Call for expression of interest: **Consultancy to develop two policy briefs on agroecology as an approach for increasing resilience to agricultural input scarcity**

**Summary**

The Biovision Foundation is launching a call for expression of interest for a consultant based in Switzerland (ideally) or Europe to support the Biovision-FAO initiative “FAO Geneva Dialogues for Agroecology”. This initiative aims to document, map and discuss multiple pathways for food system transformation through agroecology. This is done under the leadership of a guiding group and through an open dialogue with international actors (with a focus, albeit not exclusive, on the Geneva international community). The consultant will support the initiative, through the coordination and drafting of two policy briefs on the topic of “Agroecology as an approach for increasing resilience to agricultural input scarcity”.

The dialogue and policy papers will reflect on the current global food crisis and the looming scarcity of agricultural inputs. It will focus on a better understanding of concrete implementation steps and pathways to increase the resilience of food systems to agricultural inputs scarcity through agroecological approaches, in the areas of policy reform, knowledge creation and investments. For more information, please consult the concept note of the dialogue series at: [https://www.agroecology-pool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AE-Dialogues_Concept-planning.pdf](https://www.agroecology-pool.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AE-Dialogues_Concept-planning.pdf)

**Main Tasks and Responsibilities:**

The proposed work consists of the following activities:

1) **Participate in the inception process of the guiding group for this dialogue, which will define the focus and structure of the international dialogue.** Tasks include:

   a. Participate in the inception workshop of the guiding group (end of July 2022 – attendance negotiable in case of schedule conflicts)

   b. Participate in an initial brainstorming on the structure of the policy briefs and the process to develop them. One brief will target the agroecology community (focusing on reflections that can strengthen the mission of the coalition), whereas the second brief will target outside stakeholders advocating for agroecology as a solution for reducing external input dependency

   c. Bilateral meetings with guiding group members to follow leads and discuss content relevant to the policy briefs after the inception workshop

   d. Initial scope of literature on the topic through the consultant’s own research and through the suggestions done by guiding group

The scope of tasks c) and d) will depend on outcomes from the inception workshop (task a).

**Deliverable:** A short concept note for the policy briefs (e.g., including guiding questions, outline of the document, methodology to integrate inputs from the dialogue, etc.)
2) **Support and participate in the FAO Geneva Dialogue on the topic of increasing resilience to agricultural input scarcity to be held on 28th September 2022.** Tasks include:
   
a. Support the coordination of agenda and format of the event by providing inputs on content, speakers and messages
b. Prepare and coordinate a background document to be shared ahead of the dialogue presenting the topic and problematic and guiding questions
c. Coordinate the gathering of inputs from the dialogues to be integrated in the policy briefs
d. Documentation and organization of outputs coming out from dialogue, which will be the main inputs to the policy briefs. This will be done in collaboration with the organizers.

**Deliverables:**
Background document to be shared ahead of the dialogue.
Documentation of outputs coming out from the dialogue.

3) **Coordinate further inputs for the policy briefs.** Tasks include:
   
a. Produce a first draft of the briefs to be presented and consulted with the guiding group.
b. Incorporate feedback from guiding group after consultation and group meeting.
c. Conduct any other rounds of feedback (e.g., bilaterally) with members of the guiding group when necessary.
d. Presentation of final draft of review to the guiding group. Incorporation of final messages as identified with this group.

The briefs should provide evidence, showcases and reflections that can help identify 1) to what extent agroecology serves as an approach for increasing resilience to input scarcity, 2) factors (e.g. policy instruments, investment mechanisms, international processes) that can support or hinder the transition towards food systems that are resilient to input scarcity, and 3) relations between input scarcity and other stresses and shocks impacting food systems (e.g. logistic crisis, climate change etc.).

**Deliverable:** Draft of two policy briefs. Depending on the length, it should contain an executive summary/abstract that provides a good overview of the topic for the audience.

4) **Supporting final drafting and dissemination of policy briefs.**
   
a. Assistance with the design of the policy briefs that present reflections discussed in the dialogue event.
b. Provide support to dissemination activities of final policy briefs, including presentation to the Agroecology Coalition ([https://agroecology-coalition.org/](https://agroecology-coalition.org/)).

**Deliverable:** Final draft of two policy briefs
Nature of Relationship:

The Consultant will be hired as an independent contractor and not as an employee of Biovision.

Required skills and qualifications

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<th>Necessary Qualifications</th>
<th>Further necessary Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Postgraduate degree in political science, land systems science, governance, sustainability or other relevant fields (Proven writing and communication skills to non-scientific audiences required)</td>
<td>• Ability to transfer recommendations from a multi-stakeholder process into a policy brief (coordination of multiple inputs and ideas)</td>
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<td>• OR scientific or policy journalist with proven knowledge and experience in the fields of development, cooperation, and agricultural development, or agricultural/natural resource policy processes</td>
<td>• Ability to work with limited standardized procedures and need for own initiative and independent work</td>
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<td>• Knowledge of agricultural inputs and production (e.g., biological inputs, input production, subsidies and agricultural policies). Knowledge and experience on agroecology are desirable</td>
<td>• Experience in multistakeholder dialogue</td>
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<td>• Good understanding of food system transformation</td>
<td>• Skilful writing and experience in writing policy briefs</td>
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<td>• Fluency in English</td>
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Submission of expression of interest

To apply, please send your entire electronic application documents by 8th July 2022 to t.carrillo@biovision.ch. This should include a detailed curriculum vitae, cost for the proposed work, and a work timeline. A decision will be made by 15th July 2022 or before if a suitable candidate is found beforehand.

We expect the work to start as soon as possible until 31 October 2022. For further information please contact agroecology@biovision.ch.