



Issued on: 15 November 2012

Deadline For Application: 13 December 2012

POSITION TITLE:	Programme Specialist (Vegetable Crops)	GRADE LEVEL:	P-3
		DUTY STATION:	Rome, Italy
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT:	Plant Production and Protection Division, AGP	DURATION *:	Fixed-term: 2 years
	Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, AG	POST CODE/N°:	0420417
		CCOG CODE:	1H

Applications from qualified women as well as from qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged
Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply
All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Organizational Setting

The post is located in the Crop Diversification Team, AGPML of the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP).

Main Purpose/contacts

The Programme Specialist, AGPML, will provide technical expertise and contribute to the technical design and delivery of a programme in support of sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI) with particular reference to vegetable crops. The incumbent will collaborate with staff at various levels across the Organization including FAO's decentralised offices, FAO Representations, in national governments and with national, regional and international organizations.

Supervision Received/Exercised

The Programme Specialist will work under the general direction of the Director, AGP and the direct supervision of the leader of the AGPML Team, will provide technical guidance and when necessary supervision to more junior Professional Staff, consultants and General Service staff assigned to the team.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

As a member of the AGPML Team, the incumbent will provide technical expertise and contribute to the technical design and delivery of a programme in support of sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI) with particular reference to vegetable crops for food security, nutrition and livelihood, particularly for smallholders. In support of these objectives, the incumbent will:

- Analyze critical challenges and threats to sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI) and assist member countries in addressing the needs for crop diversification including vegetables and other short-cycle horticulture crops in open field and protected vegetable cultivation, micro-gardens and soilless culture for food and nutrition security faced at national and regional levels;
- Contribute to the formulation of targeted national strategies for the improvement of vegetable cropping systems including through promotion of indigenous and under-utilised crop varieties, identification of good agricultural practices and applied research relevant to horticulture crops and cropping systems in order to improve livelihoods, diversify diets and strengthen resilience to external shocks;
- Formulate and implement projects on vegetables and other short-cycle horticulture crops within the context of SCPI for the development of more efficient, sustainable and diversified cropping systems to allow smallholders to broaden sources of foods in local diets, enter domestic markets for higher value products leading to improved livelihoods and nutrition;
- Run monitoring and reporting systems that provide critical information on key factors impacting SCPI to key stakeholders at national, regional and international levels including information systems and decision support-resources on characterization, variety performance and sustainable utilization of horticultural cultivars and genetic resources. e.g. the Horticulture Cultivars Performance Database (Hortivar);
- Maintain and engage in networks of collaboration amongst horticulture specialists to gather information, promote awareness of technical issues and support capacity building programmes;
- Maintain awareness on issues and approaches relevant to SCPI with respect to the integrated production and protection of vegetables and other short-cycle horticulture crops and share knowledge;
- Prepare case studies, guidelines, reports, publications and presentations in support of programme delivery.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should meet the following:

- Advanced University Degree in agriculture or horticulture with specialisation in crop improvement, production systems, integrated crop management or farming systems
- Five years of relevant experience related to agricultural or horticultural development with emphasis on vegetables and other short-cycle horticulture crops in developing countries

- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish

SELECTION CRITERIA

Candidates will be assessed against the following:

- Extent of knowledge and relevant experience in agricultural or horticultural development with emphasis on vegetables and other short-cycle horticulture crops in both rural and urban and peri-urban contexts
- Extent and relevance of experience in the formulation, development and implementation of technical projects
- Extent and relevance of experience in preparing intergovernmental meetings and international workshops including training workshops
- Demonstrated ability in the identification, compilation and analysis of relevant technical information from a range of sources and in the preparation of summary reports and recommendations
- Extent of experience in and ability to cooperate with officials in national governments, inter-governmental organizations and other institutions and in collaborative networks and joint programmes
- Demonstrated ability to communicate clearly and concisely both orally and in writing on technical issues
- Extent of working experience in developing countries
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team and in a multicultural environment

Please note that all candidates should possess computer/word processing skills and should be capable of working with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

*** The length of appointment for internal FAO candidates will be established in accordance with applicable policies pertaining to the extension of appointments**

REMUNERATION

A competitive compensation and benefits package is offered. For information on UN salaries, allowances and benefits, click on the following link: <http://icsc.un.org/>

To apply: visit the iRecruitment website at

<http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/>

and complete the on-line application

In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of the on-line application are completed.

Please note that FAO staff members are international civil servants subject to the authority of the Director-General and may be assigned to any activities or office of the organization.

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