

JOB TITLE: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING ADVISOR

Starting date: As soon as possible

Wageningen UR Uganda is an organization supporting societal learning and innovation processes at macro, meso and micro level in Uganda involving different stakeholder groups working together on development issues.

Wageningen UR Uganda with support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is implementing a four years' Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) programme. Through promotion of innovative processes, enhanced societal learning and participation of major stakeholder groups, the programme aims to strengthen and develop a vibrant, pluralistic and market-oriented seed sector that is able to address key challenges that hamper the seed sector such as seed quality assurance and availability of foundation seeds.

In collaboration with government of Uganda, three field offices have been established at Abi (West Nile), Mbarara (Western Uganda) and Ngetta (Northern Uganda) Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (ZARDI). At each centre sits an Agribusiness Expert and a Seed Expert working with 10 farmer groups in strengthening their capacity to produce quality seed, market locally demanded crops and varieties and support them towards developing functional local seed businesses.

Purpose and function of the Institutional Strengthening Advisor

Reporting to the Chief of Party, the Institutional Strengthening Advisor will support and strengthen seed sector stakeholders' governance and facilitate public-private sector collaboration to enhance seed quality assurance systems, increase availability and access to foundation seed and optimise of the variety release system. In addition, he/she will identify and prioritize action for tackling institutional bottlenecks, actively engage with the national seed sector platform and support ZARDI experts design and facilitate multi-stakeholder process at zonal level.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Public sector

1. Support public sector organisations to increase their effectiveness and efficiency in specific supportive tasks in the seed value chain;
2. Support the development and implementation of diversified seed quality assurance mechanisms (accreditation, certification, quality declared seed);
3. Support and mobilise the initiatives towards increased access to and availability of foundation seed at zonal and national level;
4. Support initiatives towards optimizing the variety release system;
5. Awareness raising and capacity building on the implementation of seed regulations at national and zonal level;

Multi stakeholder processes and innovation

6. Facilitate seed sector platform events and support the steering committee of the platform
7. Support capacity development activities at the ZARDIs, identify seed sector bottlenecks at regional level and link these bottlenecks to national level dialogue and action;
8. Coordinate the development and evaluation of grant proposals for consultancies, studies and innovation projects;
9. Closely collaborate with MAAIF (NSCS, NARO, etc.) in the development of innovative approaches supporting public private partnerships in seed sector development;
10. Stimulate dialogue between government, NGOs and the private sector;

Evidence based learning and networking

11. Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the ISSD programme activities as stated in the project proposal, budget and M&E matrix;
12. Document experiences and lessons learnt in the process of addressing common bottlenecks in the seed sector;
13. Actively linking with other initiatives, like CATALIST (IFDC), ISSD Africa, ISSD Ethiopia, aBi Trust, Skills development project for Northern Uganda (ICCO), NUFFIC/NICHE programme on 'Enhancing capacity for agricultural research and training' (Gulu University), the EAAPP programme;

Minimum Knowledge, Skills and Qualifications

1. Minimum of MSc degree in Agricultural Economy, Plant Breeding and Seed Systems, Agronomy or related field;
2. At least 3 years proven experience in facilitating multi stakeholder processes;
3. Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English, including the ability to present written document to a large audience;
4. At least 3 years proven engagement in policy dialogue in the agricultural sector;
5. Computer literate, excellent in word processing, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, internet use, website content management systems and statistical packages;
6. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team, excellent interpersonal skills, analytical and attentive to details;
7. A productive self-starter who can develop and innovative ideas and translated these into concrete actions and project proposals;
8. Willingness to travel extensively in Uganda;
9. Experience in the Uganda seed sector is an added benefit.

Application procedure

You can find more information about ISSD Uganda on the ISSD Platform on the Uganda AgriProFocus website <http://apf-uganda.ning.com/group/integrated-seed-sector-development-programme>

For more information about the position contact the Chief of Party on issd.uganda@gmail.com

Please send your application letter and CV to issd.uganda@gmail.com. The incoming applications will be shortlisted when and as the come and until the position is filled. No need to send academic papers at this stage. Deadline for application is **28th of July 2013**.