

Request for proposals: The financial impact of climate change to food companies

Ceres is seeking an expert consultant or consulting firm to conduct research and analysis on the financial impact of climate change on food companies and the financial benefits of addressing climate change.

Deadline for submission: August 15, 2025

About Ceres

Ceres is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to accelerate the transition to a cleaner, just, and more resilient economy. United by a shared vision, our networks of investors and companies are proving that sustainability is the bottom line—changing markets and sectors from the inside out. For more information, visit ceres.org.

Background

It has long been understood that climate change creates long-term risk to companies and investor portfolios. However, persistent impacts from a warming climate—changes in rainfall patterns, extreme weather, drought, and flooding—are affecting the ability of farmers and ranchers to grow and produce crops and food. In the U.S., the beef herd reached a [new record low](#) in 2025 due to rising temperatures and drought that affected feed availability for cattle. Globally, coffee and chocolate supplies are facing a shortage due to changing weather patterns that disrupt production. On top of that, changes in global climate patterns are fueling the emergence of zoonotic diseases that impact agriculture production, such as livestock herds becoming infected with bird flu. In turn, food companies sourcing commodities face reduced availability of raw materials, increased prices, and supply chain instability. While the climate-related disruptions to agricultural production are known at a macro level, the financial impacts for individual companies are only implied as specific data on the costs of climate change to food companies is less widely available. Ceres is seeking to research how climate change and climate-related disruptions to agricultural production create specific financial impacts for individual companies in the food sector.

Objectives and activities

Under the guidance of Ceres' Food and Forests team, the consultant will research and analyze:

- How climate change and climate-related disruptions to agricultural production create a financial impact for food companies, and
- How actions to reduce scope 3 emissions from agriculture provide a financial benefit to companies.

The consultant will determine the best method and metric(s) to demonstrate the financial impact and benefit to food companies. Applying the method, the consultant will analyze the impact to food companies and produce company-specific case studies. The research will encompass the climate impacts for a range of commodities, including beef and dairy, as well as the financial impacts for companies across the food sector.

Deliverables

- Methodologies to analyze the financial impact of climate change and the benefits resulting from actions that reduce emissions on a company-specific basis (e.g., not a sector-level analysis)
- An explanation of the methodologies
- Company case studies that demonstrate how climate change impacted company value and how actions have led to benefits, including quantitative analysis of the financial impact or benefit for the food sector

Proposed timeline

The results of the research should be completed by December 2025.

Proposals

To be considered for this consultancy, please submit a proposal that includes:

- Names and resumes of the consultants
- Demonstration of prior experience and expertise in the subject matter
- Proposed project timeline and completion date
- Proposed approach for achieving the objectives and activities
- Cost estimate with breakdown of budget

Contact information and application

For more information, please visit our website (www.ceres.org) or email Carolyn Ching (cching@ceres.org) with questions. Please submit a proposal in an email to Emmie Reilly (ereilly@ceres.org) by August 15, 2025.