



## **JOB OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ref:IITA-HR-NRS2017-0040	<b>Positions: Crop Delivery Officer</b>
Location: <b>Abuja</b>	Recruitment Type: National (1-year renewable contract)
Date Posted: 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Closing Date: 3rd January 2018

HarvestPlus on behalf of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture seeks suitable Nigerian for the positions below at its country office in Abuja.

### **Position: Crop Delivery Officer**

**Contract:** 1-year renewable contract

**Location:** Abuja

### **DUTIES**

Successful candidate will among other things perform the following duties:

#### **Technical Oversight**

- Formulate strategic and technical direction for the delivery of biofortified seed in Northern Nigeria and other participating West African countries
- Establish, maintain and strengthen relationships for mainstreaming of biofortified crops in ongoing programmes with collaborating partners, which includes development partners/INGO's, government officials and the private sector
- Provide programmatic and technical expertise to partner organisations including commercial companies in the development of viable biofort agribusiness clusters
- Develop intervention strategies and implementation procedures in a participatory manner with key stakeholders
- Formulate strategies to develop service markets in commodity chains/rural markets and seek opportunities to work as per sector strategy
- Lead the effort to conduct desk research of existing information and produce a detailed market and stakeholder analysis that broadly defines the impact, demand and feasibility for a range of possible interventions
- Define in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and potential partner organisations the scope of implementation activities and where applicable negotiates a formal agreement
- Take part in facilitating and managing the work of partners, facilitators and service providers ensuring value for money for the tasks given
- Undertake regular field visits to ensure proper implementation of activities in line with programme objectives and goals
- Represent the programme in events, meetings as assigned, displaying courtesy, tact, consideration and discretion in all interactions with partners, other members of the programme, and with the public

#### **Seed Systems**

- Provide technical expertise for HarvestPlus Nigeria and other West African projects in promoting community based seed entrepreneurship in their respective countries

- Plan, organise and implement seed production and commercialization plans, including in-bred lines maintenance, production of breeders, pre-basic and basic seeds of parental lines for increased commercial seed production
- Facilitate the commercial production of biofortified seed by licensed seed companies
- Inspect fields under production by seed companies to ensure adherence to certification standards
- Liaise with seed companies licensed to produce and sell biofortified seeds. Collaborate with the Regional Seed System Specialist in the bulking of parent seeds/lines of leads entered for National Variety Trials
- Set up trials to monitor and ensure certified seed purity and viability
- Work with partners and technically support the laying out of demonstration plots and conduct field days to promote biofortified maize in Nigeria
- Build capacities of both private and public-sector partners in the seed system (including small/medium scale seed companies, CBOs and NGOs) through development of training modules for seed production, seed multiplication, seed business management and marketing
- Engage with private sector and community based seed producers in developing a sustainable market for seed and monitor the production of high quality seeds for production

### **Market creation/linkages, delivery and promotion**

- Define and analyse systems that are of major importance in developing the markets for biofortified seeds, crops and foods
- Identify the value chain and core transactions, key rules & supporting functions, and assess key constraints
- Monitor biofortified crops and food value chains to identify market failures and pressure points, and ways to make the chain more functional and efficient
- Facilitate the establishment and strengthening of seed sales outlets to ensure increased farmer access to biofortified seeds
- Create and strengthen market linkages for biofortified crops and foods; bridge the gap between demand and supply; promote the availability, accessibility and affordability of biofortified crops and foods
- Build capacities of partner companies and organisations on contract farming/out-grower management and aggregation/off-take of biofortified crops
- Provide technical content and support the development of training materials on Good Agronomic Practices including pest management, extension training delivery, post-harvest handling and processing, to support value chain actors
- Establish and manage model villages to become evidence based villages for biofortification

### **Value Chain monitoring and Data Collection**

- Carry out regular assessment of biofortified crops and foods value chain including market development opportunities, market prices, demand and supply interactions
- Work with the MELA Specialist to design and implement a robust data collection plan covering all value chain activities and actors including monitoring of market price, product quality, demand and supply linkages and differentials
- Work with the MELA Specialist to regularly review scope and targets for operational planning in alignment with the program Theory of Change (ToC), monitoring framework, results pathway and indicators

- Participate in results measurements including baseline studies, periodic evaluative studies and impact assessments
- Continually monitor and evaluate intervention activities - inputs and outputs, taking actions to correct course as necessary, and produce activity reports that supports decision making
- Perform other duties assigned by the Country Manager.

### **QUALIFICATION:**

Master's degree in business administration, economics, agriculture, international development or related discipline with at least Four (4) years' work experience in activities related to agricultural commodities and rural development

### **COMPETENCIES:**

The ideal candidate must have:

- Proven knowledge of agricultural value chain players (especially cassava, maize, millet, sorghum, rice) and support service institutions in Nigeria
- Good understanding and interest in how markets and value chains work
- Strong project management expertise, exposure to implementing technical assistance projects, and ability to bring together sector stakeholders
- High degree of motivation, initiative, independence, reliability, adaptability, and professional maturity
- Strong commitment to gender sensitive, pro-poor development work and an ability to work in a multi-disciplinary and multi-national team
- Strong interpersonal/people management skills and excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent problem solving, analytical skills, networking and relationship-building skills
- Good working experience with DFID, BMGF and USAID funded programs
- Experience in working in Northern Nigeria and fluency in Hausa language are added advantage

### **REMUNERATION**

We offer highly competitive salary with equally attractive benefits and excellent working conditions in a pleasant campus environment.

### **METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Interested applicants should complete the online application attaching detailed cover letter and curriculum vitae saved with their names in Microsoft word format to IITA website: <http://www.iita.org/about/jobs/> 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.

***IITA is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from female candidates.***