

Request for Proposals: Research Consultant for Assessment of Labor Risks in Agricultural Supply Chains in Mexico

August 2022

Project Background

Verité is an award-winning non-profit organization that illuminates and addresses serious human rights and labor rights violations in factories, farms, and other workplaces around the world. We serve private sector and public-sector clients by building their internal understanding of the labor rights problems they face in their supply chains and operations, and their skills to solve those problems.

Verité is seeking to hire a Research Consultant with experience in supply chain desk research, data collection, qualitative and quantitative analysis, and reporting to support an assessment of labor risks in an agricultural supply chain, specifically melons in Mexico, for a confidential client. The aim of the engagement is to increase the clients' understanding of labor-related risks in the production of melons in Mexico. The Research Consultant must be well-versed in writing about issues such as forced labor, child labor, ethical recruitment, and more.

Scope of Work

The Research Consultant must be available to conduct research work from late August 2022 through early November 2022.

The Research Consultant will be primarily responsible for:

- Analyzing existing Verité research and reports and identifying information gaps
- Conducting commodity research on labor risks in the Mexican agricultural sector in order to fill in information gaps and collect information specific to melons
- Summarizing initial findings from commodity research in a 1-page report
- Drafting a 10-page report on identified labor risks in Mexico, including a summary of identified risks specific to the melon sector, based on desk research
- Finalizing 10-page report on identified labor risks in Mexico with Verité feedback incorporated
- Adhering to Verité style guides as shared with the Research Consultant in report writing

Verité staff will provide ongoing support and communication throughout the process to ensure alignment between the Consultant's approach and Verité's needs. There is 1,500 USD available in funding for the entirety of the consultancy.

Evaluation Criteria

The Research Consultant must have strong research skills and have at least two (2) years of experience cleaning, analyzing, and presenting data in a written format. Fluency in Spanish and English is required. The Consultant must be able to work successfully independently and in collaboration with the team. As team members are based in multiple countries and in different time zones, flexibility will be necessary when setting up and participating in meetings and calls. The ability to work under pressure, consistently meet deadlines, and offer practical solutions is fundamental to successfully conducting the assigned tasks. Previous experience with similar projects and exposure to the agricultural sector is desirable.

Deliverables and Timeline

The Consultant is expected to support the research portion of the labor risk assessment according to the table of deliverables listed below.

#	Deliverable	Due Date
1	1-page report with summary of initial findings	September 19, 2022
2	Rough draft of narrative report	October 30, 2022
3	Final draft of narrative report with Verité feedback incorporated	October 14, 2022

Instructions for Submission

To submit a proposal for consideration, please send the following documents, along with any questions or clarifications you may need, to Justine May, Verité Labor Risk Assessment Research Analyst, at jmay@verite.org by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, August 26th, 2022.

- CV or resume; or explanation of required qualifications, experience, and expertise.
- Cost proposal, including daily rate and estimated number of days needed for this work, and/or any additional expenses or professional fees.
- Samples of previous research.