



Contracted Work: Food Loss & Food Waste Portfolio Evaluation

Request For Proposals



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About FFAR

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture](#)'s (FFAR) mission is to build collaborative partnerships to support audacious science addressing today's food and agriculture challenges. To do so, FFAR has built a research investment model to fill critical knowledge gaps, develop solutions previously deemed impossible and prepare today's scientific workforce to address the food and agriculture challenges of tomorrow. FFAR's work requires significant collaboration across the food and agriculture system to foster multidisciplinary expertise, input from stakeholders and support from a range of funding partners. FFAR's convening capabilities and agile approach leverage public funds by building public-private partnerships — resulting in an average of \$1.4 in match to every \$1 of FFAR funding.

About the Food Loss & Food Waste Portfolio

The Food Loss & Food Waste (FLFW) Portfolio supports research across the food system from harvest to retail and at food service and household levels. Specifically, FFAR's FLFW portfolio funds a breadth of research to combat the nearly 30% of global food lost or wasted each year. Food loss occurs at the production, storage, processing and distribution phases of the food value chain while food waste refers to food that is discarded at the retail or consumption phases. FFAR and its partners have awarded approximately \$15 million to twelve research projects and one consortium that target post-harvest food loss, retail food waste and household food waste to better understand and evaluate food system interactions, develop innovative and effective solutions to prevent and reduce food loss and waste while improving food security among vulnerable populations and find alternative uses of foods that would otherwise not be consumed by humans.

Portfolio Aims

1. Identify behavior drivers that contribute to food loss and waste across the value chain
2. Improve food loss and waste measuring, monitoring and reporting for more informed decision-making
3. Create decision-making tools and models to reduce food loss and waste
4. Develop, modify or improve post-harvest, processing, storage and transportation technologies and strategies to reduce food loss and waste
5. Improve food security for vulnerable populations by making foods more available and accessible

6. Support opportunities to enhance skills and capacity of next generation food loss and waste scientific workforce

Scope of Evaluation

FFAR seeks to evaluate the success of the FLOW portfolio. The evaluator, in collaboration with FFAR, will define criteria and standards of success. FFAR has established relevant technology readiness levels (TRLs) that the evaluator will use to track innovation within each value chain segment — post-harvest, retail and household — as applicable. Additionally, it's important for the evaluator to capture how funded projects influenced consumer behavior, improved food access and food security and/or informed policy development.

We envision a summative portfolio evaluation of 12 funded projects and one consortium to assess if research needs were met. We foresee the evaluator using a mixed methods approach, which includes qualitative analyses (such as surveys, interviews and focus groups) and quantitative analyses (including to the extent possible evaluating the most cost-effective outputs from funded research).

FFAR Will Provide

- Contact information for grantees and project partners
- Contact information for relevant FFAR staff
- High-level budget information for FLOW portfolio projects
- Annual and final reports submitted by grantees
- Project proposals for grants that are still in progress
- Consortium agreements

Other necessary data will be collected by the evaluator.

Evaluation Questions

1. To what extent did funded projects enhance knowledge of behavioral drivers contributing to food loss and waste across the value chain?
2. To what extent did funded projects improve local, regional and national food loss and waste decision-making through new or improved data measurement, modelling, monitoring and reporting?
3. To what extent did funded projects lead to new or improved food loss and waste reduction technologies/strategies in post-harvest, processing, storage and transportation segments of the value chain?

4. To what extent did funded projects lead to reduced food loss and waste at the local, regional and national level?
5. To what extent did funded projects improve the skills and knowledge of the next generation of scientific workforce focused on reducing food loss and waste?

Evaluation Timeline & Products

Expected Products & Deliverables

1. Standalone external-facing executive summary of findings
2. Slide deck presentation of high-level findings
3. Final report describing the portfolio evaluation background, methodology, findings including data visualization, interpretations of findings, conclusion and relevant references
4. Stakeholder feedback report which includes interview transcripts and summarized findings
5. Recommendations on research needs moving forward

Estimated Project Timeline

- Anticipated contract execution date: Friday, September 27, 2024
- Define criteria and standards of success completed: Friday, October 18, 2024
- Draft final report: Friday, Feb 14, 2025
- Final report and all deliverables: Friday, February 28, 2025

Proposal Guidelines

All proposals are to be submitted by Monday, September 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m. PT deadline. Proposals should be submitted as a Portable Document Format (PDF) via email to cgambino@foundationfar.org with the subject line "FLFW Portfolio Evaluation Proposal".

FFAR welcomes individuals or teams with food systems and evaluative methods expertise and of the following expertise to apply: food science, value chain and/or econometrics. If beneficial to the success of the evaluation process, FFAR may match one or more individuals into a team.

Proposal Process Timeline

- Submission deadline: Monday, September 16, 2024

- Finalist presentations and panel discussions: Monday, September 23 through Thursday, September 26, 2024
- Client reference checks: Monday, September 23 through Thursday, September 26, 2024

Proposals Should Contain the Following Sections

1. Applicant background/overview (1 page maximum), including an indication of relevant expertise
2. Previous experience(s) of research program evaluation work with a similar or related scope (2 pages maximum)
3. Description approach and evaluation plan (5 pages maximum)
 - a. Including relevant indicators to assess proposed evaluation questions
 - b. For example, some relevant indicators are changes in policy or practice, operational changes, pounds of food saved and tons of carbon deferred, cost savings, etc.
4. Project budget and budget justification (this evaluation does not require matching funds)
5. Evaluation timeline
6. Project key personnel including roles and responsibilities
7. Team members' CVs
8. Links to deliverables from past evaluation projects of a similar scope
9. Client references

Finalist Presentation Preparation

FFAR will hold a 60-minute meeting (20-minutes presentation and 40-minute panel interview) with finalists via video conference. The presentation should highlight the applicant's approach, including the criteria and standards they envision being used to measure the success of projects and the FLFW portfolio as a whole. Additionally, the presentation should include a brief explanation of methods, followed by a showcase of how collected data may be visualized.

The panel discussion may be used to clarify the methods used for collection and analysis of data. Additionally, the panel may inquire about past projects and previous client relations to ensure the applicant and FFAR are a good fit.