

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## JOB OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

<i>Date Posted:</i>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b>
<i>Closing Date:</i>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b>
<i>Duty Station:</i>	<b>Lagos State</b>
<i>Contract Type:</i>	<b>One-Year Renewable Contract</b>

Michigan State University, USA seeks a dynamic, experienced project manager to serve as Country Coordinator for a new 5-year program to expand youth entrepreneurship and employment in Nigeria. Ag Youth Lab will focus on major food shed areas in Oyo, Ogun and Osun States. The primary objective is to assist more than 10,000 un-employed, out-of-school, disadvantaged youth ages 18 to 24 to access higher-wage jobs or start their own businesses in high-potential horticulture, aquaculture, poultry, cassava or oilseeds sectors. The program will aim for equal representation of young men and women across its programs

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the Michigan State University invites applications for the following positions:

### **Position Title:**

### **Private Sector and Financial Institution Liaison, Nigeria Ag Youth Lab Program**

#### **Essential Duties & Responsibilities**

- Working with the Ag Youth Lab Country Coordinator, lead the development of, maintain and grow a vibrant network of private company, financial institution and other public and non-profit program leaders who will contribute to Ag Youth Lab in various ways --including as mentors, expert resources for training, sources of employment, start-up capital for youth enterprises and buyers of their products.
- Work with Ag Youth Lab partner organizations to manage and monitor ongoing private sector and financial institution contributions to curriculum development, internship, and incubation placements. These include working with Ag Youth Lab partners and the gender expert to develop and oversee training for private sector and incubation hosts.
- Lead the identification of sources of startup capital for trainees from public, private and NGO sources, and work with Ag Youth Lab country partners to match them with viable trainee businesses and set up mentoring and oversight.
- Work with Nigeria-based IT partner to develop and implement online system for Ag Youth Lab trainees to access information about and respond to relevant employment opportunities in the agrifood sector.
- Work with the Country Coordinator to develop a communications strategy and campaign to attract youth to agrifood sector opportunities. Bear major responsibility for implementing the strategy and campaign, working with youth and private sector partners to Develop interviews, case studies, blogs, etc. which can be used on the Ag Youth Lab e-platform and in outreach to print, broadcast and electronic media outlets.
- The Private Sector and Financial Institution Liaison will be directly accountable to Country Coordinator, Ag Youth Lab Nigeria. S/he will provide written bi-weekly progress reports, and use program management software to track task completion on a weekly basis.

#### **Education and Experience**

- A Bachelor's degree in a business or agriculture-related field is required.
- Three to five years of private sector or financial institution experience with responsibilities including business development, communications or public relations.
- Previous experience in the agribusiness sector desirable.
- Previous experience with communications and public affairs desirable.
- Must be a self-starter, with exceptional interpersonal and organizational skills.
  
- Strong verbal and written communications skills.
- Three professional references should be provided with the application.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION:**

Interested applicants should complete the online application at IITA website: <http://www.iita.org/careers> attaching their cover letter with detailed curriculum vitae saved in a single file in Microsoft Word format no later than two weeks from the date of this publication. The application must include the names and e-mail addresses of three professional referees which must include the applicant's current or previous direct Supervisor, professional colleague and evidence of current remuneration package.