



POSITION TITLE:	Agricultural Officer (Seed Sector Development)	GRADE LEVEL:	P4
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT:	Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team (AGPMG) Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG)	DUTY STATION:	Rome, Italy
		DURATION *:	Fixed Term: 2 years
		POST NUMBER:	0078190
		CCOG CODE:	1H01

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.

The incumbent may be re-assigned to different activities and/or duty stations depending on the evolving needs of the Organization.

Organizational Setting

The Plant Production and Protection Division 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 in order to eradicate hunger while preserving the natural resources and environment for future use.

The post is located in the Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team (AGPMG), one of six teams in the Division. This Team provides advice, technical support, capacity strengthening and guidance aimed at facilitating access to high quality seeds and planting materials of the most suitable crops and their varieties. The Team's work contributes to translating the potentials of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) into improved productivities on farmer's fields. The Second Global Plan of Action on PGRFA provides the framework for a significant part of the Team's work.

Reporting Lines

The Agricultural Officer reports to the AGPMG Leader

Technical Focus

Crop and varietal diversity in crop production systems including neglected and under-utilized plant species and linkages with farming systems, agroecology, resilient seed systems and institutional capacity development.

Key Results

Technical and policy expertise to support the planning, development and implementation of Departmental programmes, projects, products and services in accordance with (Departmental and) FAO Strategic Objectives.

Key Functions

- Plans and leads components of multi-disciplinary teams, leads and/or participates on Organization-wide, cross-Departmental committees, project teams, and working groups and/or provides specialized expertise on technical networks and/or international technical policy and/or international technical policy and standard setting bodies;
- Develops technical, analysis, assessment, monitoring and/or reporting frameworks, and related methodologies, tools, systems and databases etc. to support the planning, implementation/delivery and monitoring of programmes of work, projects, products and/or services;
- Designs and conducts research, data collection, validation, analysis and/or reporting activities to support the development of technical standards, international instruments, innovative cross-sector approaches, new tools, technologies, technical reports/publications, and/or policy proposals as well as the provision of technical/policy/ specialist/advice and expertise;
- Responds to Member Country requests for technical and/or policy assistance, provides technical advice, assistance and solutions to Decentralized Offices and provides technical backstopping to field projects;
- Collaborates in, provides technical backstopping to and ensures the quality / effectiveness of capacity development and knowledge sharing activities within member countries such as policy support, organizational development and individual learning events including preparation of related information, learning materials, on-line tools;
- Promotes international cooperation/advocates best practices, increased policy dialogue and provides technical expertise at international/intergovernmental meetings;
- Participates in resource mobilization activities in accordance with the FAO Corporate strategy.

Specific Functions

- Supports the development of the seed sector in the context of sustainable intensification of crop production including stimulation of the private sector and community seed production in developing countries;
- Coordinates regional strategies in Africa on seed systems including harmonization efforts by Regional Economic Communities such as ECOWAS, CEMAC, COMESA and SADC;
- Contributes to increased policy dialogue and advocates best practices related to development of the seed sector within the framework of the African Seed Network (ASN) and the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP);
- Designs and conducts research, collects and analyses data on seed systems that ensure access by farmers to quality seeds of adapted varieties including indigenous and underutilized crop species.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in Agronomy, Plant Science with specialization in seed science/technology, agricultural economics or related field
- Seven years of relevant experience in working with seed sector institutions in developing countries especially francophone African countries and at regional levels
- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or Arabic, Chinese, Russian

Competencies

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

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable
- Extent and relevance of knowledge and experience in developing, planning and implementing strategies and programmes in support of seed systems in developing countries including public-private partnerships
- Extent and relevance of experience in the provision of technical and policy advice to countries on systems applicable to the seed sector
- Extent and relevance of knowledge and experience of indigenous and underutilized crop species including vegetable crops and their role in the sustainable intensification of crop production
- Ability to analyze information as the basis for technical and policy advice for governments and input to international and intergovernmental meetings

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All candidates should possess computer/word processing skills.
- Evaluation of qualified candidates may include an assessment exercise which will be followed by a competency-based interview.
- Your application will be screened based on the information provided in your iRecruitment online profile (see "*How to Apply*"). We strongly recommend that you ensure that the information is accurate and complete including employment record, academic qualifications and language skills.
- Please note that FAO will only consider academic credentials or degrees obtained from an educational institution recognised in the IAU/UNESCO list.
- Other similar positions at the same level may be filled from this vacancy notice and the endorsed candidates will be considered for the Employment Roster for a period of 2 years.
- Candidates may be requested to provide performance assessments.

REMUNERATION

A competitive compensation and benefits package is offered. For information on UN salaries, allowances and benefits, visit the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) website: <http://icsc.un.org/rootindex.asp>

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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