



**The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural
Development:
Europe investing in rural
areas**

Rural Development Programme for England

Expression of Interest Form for

- Farmers
- Foresters
- Horticulturalists
- Food processing businesses
- Farmer Controlled Businesses
 - Contractors

Guidance

This form is for submitting your expression of interest, it is NOT a grant application form. All projects must submit an expression of interest before proceeding to a full application. This will save you time and money because SEEDA will provide guidance on whether you are eligible, and if so, how best to proceed with a full grant application. Please complete this self-explanatory form and email it to helendallas@seeda.co.uk. We will respond with advice within 15 working days.

If you have any queries on the completion of this form contact
 Neville Sherlock – 01634 899134
 Jonathan King – 01483 484200
 Sarah Richards – 01483 484200

Applicant Details

Name of person completing this form and your status in relation to the business	[REDACTED]		
Business name	The Thakeham Partnership LLP		
Business address	Sussex Mushrooms Ltd Storrington Road Thakeham Pulborough West Sussex Postcode: RH20 3DY		
E-mail address			
Telephone number and mobile number	Main reception: 01798 812345		
What is the legal status of this business ?	Sole Trader	Y or N	N
	Partnership	Y or N	Y
	Limited Company	Y or N	Y
	Limited Company (not for profit)	Y or N	N
	Company Limited by Guarantee	Y or N	N
	Other (please specify)	Y or N	N

2. Agent Details

If you are acting as an agent for the applicant and are completing this form on the applicant's behalf please give your details below.

Your name and status	
Business name	
Business address	
	Postcode:
E-mail address	
Telephone number and mobile number	

3. Business Details

Indicate all categories that apply to the business that is applying for RDPE support	Arable Farmer	Y or N	N
	Livestock Farmer	Y or N	N
	Mixed farming	Y or N	Y
	Forester	Y or N	N
	Farmer Controlled Business	Y or N	Y
	Contractor	Y or N	N
	Food Processing Business	Y or N	Y
	For farmers, foresters and horticulture business please give further details of your activities	Stocking and cropping details	Fresh mushrooms 120 tonnes per week
Number of full time equivalent employees		350	
Are you a registered organic business ?		No	
How long have you been trading ?		Over 2 years	
Breakdown of owned and tenanted land		100% tenanted	
For tenanted land has the Landlord given approval for this project to proceed ?		Yes	

	<p>If you have already developed any farm diversification activities please give brief details.</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>For contractors please give further details of your business activities</p>	<p>What type of contracting activities do you undertake ? N/A</p> <p>Number of full time equivalent employees ?</p> <p>How long have you been trading ?</p>
<p>For food processing businesses please give further details of your activities</p>	<p>What type of food processing do you undertake ? Washed and sliced mushrooms.</p> <p>Number of full time equivalent workers including managers and owners 350</p> <p>What % of the food you process is from non-EU sources ? none</p> <p>What % of the food you process is produced on your own farms ? Approximately 75% of all product (retail & prepared) are grown on the farm.</p> <p>How long have you been trading ? 26 months</p>
<p>For farmer controlled businesses please give further details of your activities</p>	<p>Sussex Mushrooms Ltd which is owned by the partnership produces fresh mushrooms for major retail outlets in the region and prepared (washed and sliced) mushrooms for food manufacturers.</p> <p>How many farmer shareholders/members are there ? N/A</p> <p>How long have you been trading ? 26 months</p>

4. Project Details

<p>4.1 Name of the project</p>

Combined heat and power using renewable fuel sources

4.2 Brief description of the project

To utilise compost and wood as a fuel source for power generation and use secondary heating from this process for both heating and cooling the growing facilities.

4.3 SEEDA will give priority to funding collaborative projects. By this we mean projects where risks and rewards are shared across a number of businesses though a shared investment and working together to achieve a successful new enterprise. If this project is collaborative please explain the nature of the collaboration, any proposed formal structure for the new venture, and give the names and addresses of your collaborators. You must also indicate the type of businesses operated by the collaborators.

N/A

4.4 Where will the project be located

Sussex Mushrooms Limited
Storrington Road
Thakeham
Nr Pulborough
West Sussex
RH20 3DY

4.5 Briefly summarise why the project is needed. What would happen if the project did not go ahead, what would happen if you did not receive grant aid ?

The project is required to reduce the use of fossil fuel by the business to meet customer aspirations and future economic pressures. Grant aid is required to enable the project to proceed in the short term given the high capital investment involved in it. Without grant aid / input of capital for no return , it is unlikely that the project would proceed

4.6 How does this project fit with the underlying business ?

As part of the strategy to supply major retailers with local produce having the minimal carbon footprint at competitive prices

4.7 What are the expected project start and end dates

Q2 2009 to Q4 2009

4.8 List the approvals and licenses that apply to this project– for example, planning approval, building regulations, Food Hygiene regulations, Environment Agency consent, forestry management plan, health and safety.

Environment Agency or Environmental Health check on any emissions from chimney. Formal consents are unlikely to be required. Horsham District Council have confirmed that no planning permission is required.

4.9 What benefits will this project bring for your business, and for other businesses in your locality ? What are the wider social and environmental benefits of this project ?

A substantial reduction in fossil fuel use reducing the operating cost of the business and adding value to the produce by reducing its carbon footprint.

It could also be a pilot scheme for other businesses within the EU so they could enjoy the commercial benefits of a system which uses renewable fuels from proven technology

4.10 Will your project compete with other established businesses in a 10 mile radius of your project ? If so please provide further details.

No

4.11 Who will manage the project to ensure it is delivered successfully, on time and within budget ? What experience and skills does this person have of managing this type of project ?

Partner in the firm (C.V attached)

4.12 In the last three years have you received any funding from public sources (excluding Agri-environment payments and Single Payment Scheme) that have been described as providing State Aid. You will need to check the paperwork associated with these payments and if any of them were described as coming under state aid rules please give the details below.

No

4.13 All projects supported under RDPE must address environmental sustainability. Please indicate which of the following apply to this project and describe the actions you are taking to address sustainability.

- Standards of building construction
- Energy, water and waste managementXX
- Transport policiesXX
- Packaging for products
- Impact on the countryside, landscape and biodiversity
- Sourcing of inputs and food miles
- Protection of historic assets

5. Project expenditure projections

Costs on which you plan to claim grant aid	Costs net of VAT (where appropriate) £	Date work will be completed
Building works	£184,080	Q3 2009
Equipment – list the items See attached	£1,042,000	
Professional fees Project Management	£30,000	
Hire of equipment		
Utilities		
Other costs – please specify		
Totals	£1,256,080	

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List Of Equipment Required

Item	Number	Cost	Total
Burner	2	£135,000.00	£270,000.00
Expander	2	£115,000.00	£230,000.00
Adsorption Chiller	2	£145,000.00	£290,000.00
Hopper	2	£50,000.00	£100,000.00
Blender	1	£150,000.00	£150,000.00
Changeover Switch	1	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
			£1,042,000.00

6. Project funding proposals

Funding source	£	% of total package
Own cash	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Commercial loans or mortgages	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Private loan	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sale of assets	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other deferred payment method	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Landlord contribution	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
RDPE grant requested	£502,432	40
Totals	£1,256,080	