

Request for Proposals

Highly Hazardous Pesticides - US - Consultancy

RFP n#: 2022-06-IM-HHP
Location: United States
Start date: 15 July 2022
End date: 30 September 2022

Better Cotton key contact:
Karen Wynne
US Programs Team
tender@bettercotton.org



All applications must be sent by email, to Better Cotton's key contact, with the subject header: "Application RFP US HHPs – RFP# 2022-06-IM-HHP". Questions, requests and applications sent after the deadline (30 June 2022) will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Description

Better Cotton is the world's largest cotton sustainability programme. Our mission: to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment. In challenging times, we are meeting the challenge head on. Through our network of field-level partners we have trained over 2.5 million farmers in 23 countries in more sustainable farming practices. A quarter of the world's cotton is now grown under the Better Cotton Standard. We have united the industry's stakeholders behind our efforts, and by 2030 our aim is to have trained 5 million farmers and doubled global production of Better Cotton.

More information about Better Cotton can be found on our website: www.bettercotton.org

Background

We are seeking proposals from skilled individuals or organizations to review a targeted list of active ingredients commonly used on cotton in the US and provide Better Cotton with a comprehensive understanding of risk levels and alternatives.

As part of our focus on making cotton production better for the environment and the people who produce it, Better Cotton is committed to reducing the hazardous impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment. This includes supporting farmers to adopt Integrated Pest Management Practices as a core part of their crop protection approach. It also includes working with farmers to phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), and to minimise the negative impacts of pesticides that continue to be used.

A number of active ingredients (AIs) that are categorized as HHPs, but which are commonly used in cotton in the US, are thus prohibited under the Better Cotton Standard or targeted for phase out in the next few years. In some cases, farmers and partners are increasingly asking for support on identifying alternatives.

For these targeted AIs, Better Cotton would like to understand which alternatives exist (including non-chemical practices), and to understand the tradeoffs and limitations of these alternatives. In addition, for these targeted AIs, Better Cotton would like to better understand the risks to human health and the environment, as well as how effective various mitigation methods are at reducing these risks.

We are looking for someone very familiar with pesticide use in large-scale cotton production to review these active ingredients and provide Better Cotton with a comprehensive understanding of risk levels and alternatives.

Scope of Work

The expected output will be a review of seven active ingredients (Phorate, Aldicarb, Abamectin, Oxamyl, Bifenthrin, Dicrotophos, Bifenthrin, Lambda-cyhalothrin) identified as HHPs and provide Better Cotton with a comprehensive understanding of risk levels, alternatives, and barriers to phasing out HHPs. We expect the review and documentation to be developed in 5-7 full-time equivalent days.

Deliverables*

For each AI, outline:

- Overview of current use by US cotton farmers (for which pests, in which climates, general levels of use and application frequency, etc.);
- Description of alternative pest management techniques, including comments on the overall efficacy of each one and any key tradeoffs from an IPM or resistance management perspective;
- Specific hazards to environmental or human health and strategies to mitigate these; including an assessment of how effective various methods are at mitigating risks, and any limitations;
- Outline barriers for phase out and recommendations to address these barriers, including grower and crop advisor education.

**Better Cotton has done some initial work using data collected from licensed farmers and publicly available information. Refer to the Active Ingredient Profiles and IPM Overview of Alternatives documents in the following link:*

https://bettercottoninitiative.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/ProgrammePartnerResources/EiVYk4nw9MBFvy-7J30_tBEMw9KhdCFw95_gThYnp6-5w?e=R5cQg9

High-level Timeline

30 June 2022	All applications must be submitted by email, headed "Application RFP HHP US: RFP#2022-06-IM-HHP" addressed to Karen Wynne at tender@bettercotton.org .
20 June to 7 July 2022	Applications review & shortlisting / interviews
7 July 2022	The successful applicant will be notified Unsuccessful <u>shortlisted</u> applicants will also be notified
15 July 2022	Start of the consultancy
By 31 August 2022	Draft report to US Team for review and discussion
By 30 September 2022	Final report / deliverables

Required Skills & Knowledge

The consultant contracted to perform oversight must demonstrate at a minimum the following competencies:

1. A firm understanding of integrated pest management practices and pesticides used in cotton production in the United States;
2. Familiarity with existing materials, programs, and resources that support farmers' decision-making on pesticide use and alternatives;
3. Understanding of root causes of successful phase-out strategies in US and reasons why some strategies have failed;
4. [Desirable] familiarity with the Better Cotton Standard System.

In addition to skills, competencies and expertise, we will consider value for money and demonstrable commitment to the sustainability field to evaluate applications.

Application Requirements

Please submit the proposal and CV to Karen Wynne at tender@bettercotton.org by 30 June 2022.

Proposals should be a maximum of two pages (excluding CVs), and include the following:

- Overview of relevant experience;
- Proposed methodology and timeline;
- Detailed and transparent budget, in US dollars, including time allocation and day rates.

All proposal submissions will be evaluated based on the following aspects:

- Quality and clarity of proposed approach;
- Relevant experience of proposed team member(s);
- Alignment with the criteria set out in the ToR;
- Overall cost effectiveness.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Inquiries: Please have all questions relating to this RFP submitted to Karen Wynne at karen.wynne@bettercotton.org by Monday, June 27.

Better Cotton is committed to good practice and transparency in the management of natural, human and financial resources. All applications will be reviewed under the principles and subject to Better Cotton's policies on equal opportunity, non-discrimination, anti-bribery & corruption, and conflict of interest.