

Contract for Service:

Project Coordinator for Benchmarking Project for the Walnut Industry Group Incorporated (NZWIG)

Background

The Walnut Industry Group has initiated a benchmarking project that aims to improve the management methods in walnut orchards by providing robust feedback to orchardists on key performance indicators related to management inputs. The project is overseen by the NZWIG Research Group on behalf of NZWIG.

Initial work has

- established key measurements for growth and identified management variables to be tracked
- developed an initial data base
- enrolled some orchards for data collection (some data collection is by the orchardists, some by a task-group)
- some data has been collected and compiled
- carried out some initial analysis

The project is now being furthered by refining the processes and analysis, improving both the quality and the quantity of data being collected by orchardists, and creation of benchmark performance models.

NZWIG is looking for a project coordinator to work under contract for an initial period of 12 months with the research group to progress this work. This contract will be based on defined deliverables rather than specified hours, although the nature of the work is related to the growing season and specific events and so will need to be done within specified time limits.

See further background on www.walnuts.org.nz

Key Responsibilities

Key responsibilities of the project co-ordinator are to:

- promote the project to growers and enlist further growers for monitoring and data collection
- assist growers in gathering and submitting data from their orchards
- perform measurements at some monitor orchards where more intensive measurements are undertaken
- work with the NZWIG research group in data collation and organisation within a data base
- assist the research group in presenting to growers reports, analysis and orchard performance models.

Person Specification

The ideal person who takes on this position will

- have good communication skills on the phone and in person,

- be able to explain benchmarking to people with a range of technical expertise
- be familiar with horticulture, and understand the scientific thinking behind benchmarking
- be flexible in relation to times to meet with growers and carry out field work
- be available for the required work from early December 2007
- have a drivers licence and have the use of a suitable vehicle.

Accountabilities and Key Relationships

- The coordinator will be contracted to the NZ Walnut Industry Group Incorporated who has delegated governance responsibility for the project to the Research Group.
- The coordinator will report to the NZWIG Research Group as required.
- The Research Group has appointed one member as the project leader who will manage the contract in relation to the coordinator.
- The Research Group has also contracted a science advisor for this project and expects the coordinator to consult and liaise with this advisor in all relevant technical and scientific matters.

Contract arrangements

The contract will cover reasonable and agreed travel costs, and payments against agreed milestones up to \$8000 (GST excl.).

Applications

Applicants should apply in writing or by email to Graeme Nicholas, 480 Rattletrack Road, RD 4, Christchurch, 7674 (graeme@tikouka.co.nz) outlining their suitability for the position and nominating two referees. Enquiries can be made to Graeme Nicholas at the above address or phone (03) 974 3133 or 027 208 7314.

Applications close on 24 November 2007.

30/10/2007