

Technical Manager - Cool Farm Tool – Role Description

The Cool Farm Alliance (CFA) is a not-for-profit member organisation that owns and operates the Cool Farm Tool (CFT), which is used to measure on-farm environmental sustainability. Usage of the CFT and membership of the CFA has grown rapidly, to become the leading global software for measuring farm sustainability.

We are now looking for a technical manager to join the CFA Secretariat to lead the technical development of the Cool Farm Tool.

The role:

- **Collaboratively identify & develop ideas to enhance the product from a technical perspective**
 - *Work closely with relevant stakeholders throughout the development process, from initial discovery, requirements gathering, prototyping and delivery of new features to design the technical architecture that best meets the requirements while balancing short and long-term costs of maintenance and future development needs.*
 - *Engage with CFA members, developers, staff and working groups to identify ways to improve tool in terms of robustness, security, scalability and usability.*
 - *Engage with the developers to optimize product architecture and development processes.*
 - *Work with the Product Manager to develop detailed technical specifications, estimates and budgets.*
- **Prioritise product development efforts**
 - *Based on a technical understanding of the tool, advise the Product Manager on new product ideas and funding opportunities for their suitability and alignment to the vision and mission of CFT.*
 - *Clearly communicate software architectural choices to relevant stakeholders.*
 - *Advise the Product Manager on balancing and prioritising new development needs relative to product maintenance and bug fixing.*
 - *Track support tickets and customer feedback to inform ongoing technical considerations and development priorities.*
- **Manage the development process**
 - *Own and implement an agile process with a small team of sub-contracted developers inclusive of sprint planning, management and budget control.*
 - *Identify and maintain practices to ensure a high-quality product is delivered for members and users.*
 - *Conduct and coordinate all client testing of developments to enable fortnightly releases.*
- **Supporting customers**
 - *Maintain and improve documentation and technical specifications.*
- **Product marketing**
 - *Support product development communications with members and users, in partnership with Product Manager and Communications Manager.*
 - *Present technical aspects of product updates and share current technical priorities to relevant working groups and in live conferences, virtual meetings and events.*
 - *Promote the CFA/CFT and identify new opportunities.*

Critical success factors:

- Systems and designs in place to reduce development and maintenance cost and effort while improving user satisfaction.
- Ensure successful project management of CFT development against budgets and product roadmap.
- Improve and maintain documentation and development processes with fortnightly releases aligned to requirements.
- A clear understanding and review of user personas, their objectives and requirements of the CFT.
- Strong successful relationships with staff, CFA members and users and the sub-contracted development team.

Knowledge, experience & capabilities:**Essential requirements**

- Strong interpersonal skills and stakeholder relationship management
- Proven experience as a Technical or Product Manager in software development
- Experience in Agile Development.
- Strong skills in requirements gathering and business analysis
- Passion for working towards a sustainable future
- Undergraduate degree
- Fluency in English

Desirable

- Experience working in environmental sustainability
- Excellent technical, written and verbal communications and skills
- Entrepreneurial spirit and team player
- Business proficiency in other European languages
- Experience working in one or more of:
 - Greenhouse gas assessments

About the team

This role leads the technical development of the Cool Farm Tool reporting to the CFA Product Manager. Technical software expertise is available from the CFT developers. Method expertise is available from the CFT Methods Manager.

The CFT is currently developed by a small team of sub-contracted developers based in the UK. The developers are experienced with the CFT and have daily interaction with the CFA. Included in the team is a lead engineer, software developers and a project manager.

The CFA is host to some world class expertise in the areas of science and methodology for GHG Emissions. Direct access to this expertise is available.

Above all, the role requires a proactive, dynamic approach to meet the technical challenges of the tool and to support the Product Manager to build momentum in a rapidly changing sector delivering a solution with a global reach, large user-base and diverse stakeholders.



About the Product

The CFT has been an online agricultural sustainability webapp tool for seven years and currently services some 20,000 users from farmers to multinational corporations across 140 countries. The CFT consists of multiple environmental sustainability modules including greenhouse gas emissions, water, biodiversity and food loss and waste. These modules are available for environmental evaluation of multiple crop and livestock types and species. The CFT is written in Django with Python infrastructure.

The product has been oriented around a web interface for data entry and export/download for the generation of GHG results, and data for further analysis. Moving forward, this is an exciting opportunity for the Technical Manager to continue to develop the web app, but to also to strengthen API functionality and make a significant contribution towards fulfilling the vision and mission of the CFT and CFA.

Working arrangements

The CFA is a virtual organisation, so this role is home based. It is desirable to be located in Europe, and with the ability for international travel as much as 4 times a year.

Working hours

This is a full time, employed position, however we offer flexibility for the individual to choose patterns of work to suit their lifestyle and commitments.

Applications

Send a CV and short covering letter explaining your interest in the role to Laura Alcock-
LauraAlcock@elasticatedminds2.com.