No
How would you ensure you are able to finalise the assignment before this deadline?	
Relevant experience: You are requested to provide a brief explanation, based on your previous experiences and skills, of why you believe you are capable of completing this assignment.	
If applicable: You are requested to list the name of the company, contact person, position and e-mail address of the consortium partner(s).	
What additional or modified professional profiles and disciplines would you deem necessary to carry out this assignment?	

How would you shape the collaboration with the Colombian key counterpart organisations indicated in the ToR?	
Which additional suggestions do you have with regards to the contents of the assignment?	

This market consultation is not a request for proposal, it is not allowed to send a proposal.

Application

Interested companies are invited to send an expression of interest to the RVO, by sending an e-mail to amber.nijland@rvo.nl of the Procurement Office. Please state the name of the contact person of your company and their e-mail address.

As a result of the market consultation, RVO may decide to initiate a procurement procedure. Interested parties can be invited to submit a request for proposal as part of this process. If more than 5 applicants respond to the market consultation, a supplier selection can take place on the basis of a selection prior to the request for quotation.

Please note that your response to this market consultation does not guarantee an invitation to participate in this procurement procedure.

In case of a procurement procedure, no distinction will be made between parties that have or have not participated in the market consultation.

Deadline

The deadline for responding to this market consultation is set at 20 August 2026, 12:00 CEST.