



Issued on: 26 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 12 November 2017

JOB TITLE: Legal Matters

TYPE OF CONTRACT: PSA

DUTY STATION: Colombo

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: UN - FAO

DURATION: 90 days WAE over a period of 15 months

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 government of Sri Lanka, through the 4-year project, "Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", which is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), is strengthening the country's institutional and human capacities for the implementation of the National Biosafety Framework (NBF) and hence the safe handling of living modified organisms (LMOs) or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The National Executing Agency of the project is the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MoMD&E) while the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) is the GEF and Implementing Agency.

A National Consultant – Legal matters Expert will contribute to the implementation of this project.

Reporting Lines

The National Consultant will work under the overall guidance and supervision of the Assistant FAO Representative in Sri Lanka, the Lead Technical Officer, the FAO Legal Office, in particular the Development Law Branch (LEGN) and relevant FAO Technical Officers, in consultation with relevant government departments, non-government organizations and other national and international organizations. He/she will interact closely with the national and international consultants and will be supported by the project management unit (PMU).

Technical Focus

Enabling environment, encompassing legal instruments, guidance documents and administrative tools, for implementing the NBF in Sri Lanka.

Tasks and responsibilities

The National Consultant will, through varied fact finding activities, generate data and identify the contacts and sources of information to enable an International Consultant – Biosafety Expert prepare the draft National Biosafety Master Plan and Biosafety Regulations; develop relevant administrative biosafety systems and supporting guidelines, especially for the tasks implemented by the National Competent Authority (NCA) and Sectoral Competent Authorities (SCAs) and conduct relevant training activities

Specific Functions

- Serve as a member of the project's Biosafety Policy team (composed of the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert, the incumbent and a National Consultant – Biosafety Expert).
- Review the existing National Biosafety Act in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and identify key elements for integration into the draft National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and the Administrative/Operational system and supporting guidelines for Sri Lanka. Identify and analyse other laws relevant for Biosafety and prepare a legal report documenting the review and analyses and submit this to LEGN.
- Identify and convey to the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert the sources of information available in the country, including relevant stakeholders, documents, organizations and individuals, for generating materials for the drafts of National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and the Administrative/Operational system and supporting guidelines for Sri Lanka
- Assemble information for incorporation in the draft Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and Administrative/Operational system in Sri Lanka
- Support the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert to prepare the drafts of the National Biosafety Master Plan and Biosafety Regulations working closely with other relevant stakeholders and ensuring that the draft Biosafety Safety Regulations are submitted to LEGN for review and clearance
- Support the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert to present the drafts of the National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations that have been reviewed and cleared by LEGN and sundry documents related to the Administrative/Operational system of the NBF Master Plan at relevant stakeholder consultative meetings
- Considering the inputs from the consultative meetings, revise the drafts of the National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations in consultation with LEGN and sundry documents related to the Administrative/Operational system of the

NBF, support the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert to provide technical guidance and advice for the preparations and hosting of countrywide awareness workshops on the biosafety regulatory regime

- Define terms of reference for committees and rules for appointment of members for administrative and operational procedures
- Support the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert to prepare a draft Manual on Biosafety Administrative and Operational Procedures
- Support the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert to prepare guidelines for handling applications related to GMOs/LMOs
- Support the International Consultant – Biosafety Expert to provide technical guidance and inputs to training workshops on administrative processes and decision making relating to LMOs/GMOs
- Participate actively in stakeholder consultative meetings for Biosafety Regulations

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- A degree in law with specialization in legal matters relating to biotechnology, biosafety or related disciplines or an advanced degree in biotechnology, biosafety or related disciplines with specialization in relevant branches of law
- Demonstrated experience supporting the preparation of laws, Acts and policies related to biosafety, environment, agriculture or related subjects
- Experience in developing institutional mechanisms for handling requests related to GMOs/LMOs is highly preferable
- Working knowledge of English

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