



Issued on: 17 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 10 November 2017

JOB TITLE: Cropping Systems Specialist (Agronomist)

TYPE OF CONTRACT: International Consultant

DUTY STATION: Rome or Home based

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: AGP

DURATION: Up to 11 months on a WAE basis

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Organizational Setting

The Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) promotes the sustainable intensification of crop production. This requires the integration and harmonization of all appropriate crop production policies and practices in order to increase production in a sustainable manner to address food security and nutrition challenges while protecting the environment for future generations.

Two of the six teams in AGP require expertise in sustainable cropping systems: the Ecosystem Management Team (AGPME) and the Rural and Urban crops and Mechanization Team (AGPML).

The AGPME team provides advice, technical support and guidance aimed at maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services as essential components of sustainable farming systems. The AGPML team supports smallholder farmers for the sustainable intensification of cereals, horticulture crops, perennial orchards and plantation crops. It provides advice, technical support and guidance to countries aimed at sustainable crop production intensification as key contributions to food security, improved livelihoods and diversified diets in both rural, peri-urban and urban contexts.

The consultant will be part of a Team of technical specialists in AGPME or AGPML.

FAO International Consultants and Call purpose

The Organization frequently engages specialists to work on short-term projects as international consultants. The functions of a consultant are results-oriented and normally involve analysing complex issues, directing seminars or training courses, preparing documents for conferences and meetings, or writing reports on matters within their area of expertise.

An international consultant is engaged by the Organization to provide expertise, skills or knowledge for the performance of a specific task or piece of work, which would be short-term by nature. The assignment may involve full-time or part-time functions similar to those of staff members.

FAO consultants fall into three categories: (1) C for the base level; (2) B for the middle level; and (A) for the high level. A Senior consultant (Categories A and B) is expected to deliver without close supervision while a junior consultant assists a senior consultant or an FAO Officer of a higher level.

The assignment can be from 1 month up to 11 months. The possibility of extension is subject to satisfactory performance and depending on the resources and needs of the Organization.

The purpose of this call is to attract talents with experience and background in the area of sustainable cropping systems to populate rosters for the following profiles:

- Sustainable cropping systems / agronomy expert
- Sustainable cropping systems / agronomy junior consultant

Reporting Lines

The Consultants will work under the overall technical supervision of AGPME or AGPML Team Leader and under the direct supervision of an officer of either team.

Technical Focus

Agronomy, integrated multisectoral approaches in support sustainable cropping systems including, nutrient management, integration of legume species, tree-crop-livestock integrated systems.

Tasks and responsibilities

Sustainable cropping systems /agronomy expert will assist in the delivery of FAO's work with the aim of increasing sustainability and resilience of cropping systems at global, regional and national levels. The key functions of the consultant may include all or parts of the following:

- conduct data collection, collate, or analyse technical information needed for the development, updating and/or finalization of technical documents, reports and policy briefs related to the development and management of sustainable cropping systems
- support implementation of integrated multisectoral approaches to sustainable cropping systems (eg. agroecology, sustainable mechanisation, conservation agriculture, climate smart agriculture, crop-livestock, crop-fish, and agroforestry systems);
- capacity development at country level through development and promotion of methodologies, guidelines or standards;
- development or strengthening of networks relevant to sustainable cropping systems;
- Integrate sound agronomic practices with sustainable mechanization options where appropriate;
- organize or assist with facilitating and coordinating technical meetings and workshops;
- develop communication products to enhance exchange of information within and outside of FAO;
- provide support to procedures or technical clearance of inputs;
- Other duties as required.

Sustainable cropping systems /agronomy junior consultant will support a staff member or an expert on the following:

- assist in the preparation of documents for international meetings, draft concept notes, and other relevant materials;
- conduct literature reviews and develop databases on topics related to sustainable cropping systems (e.g. nutrient management, legume integration, enabling policies);
- assist with facilitating and coordinating technical meetings and workshops;
- Other duties as required.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in Agricultural Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Agronomy or related fields as appropriate for the specific profile
- Sustainable cropping systems / Agronomy expert: seven to ten years of experience including field experience possibly in developing countries
- Sustainable cropping systems / Agronomy junior consultant: one to five years of experience
- Relevant experience in biodiversity, ecosystems services or agronomy including project implementation, international bodies, technical meeting organization, data collection and analysis
- Working knowledge of English and limited knowledge of French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, or Russian.

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All applications will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.
- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
- For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org

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