Development and Management of an Organic Seed database

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced providers for the development and management of an Organic Seed Database for Ireland.

Article 48 of Commission Regulation No. 889/2008 requires all Member States to develop and maintain a computerised database of all varieties of seed and seed potatoes obtained by organic production methods which are available on its territory.

As indicated, there are two distinct components of this work which must be provided by separate operators.

The first is the development of an online computerised seed database. What is required here is a fully equipped real-time database (meaning that all information input should be displayed instantly to all users). A facility is required to set up seed suppliers with their own accounts and they should be able to manage their ‘stall’ instantly, setting availability or non-availability of product as required. The system should also include an additional module for inspection bodies (log-in and archive accounts for farmers, file derogation, decision making, inspection-archive). The system should also be able to manage derogation requests for seed not otherwise available from Organic production.

The second element relates to management of the seed database. This involves supervision of the database, including quality assurance, collating the non-organic seed derogations, compiling an annual report for the EU Commission and taking a lead role in running Organic Seed Working Groups. The specific tasks here would include:

- convening of initial meetings with the various Organic Control Bodies operating in the State, and other relevant stakeholders
- developing administrative systems in line with EU regulations and best international practice
- Collating of all non-organic seed authorisation data received from Organic Control Bodies
- Liasing with the database provider regarding the ongoing use and updating of the online system, and providing quality assurance to the Department
- Production of an annual report for the Department comprising of detailed non-organic seed authorisation data for the year, written summary/overview by sector, trend information and expert commentary
- Convening of annual working group meetings for at least three seed sectors (arable, grass/forage, horticulture/potatoes), and provision of all secretariat functions.

Interested parties must be able to point to specific experience in this field, ideally in the design and/or management of such a database within the organic sector, or in some directly comparable field, and in all cases must be fully conversant with all relevant legislative and standards requirements for the Organic sector.

Providers must be able to provide a fully functioning service within six weeks of appointment.

Closing date for expressions of interest is 12 noon Friday 19th August.

Further information is available from organicunit@agriculture.gov.ie