



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Food Systems Research Institute Awarded Contract with the Northern Community Investment Corporation Project: Action Plan for Agriculture and Food System Development.

Shelburne, VT – September 16, 2013 – The Food Systems Research Institute, LLC (FSRI) is very pleased to announce that it has been selected by Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) to assist in the creation of an Action Plan for Agriculture and Food System Development. The purpose of this project is to increase value added processing and marketing of local agricultural products across the Northern Tier, including eight counties in three states: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties in Vermont; Coos, Grafton and Carroll counties in New Hampshire; and Oxford and Franklin counties in Maine. This project is a significant portion of the Northern Tier Farm and Forest Jobs Accelerator program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development and U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration program.

Under NCIC's leadership, FSRI was one of two teams of consultants selected as the result of a competitive bid process. FSRI will provide general advisory, research, and analysis services, including an agricultural producer inventory, identification of distribution channels, and comprehensive geospatial catalogue. "The Action Plan for Agriculture and Food System Development is an important and timely project that furthers the interests of citizens living within Northern Tier communities," said Dan Erickson, FSRI Managing Partner.

About NCIC

NCIC is a non-profit, certified Community Development Financial Institution working to address regional economic challenges. Its focus is on building partnerships and developing creative and effective solutions for individual businesses, communities and the region, to ensure that the region continues to offer a strong and growing business climate, and diverse employment opportunities. More can be learned at: (<http://www.ncic.org>)

About FSRI

The Food Systems Research Institute (FSRI) is a food systems consulting firm that specializes in providing food system expertise to businesses, non-profits, and institutions. The core suite of services includes business strategy and analytics, geographic information systems and mapping, as well as academic research and education. Committed to the development of sustainable food systems, FSRI prioritizes client needs using a whole-systems approach. More can be learned at: (<http://www.foodsri.com>)

###

Media Contact:

Jesse McEntee, PhD
jmcntee@foodsri.com | 802.448.2403