



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC4945

Issued on: 20 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 03 November 2017

JOB TITLE: Seeds Specialists

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant

DUTY STATION: Rome, Italy

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) supports countries to develop sustainable crop production systems that are resilient to external shocks and the uncertainties of climate change. AGP works with countries and a broad range of partners in developing and promoting agro-ecological approaches to sustainable crop production that build on ecosystem services while enhancing and protecting the underlying natural resource base.

The Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team (AGPMG) is one of the six teams in the Division. The Team leads the efforts to enhance farmers' access to quality seeds and planting materials of nutritious well-adapted crops and varieties. To achieve this, country governments are assisted in conserving plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), improving crops and developing resilient seed systems.

FAO International Consultant and Call purpose

The Organization frequently engages experts 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 in nature. The assignment may involve full-time or part-time functions similar to those of staff members.

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 seed production, seed sector development and/or seed security, in order to populate the Seed Specialists Roster. Qualified candidates may be contacted for interviews and if endorsed for the Roster, are available for consideration whenever relevant employment opportunities arise.

Reporting Lines

The Seeds Specialists will work under the overall technical guidance of the AGPMG Team Leader and the direct supervision of an AGPMG Officer.

Technical Focus

AGPMG works on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, in the context of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The work encompasses policy and technical support for seed delivery, including seed sector development, seeds in emergency and relief interventions, seed security assessments.

Tasks and responsibilities

The key functions of the consultant, in support of the delivery of the FAOs Strategic Programme, include:

- Support the formulation of proposals and associated supporting documentation for projects at national, regional and global levels;
- Compile and analyse technical information as input to meeting documents, training and communication materials and guidelines;
- Organize and deliver of training courses, workshops and technical meetings.

In particular:

Seeds Specialist will assist in activities relating to enhancing farmers' access to quality seeds and planting materials of the most suitable crops and their varieties. A typical intervention involves policy and/or technical support activities relating to:

- the development of the seed sector, including enterprise development, quality assurance and legal and regulatory frameworks;
- seed production and processing, including appropriate equipment and infrastructure;
- seed security, including the availability and quality of seeds, seed access, varietal preference and the resilience of the seed delivery system; and/or
- review of and technical clearance for the procurement of seeds for projects.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in Agronomy, Agricultural or Biological Sciences, with specialization in Seed Science/Technology, or a related field
- At least five years of relevant experience in working with public, private or civil society institutions on themes relevant to seed systems.
- Field experience, preferably in developing countries.
- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or 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

- 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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