WE ARE HIRING

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSULTANT

Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026

Summary of the Consultant Position

The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a **feasibility study** that advances the Agroecology Investment Fund from concept to an actionable, evidence-based plan, enabling AEF and its partners to decide whether and how to launch a Fund of Funds.

Location: Remote, with virtual meetings; limited travel may be required
Duration: 6 - 8 months (with possible extension)
Work: 100 consultant days (Phases A-D), with an optional additional 40 days (Phase E)
Anticipated start date: April 2026
Application Deadline: Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026.

Background & Context

The Agroecology Fund (AEF) is a pooled philanthropic fund supporting farmers' organizations, movements, and allied actors advancing agroecology worldwide. Over more than a decade, AEF has established itself as a trusted grantmaker and field builder, supporting Indigenous land stewardship, agrobiodiversity, soil regeneration, territorial markets, and policy advocacy for agroecology.

As interest grows among foundations and other asset owners in aligning endowments with mission through impact investing, AEF is exploring the feasibility of launching an **Agroecology Investment Fund (AIF)** structured as a **Fund of Funds (FoF)**. The proposed AIF would not make direct investments in enterprises; rather, it would invest in existing territorial, sectoral, and Indigenous-led funds aligned with the **13 principles of agroecology**, enabling them to scale agroecological enterprises and value chains.

AEF has undertaken initial exploratory work, including donor and ally workshops, which suggest potential investor interest and a preliminary operational concept. This consultancy will determine whether there is sufficient demand, pipeline, and operational viability to proceed, and, if so, outline a clear roadmap for launch.

Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to conduct a **feasibility study** that advances the Agroecology Investment Fund from concept to an actionable, evidence-based plan, enabling AEF and its partners to decide whether and how to launch the Fund of Funds.

WE ARE HIRING

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSULTANT

Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026

Objectives

The specific objectives of the feasibility study are to:

1. Develop a credible business model and operational roadmap that ensures sound management, fiduciary integrity, and long-term sustainability.
2. Assess interest and readiness of existing and potential funds to manage agroecological investment funds within their pipeline of enterprise investments and the possibility of expanding their pipeline into additional agroecological enterprises.
3. Evaluate the availability and strength of an investable pipeline of agroecological enterprises via underlying funds.
4. Identify viable, cost-effective administrative, legal, and governance structures for establishing and managing the Fund of Funds.
5. Assess investor interest—particularly among foundations, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and aligned institutional investors—in an Agroecology Fund of Funds.
6. Enable AEF and its allies to make an informed go/no-go decision regarding launch and inclusion of AIF in AEF's next strategic plan.

Scope of Work

The consultant (or consultant team) will carry out the work in five interrelated phases.

Phase A: Development of a Draft Fund of Funds Business Plan

The consultant will work closely with AEF staff, donors, and advisors to develop a draft FoF business plan (or private-placement-memorandum–style document) building upon and modifying the current deck and rational that includes, at minimum:

- **Purpose and rationale:** Strategic justification for AEF's role in creating the FoF.
- **Fund intent:** One-time pilot versus multi-vintage strategy and implications for design.
- **Investment strategy:**
  - Asset class(es)
  - Geography
  - Ticket size
  - Types of underlying funds
- **Impact thesis and outcomes**: Aligned with agroecology principles.
- **Differentiation and value-add:** Comparison to existing funds or vehicles.
- **Pipeline analysis:**
  - Identification of investable funds
  - Summary of strategies, scale, impact, and (where available) financial track record

WE ARE HIRING

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSULTANT

Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026

- **Investment team and partnerships:**
  - Required FoF team capacity
  - Potential external managers or partners for due diligence and portfolio management
- **Governance and decision-making:**
  - Investment approval processes
  - Oversight and accountability mechanisms
- **Key fund terms:**
  - Target size
  - Fund life
  - Fees and expenses
- **Fund and legal structure:**
  - Equity vs. debt orientation
  - Blended finance considerations
  - Domicile and regulatory implications
- **Technical Assistance Facility:** Rationale, design options, and management.
- **Administration and service providers:** Potential fund administrators, legal counsel, auditors, and reporting services.
- **Financial model:**
  - Cash flow projections
  - Expense structure
  - Return expectations
  - Minimum viable fund size

This phase will be iterative and informed by structured feedback from AEF stakeholders.
Deliverable: Draft FoF Business Plan / Investment Memorandum.
Phase B: Donor & Investor Testing

- **Investor Outreach and Feedback**
  - Develop a prioritized list of prospective investors (with AEF input).
  - Conduct approximately one-hour interviews with each investor to test interest, concerns, risk tolerance, and design preferences.
  - Identify categories of new prospective investors and interest for such a fund of funds.

- **Iteration and Refinement**
  - Revise the business plan based on investor feedback.
  - Conduct additional outreach rounds as needed to test revised assumptions.

Deliverables:

WE ARE HIRING

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSULTANT

Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026

- Summary of investor feedback and patterns.
- Revised FoF business plan.

Phase C: Decision Support for AEF

The consultant will support AEF in synthesizing findings and addressing key decision questions, including:

- Whether launching the FoF is strategically and operationally feasible.
- Resources required to reach minimum viable fund size.
- Fundraising timeline and cost coverage during the pre-launch phase.
- Adequacy of existing partnerships and identification of gaps.

Deliverable: Internal decision memo and facilitated discussion with AEF leadership and Board

Phase D: External Communication of Findings

- Prepare a clear synthesis of feasibility findings for donors, allies, and partners.
- Support presentations or briefings to seek alignment and preliminary commitments.

Deliverable: Feasibility Study Summary Report and presentation materials.

Phase E (TBD): Fund Administrator Selection

Subject to AEF's decision to proceed, the consultant will:

- Support formation of an implementation working group.
- Draft Terms of Reference for a fund administrator.
- Manage the solicitation and review of proposals.
- Facilitate a participatory selection process.
- Support contract negotiation with the selected administrator.

Deliverables:

- TOR for fund administrator

WE ARE HIRING

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSULTANT

Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026

- Outreach strategy for recruitment, including formation of selection committee
- Proposal evaluation summary
- Recommendation memo

Timeline and Level of Effort

- **Phases A–D:** Approximately 40 weeks, ~100 consultant days
- **Phase E (TBD):** Additional 16 weeks, ~40 consultant days

A detailed workplan and timeline will be finalized with the selected consultant.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Consultant:** Responsible for research, analysis, stakeholder engagement, facilitation, drafting deliverables, and synthesis.
- **AEF:** Provides strategic guidance, access to donors and allies, feedback on deliverables, and decision-making authority.

Required Qualifications

The consultant or team should demonstrate:

- Proven experience with impact investment funds or funds of funds, preferably in agriculture, climate, or food systems.
- Familiarity with agroecology, Indigenous food systems, or regenerative agriculture (strongly preferred).
- Experience engaging foundations and institutional investors.
- Expertise in fund structuring, governance, and financial modeling.
- Strong facilitation, synthesis, and writing skills.

Budget

- **Phases A–D:** 100 days
- **Phase E (TBD):** 40 days

Reporting and Management

AGROECOLOGY FUND

WE ARE HIRING

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSULTANT

Accepting applications on a rolling basis until Monday, February 23, 2026

The consultant will report to and consult with designated AEF staff (Co-Director and Entrepreneurship & Small Business Consultant) and provide regular progress updates, with formal deliverables reviewed at the conclusion of each phase.

Proposals (not to exceed 12 pages) can be submitted to Agroecology Fund AIF TOR Proposal Google Form Portal by Feb 23

- Statement of Qualifications & Approach (not to exceed 5 pages)
- Team member bios
- Budget (one page)
- Timeline (one page)
- References

How to Apply

- Applications can be submitted here by February 20th, 2026. Approximate start date is April 1, 2026