

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER: REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Job offer #2022-05

Ready to make a change and accelerate the transition to regenerative agriculture in Europe?



Position: Senior Project Manager – Reg Ag

Region: Based in Europe, ideally in EEC

The following opportunity is for an **experienced, hands-on agroecology and Reg Ag project management professional with practical field experience**. Within a talented, committed, and agile team and together with our private, public & civil society partners, the successful candidate will actively help us drive change towards regenerative agriculture.

The Senior Project Manager will **manage a portfolio of regenerative agriculture projects from their ideation to implementation over 5 years + close to our field partners**.

The position is based in Europe and involves a minimum of 30% travel in Europe.

WHO ARE WE?

Founded in 2011, Livelihoods Funds' core mission is to support the efforts of agricultural and rural communities restore the natural ecosystems that are the foundations of their livelihoods, food security and income, and therefore contribute to climate action. Our projects strive to empower rural and agricultural communities as they are the real actors of change. It is only by engaging them in our projects that we will be successful in addressing the environmental challenges as well as the need to transition to sustainable and resilient agricultural models.

To make these changes possible, trust in Livelihoods Venture's partnerships is key throughout our journey together. These partnerships bring mutual benefits as well as responsibilities for all the stakeholders involved: farmers, local implementers, and businesses.

Establishing trust early in a relationship has enabled all parties to LV program & projects to openly share knowledge and overcome the complexities of transformation on the ground. Since 2011 it has materialized in a cohesive atmosphere that offers rural communities, implementing NGOs and business involved both resilience during hardships and a greater opportunity for success.

Whether for carbon or sustainable sourcing projects in Europe, we place soil restoration at the heart of the system. It is based on agricultural practices whose primary goal is to regenerate the soil, that can be mainstreamed by farmers working in close partnership with agronomists. Such a regenerative approach, still marginal in Europe, is nevertheless growing.

In this respect, the **Senior Project Manager, Europe will focus on co-managing with field partners the financial and technical models that are both impactful and realistic for a diversity of European farmers.** Our Livelihoods Funds have a unique investment model which harnesses the long-term financial support of responsible corporations and the capacity of agriculture expert towards a low carbon, ecologically intensive farming, and livelihoods enhancement.

See project examples below (click on the links) and a list of our projects' portfolio [here](#):

- **FRANCE (Brittany):** [supporting farmers regenerate the soil & biodiversity](#)
- **INDIA (Araku):** [from degraded lands to functional forests with marginalized tribes](#)
- **MEXICO (Oaxaca):** [agroforestry & sustainable coffee landscapes with indigenous rural communities](#)
- **MADAGASCAR:** [building a sustainable vanilla supply chain with 3,000 family farms](#)
- **PHILIPPINES:** [bringing more benefits to 6,000 coconut farmers](#)
- **INDONESIA (Sumatra Island):** [a sustainable palm sourcing project & biodiversity preservation with 2,500 smallholder farmers](#)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

The Senior Project Manager will take in charge: first, the quality of the project co-design with several stakeholders (farmer cooperatives, private brands and off-takers, Chamber of Agriculture, local banks...) then, he/she ensure the quality of project deliverables for which LV is accountable: it means making sure that activities deployed on the ground by the approved project implementer(s) will lead to the expected outcomes.

We are looking for a passionate and result-driven professional with a strong regenerative agriculture background ideally in a variety of crops and climate. He/She will integrate the Sustainable Sourcing leadership team to:

- **Be accountable for the projects' performance** to the Livelihoods Funds.
- **Manage circa 5 projects in diverse geographies**, backstopping activities of project implementers close to rural communities.
- **Set-up and facilitate project coalition work:** manage diverse interest groups (corporations, suppliers, public bodies, ..) so that they can pool their human and material resources to develop and implement projects in a given geography often with multiple commercial crops.
- **Lead co-design and implementation** of agroecology and regenerative agriculture projects adapted to the local context, in Europe, for the benefit of a diversity of farmers and sourcing needs of high-profile corporations.
- **Consolidate and upgrade the Company's technical skills on low carbon farming**, from a hands-on as well as a scientific angle.
- **Actively contribute to the rural development and transition** to agricultural activities that combine positive social and environmental change.
- **Bring expertise on hands-on agriculture practices** (soil health, soil fertility, other regenerative agriculture practices...) to our colleagues, partners and help adapt these to the projects' local context.
- **Understand and manage points of view** and jargons from different actors (business, agronomists, carbon certification bodies, academic, investors, public actors etc..) to propose smart, practical action plans that create an alignment of all stakeholders.
- **Crack technical, technological, organizational issues** with a good dose of out-of-the-box thinking, inspired by a good knowledge and understanding of real cases of transformative projects.
- **Improve the impact of each project**, bringing in science, new perspectives, ideas, or emerging technology.
- **Coordinate his/her project participants within internal and external committees** and activities in the long run, by playing an active role within projects governance, anticipating opportunities and risks, monitoring, and achieving results over the whole project lifetime.

KEY QUALITIES OF THE SENIOR PROJET MANAGER:

- **Strategic leadership:** you are business oriented, show emotional intelligence, you know how to understand needs of private corporations and political bodies so as to facilitate discussions on projects and reach consensus.
- **Operational leadership:** you are action and result oriented, you know how to exercise persuasion and influence field partners in multicultural environments.
- **Manage the field team effectively:** empowerment and mentoring NGOs & project partners using both delegation and control. You take time to know your stakeholders, speak their languages, listen to their points of view and home in on their interests.
- **Quality execution:** you know how to exercise your expertise & experience for the benefit of regenerative agriculture projects, how to manage the monitoring plan to ensure projects' outputs, outcomes and impacts by staying close to the field and to project implementers.
- **Practical thinking and planning:** you can design projects within a clear logical framework starting from rural community needs, assess thoroughly current situation & context, clarify assumption and identify risks, understand effects of the projects for all stakeholders and build project plan: work plan, forecasting, budgeting.
- **Full project management:** you can both show analytical skills/attention to details and exercise "helicopter view", make decisions within your scope of responsibilities and know when to escalate issues to the next level. You are proactive, you know how to anticipate and solve problems.
- **Change-embracing:** Be open to- and keep a curious eye on- innovation, Reg Ag initiatives, Low carbon regulatory environment, and debates in a fast-evolving climate policy context. You are willing to learn.
- **Didactic:** Clear and concise communication skillset, able to adapt content & delivery method to the public and facilitate informed decision-making. You know how to determine and use the appropriate communication channels: mail, phone, chat, meetings, 1 to 1, sharing tools..., infer meaningful insights from a collection of data to inform good quality presentation.
- **Multi-tasker with planning and deadline management:** Prioritize, deal with pressure, keep track of the progress of several tasks simultaneously and be ready to rearrange priorities in response to new information.
- **Remote-working-proof:** Particularly when interacting with peers based outside of company's HQs, ability to self-start, work efficiently, create relationships, work in teams despite long distance and time-difference.

YOUR BACKGROUND:

- Graduated in **agronomy, soils, ecology, grassland management, botany, or natural resources** management.
- **10+ years of proven track-relevant experience** in propagating regenerative agriculture practices, close to farmers and ideally local supply chains of produces, demonstrating tangible achievements.
- **Has drafted investment proposals** &/or project concept notes.
- **Knowledge of European Agricultural Policy**, regulations and overall financing mechanisms for farmers transitioning to Reg Ag & low carbon farming
- **Technical experience in low carbon farming** projects is a strong plus; Experience in managing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps and farm data in general, conducting soil sampling and field trial implementation are a plus.
- Knowledge and or willingness to get experienced on **carbon certification** in the agricultural sector in Europe.
- Having worked in a **variety of climatic and cultural contexts in Europe** is a big plus.

LANGUAGE & INTERCULTURAL SKILLS:

- **English spoken and written** with ease, as the main working language.
- **Good command of a second European language(s) (German, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese)** and deep knowledge of local culture(s) are a must.
- **Knowledge of voluntary carbon standards** is a strong plus.

- Third European language is a strong plus.

OTHER SPECIFICS:

- **Preferred location in EEC countries** close to an international transportation Hub.
- The company offers the opportunity to **work significantly from home with regular in-person interactions at the company's HQs and or at the European Hub.**
- All jobs require **frequent travel for field visits and interaction with Livelihoods and partners' teams.**
- Salary and benefits commensurate with the position and candidate experience.
- Livelihoods Venture values diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

DO YOU FIT THIS PROFILE?

If you fit this profile, send your resume and motivation letter to jobs@livelihoods.eu by mentioning the job reference #2022-05 in the email object.

Learn more about the Livelihoods Funds:

- On our [website](#)
- On [LinkedIn](#)
- On [Twitter](#)
- On YouTube: [Watch the videos of our projects](#)

In Livelihoods Venture we are a team of specialists who work closely with our local partners in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America to design and deliver projects with strong impact to improve the lives of smallholder farmers while preserving natural resources and foster carbon sequestration. Our mission? Implement sustainable farming models with long-term impact (10 to 20 years) and drive long-term change for the livelihood of local smallholder farmers, local communities while protecting and restoring a healthy environment.

Through our projects, we focus on creating inclusive economic opportunities to deliver results for farmers, businesses, and the environment. In other words, we help the ambitious environmental and social promises come true!

Livelihoods Venture, is our social business located in Paris, which advises our 2 complementary impact funds: the *Livelihoods Fund for Family Farming* (L3F) and the Livelihoods Carbon Funds (LCF1, LF2 and LCF3). The Funds have a total investment capacity of more than €300 million to implement large-scale projects with an investment horizon of 6 to 20 years each:

- Sustainable sourcing: the [Livelihoods Fund for Family Farming](#) (L3F), in partnership and with the strong support of industrial players, is accompanying their transformation towards ambitious sustainable sourcing from smallholder farmers. With projects in all continents and focusing on a variety of agricultural produces (dairy, vanilla, coconut, cocoa, rice etc.), L3F is already working with tens of thousands people improving their farming practices, yields, restoring their environment and connecting them to the markets in a mutually beneficial way. A New fund is under creation – the Living Farms Fund (L2F): with the ambition of supporting 50 000 farmers transitioning towards regenerative agriculture in advanced and developed economies. It will be a fund opened to all committed companies, accompanying them to meet their carbon and sustainable sourcing targets by building transformative projects with local NGOs & suppliers.
- The [Livelihoods Carbon Funds](#) invest in large-scale projects to restore natural ecosystems and promote sustainable farming practices and renewable energies. These projects have a positive impact on the environment while at the same time improving the standard of living of rural communities. These investment funds were created by companies that are committed to combating climate change and transforming their own production model. The first Livelihoods Carbon Fund was set up in 2011, followed



by a second one in 2017. A third Carbon Fund (LCF3) was launched in 2021 to accelerate and scale-up nature-based solutions (€150 million investment capacity).

- Today, LCF funds are supported by 21 committed players: Danone, Mars, Firmenich, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Chanel, Orange, Hermès, Eurofins, Bel Group, DEG, Michelin, McCain Foods, L'Occitane Group, Voyageurs du Monde, Crédit Agricole, SAP, Caisse des Dépôts, La Poste, Schneider Electric, Mauritius Commercial Bank, Véolia.

All our Funds and activities are strictly governed by the [Livelihoods Charter](#) and are action-driven front runners in the global context of raising awareness for climate risk and sustainable sourcing.