

## Vacancy for Internship

### 'Carbon farming and carbon credits: a viable business model for agricultural cooperatives in emerging economies?'

**Country:** The Netherlands

**Client:** Agriterra

**Period:** April-June 2020

**Deadline for application:** 25 March 2020

**Business advisor:** Bertken de Leede

#### Introduction Agriterra

We are Agriterra, a Dutch agri-agency that provides business development services to ambitious cooperatives and farmer organisations in developing and emerging economies. We assist them with advice and training through locally based business advisors and by deploying practitioners from the Dutch and international farmer organisations and (cooperative) companies; the so-called Agripool experts. We apply a three-track approach: we make cooperatives bankable and create real farmer-led companies, we support organisations to improve extension services to their members and we enhance farmer-government dialogues. Our advisory practice covers the full range of services on Management & Organisation, Financial Management, Governance, Business Development and Lobby & Advocacy.

Agriterra has local offices in a large number of countries. We work with self-steering teams, so our employees are challenged to use every bit of determination, creativity and strategy to achieve our compelling goals. Being a self-steering organisation makes Agriterra an inspiring and challenging environment for professional growth and development.

Agriterra has an annual turnover of approximately 15 million euros, is ISO certified and has over 160 employees, both in the Netherlands and in more than 20 countries abroad. See [www.agriterra.org](http://www.agriterra.org)

#### Background of the assignment

Agriterra emphasises the importance of Sustainable Service provision by cooperatives and farmer organisations. We support them in providing meaningful and affordable advisory services to their members in order to improve the production and productivity. Amongst others, the services embed the promotion of climate smart solutions/ approaches allowing for ecological sustainable productivity increase.

Agriterra supports farmers and their cooperatives to be resilient towards climate change by focusing on enhanced productivity, practicing adaptation measures, and identify and apply mitigation practices both at farmers and cooperative level.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation is becoming an important theme for agricultural cooperatives in emerging economies. As adaptation measures focus on adapting to heat, droughts and extreme weather (reduce harm by good agricultural practices), mitigation measures try to reduce and compensate the damage (reduce emissions). Examples of mitigation in agriculture are reforestation, carbon credit trade, crop rotation and agro forestry.

Carbon credits trade is an interesting option to further explore as high emitting companies in countries where there is limited space for carbon sequestration or carbon sinks are interested to compensate their emissions in other countries. Hence Agriterra would like to explore if carbon credits trade is a viable business model for its clients: agricultural cooperatives and farmers organisations in emerging economies.

Compensation of emissions through carbon farming could be a viable business model for agricultural cooperatives, but Agriterra needs to know how this can possibly work, before promoting such practices. Carbon farming (creating carbon sinks) can be done in many ways, and often the cooperatives are (un)knowingly doing this through for example agroforestry, conservation farming, Good Agricultural practices etc. Can they be compensated for their efforts and if so, how?

### Research question

The **research question** is:

*"What are proven or promising business models for carbon credits between high income and low income level countries and what are the minimum requirements for agricultural cooperatives to be acknowledged as consortium partner for this carbon credit system?"*

### Sub questions:

1. What are successful carbon farming practises (prepare an overview)
2. What are the ecological benefits as well as the financial results?
3. What are minimum requirements to qualify for (international) carbon credits programs at the of the cooperatives/ farmers?
4. Map the "carbon credits value chain"
5. Can carbon farming practices of farmers united in a cooperative be linked to carbon credit programs so a fair compensation is paid?

### Expected results

1. A comprehensive overview of successful carbon farming measures (literature) and their potential benefits for farmers (ecological as well as financial)
2. How does the system or value chain of carbon credits work in practise (overview of literature: harvest best practises)
3. Can such models be applied to some Agriterra clients (ie active in coffee, tea, cacao or agroforestry)?
4. Advice to Agriterra on the way forward: Are carbon credits a viable business model for agricultural cooperatives in emerging economies?

### Assignment details

- Composition of the Agriterra assignment team:
  - 1 (or 2) interns
  - Supervision and guidance by Bertken de Leede, business advisor Agriterra Arnhem
- Duration of the assignment: The time frame of the assignment will be 3 to max 4 months (preferably starting in April 2020)
- Arrangements: Agriterra will offer office space and access to its information systems in the Netherlands. Agriterra will facilitate in getting connected with the relevant network and clients (through our country-based business advisors)
- In case a field study will be included, Agriterra will reimburse the international travel costs and facilitate in local guidance and logistical support

### Student profile

- Third- or fourth-year BSc student or MSc student WUR, HAS, TU etc.
- Keen interest in working with farmer organisations in emerging economies
- Climate change and carbon farming background and interest in understanding climate change in relation to agriculture
- Preferably some (field) experience in rural area in Africa or Asia
- Good communication and networking skills

### Background info

ZLTO, partner of Agriterra, has made a video on carbon farming:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R--oEEejJ8U&feature=youtu.be>

### Application

Send your CV and a short motivation letter to [vacancy@agriterra.org](mailto:vacancy@agriterra.org), to the attention of Ms Bertken de Leede, before 25 March.