

Carbon Claims Consultant Call for Proposals

Bonsucro is looking for an experienced Carbon Claims expert to support its team by providing analysis, advice and recommendations around how it can improve its claims and labelling rules with respect to carbon impact claims.

Deadline for submissions is the 24 February 2023 and the work is expected to be carried out between the 1 March and the 10 May 2023.

1. About Bonsucro and its climate action agenda

Bonsucro is the leading global sustainability platform and standard for sugarcane, one of the world's most important crops. Our purpose is to collectively accelerate the sustainable production and uses of sugarcane.

Bonsucro convenes over 300 members from more than 50 countries to address critical challenges in the sugarcane sector and drive both performance and impact through our system of sustainability standards. It works across all sugarcane products and derivatives – sugar, ethanol, molasses, and bagasse in traditional and newer market sectors, from sugar and alcohol to biofuels and bioplastics.

Driving climate action in the sugarcane sector is a priority in our 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and we are working to facilitate mitigation efforts in the sugarcane sector. In October 2022 we launched an [initiative](#) to develop a mitigation pathway for the sector to drive down emissions in line with science and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Following the same structure as [SBTi's](#) existing work in other sectors, we are calculating a baseline of current land-based emissions per kilo of sugarcane produced, looking at projected future production, then setting ambitious but achievable targets for reducing these emissions over the coming years. This will enable companies that operate within the sugarcane value chain to set science-based targets covering scope 1 (direct), scope 2 (indirect) and scope 3 (supply chain) emissions in sugarcane production up to the farm gate.

For Bonsucro certified-producers, it is possible to verify these emissions reductions as part of the certification process using the GHG component of the [Bonsucro Calculator](#). In cases of clearly-defined, segregated supply chains, there are established protocols around how these emissions reductions claims can be transferred and shared along the supply chain. However, for certified sugarcane supply chains that typically use a mass-balance or a book-and-claim traceability system, there is currently a “claims gap” when it comes to reporting and claiming GHG emissions reductions.

Filling this “claims gap” in a credible way has been identified as an opportunity to

strengthen the certification value-proposition for both the producers and buyers of sugarcane. A growing number of Bonsucro members have indicated an interest in making carbon reduction claims based on the [evidence](#) that Bonsucro-certified farms and mills reduce their GHG emissions as they work to comply with the [Bonsucro Production Standard](#).

2. Scope and Objectives of Consultancy

Following several consultations with members, in October 2019 Bonsucro introduced a new [Claims & Labelling Rules document](#), which explains the different types of claims Bonsucro members and certified members are able to make and the requirements for Bonsucro-related claims.

As noted, at this stage Bonsucro members cannot make carbon-reduction claims (scope 3 emission reductions) in relation to their procurement of [Bonsucro Credits](#) and/or Bonsucro Certified Derivatives purchased via a mass-balance system. The purpose of this consultancy is to address this “carbon claims gap” and update Bonsucro’s Claims and Labelling Rules document accordingly.

The key objectives and deliverables of this consultancy project are:

- i) **State of play with respect to certified goods and GHG-reduction claims:** Summarise the main challenges, risks and opportunities associated with attributing emissions data to certified goods specially in cases where market-allocation traceability models are used, with emphasis on understanding and effectively mitigating double-counting risks, i.e., GHG emissions reductions at farm/mill level being claimed by multiple actors in the supply chain
- ii) **Investigate and report on how other credible voluntary sustainability standards** and schemes operating in the agriculture commodity space (e.g soy, palm oil and biofuels) are approaching carbon accounting, mitigation pathways and decarbonisation claims.
- iii) **Engage Bonsucro’s largest end-user companies** and review their GHG reporting/reduction commitments, as well as their expectations around how their purchases of Bonsucro certified materials and credits should or could contribute to their Scope 3 emissions reductions.
- iv) **Engage key external stakeholders** in the GHG emissions accounting and reporting space such as the GHG Protocol Secretariat, the SBTi and CDP around the issue of market-based allocation of emissions factors. On the basis of this engagement, the consultant should document where the debate/science around market-based allocation is headed, and what credibility safeguards need to be put in place to avoid double counting.
- v) **Decarbonisation claims and labeling rules:** Using the results of the analysis carried out above, the consultant is expected to summarise the various approaches and options that Bonsucro could adopt with respect to its rules on carbon claims. The advantages and disadvantages of each of these options should be discussed, and a recommendation made around which approach should be followed.

- vi) **Updating Bonsucro's Claims and Labeling Rules:** Once agreement has been reached around Bonsucro's preferred approach to carbon claims, the consultant is expected to prepare an annex to Bonsucro's current Claims and Labeling Rules Version 7 specifically covering claims on decarbonisation impacts. This annex should be accompanied by an implementation and oversight procedure for Bonsucro.
- vii) **Impact claims beyond carbon:** Provide a set of recommendations around how the approach followed for making credible decarbonisation claims, can be used for other impact areas such as water efficiency and biodiversity.

3. Qualifications of Consultant

It is expected that consultants carrying out this assignment will have the following qualifications:

- Strong background and experience in climate change and carbon accounting (essential)
- Well-established relationships with organisations leading the corporate climate action agenda such as the SBTi, CDP and the Gold Standard (essential)
- Strong background of working with organisations such as sustainability standards and voluntary schemes (desirable)
- Excellent English communication skills (written and verbal) (essential)
- Excellent fact-finding skills and a track-record on objective reporting (essential)
- Knowledge of Bonsucro and its functioning (desirable)
- Deep understanding of sustainability issues in agriculture (desirable)

4. Outputs

The key outputs of this assignment must be:

- i) Concise report covering the main elements of the scope of work outlined in Section 2 above.
- ii) Presentation deck summarising the various options that can be adopted by Bonsucro with respect to its rules on carbon claims. This deck should also include recommendations and guidance regarding improvements needed in Bonsucro's internal systems for Credit Trading and Mass Balance trades related to the proposed options.
- iii) An annex to Bonsucro's current Claims and Labeling Rules Version 7 specifically covering claims around decarbonisation impacts.
- iv) Following the update of the Claims & Labelling Rules, develop an implementation and oversight procedure for Bonsucro with respect to carbon claims
- v) A set of recommendations around how the approach followed for making credible carbon claims, can be used for other impact areas such as water efficiency and biodiversity.

5. Timeline

The assignment will commence on 1 March 2023 and should be completed by the 10 May 2023.

6. Budget

Proposals should include the necessary budget for the work.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Bonsucro's Engagement and Markets Director together with Bonsucro's Head of South America will represent Bonsucro for the duration of the contract and will be responsible for:

- The overall management of the assignment
- Approval of work plan
- Guidance throughout all phases of execution
- Providing access to Bonsucro end-user companies
- Co-ordination of Bonsucro's internal and external review process

The Consultant is responsible for:

- Conducting the assignment
- Arranging and conducting meetings
- The day-to-day management of operations
- Regular progress reporting to Bonsucro
- The development of results
- The production of outputs in accordance with contractual requirements

8. How to Apply

Please submit a proposal that includes the following:

- A full proposal based on a clear understanding of the objectives of the assignment, including a proposed work plan (5 pages maximum).
- A detailed CV or resume outlining relevant experience, qualifications, and references.
- A writing sample (preferably in the field of carbon accounting and sustainability standards)
- Budget for the work, including details of daily rates for consultancy and number of days required to do this work as well as estimated travel and accommodation costs (if applicable).

9. Terms of Service

Consultants should declare all potential conflicts of interest.

The total budget should include consultant time and incidentals such as telephone expenses and any taxes (including VAT) as well as travel and accommodation costs

(if applicable). Any travel needed for this project must be approved in advance by Bonsucro and will be reimbursed based on agreed guidelines.

All information exchanged during the contract will be confidential, unless otherwise indicated, and the consultant will be expected to sign a non-disclosure agreement with Bonsucro at the outset. The outputs of this assignment will be property of Bonsucro.

Closing date for submissions of proposals is 24 February 2023. Proposals should be sent to Norma Tregurtha (norma@bonsuco.com)