



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC4775

Issued on: 9 OCTOBER 2017

Deadline For Application: 23 October 2017

JOB TITLE: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Agriculture

TYPE OF CONTRACT: International Consultant

DUTY STATION: Rome/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.

The Ecosystem Management Team (AGPME) is one of six teams in the Division. AGPME provides advice, technical support and guidance aimed at maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services as essential components of sustainable farming systems. The consultant would be part of a Team of technical specialists that includes expertise of, cropping systems, plant nutrition, soil health, integrated soil fertility management, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and various aspects of Agroecology related to policies, knowledge and best practices, to deliver a program of work that emphasizes sustainable agricultural production and innovation.

FAO International Consultants 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 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 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Agriculture, to populate rosters for the following profiles:

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services for Agriculture (expert)
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services for Agriculture (junior consultant)

Reporting Lines

The Consultants will work under the overall technical supervision of the AGPME Team Leader and the direct supervision of an AGP officer.

Technical Focus

Biodiversity and ecosystem services in agroecosystems, direct and indirect management of ecosystem service providers, ecosystem service indicators and monitoring systems

Tasks and responsibilities

Biodiversity and ecosystem services for Agriculture (expert) will assist in the delivery of the outputs and outcomes of the 2018-19 work plan related to the management of the ecosystem services underpinning sustainable farming systems at global, regional and national levels.

The key functions of the consultant will be to:

- provide assistance to the collation, analyses of technical information needed for the development, updating and/or finalization of technical documents related to various aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services in farming systems;

- support the implementation of initiatives and project activities related to the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- liaise with biodiversity and ecosystem services experts from national governments and institutions, and international organisations;
- provide technical, regulatory and policy advice to countries on the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- assist with facilitating and coordinating technical meetings;
- support the coordination and exchange of information within and outside of FAO.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services for Agriculture (junior consultant) will:

- assist in the preparation of documents for international meetings, draft concept notes, and other relevant materials
- conduct literature review and develop databases on topics related to biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- assist with facilitating and coordinating technical meetings.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Sciences or related fields as appropriate for the specific profile.
- Relevant experience in the management of biodiversity and ecosystems services in the context of project or programme development and implementation, preparation of technical reports/documents, preparation and delivery of technical meetings or workshops, data collection and analysis, field experience possibly in developing countries:
 - **Biodiversity and ecosystem services for Agriculture (expert) – seven to ten years of experience**
 - **Biodiversity and ecosystem services for Agriculture (junior consultant) – three to five years of experience**
- 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/i-recruitment-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