



## **Regional Integration Specialist (Ref: DDG-R4D/RIS/PICAGL/12/18)**

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Regional Integration Specialist** for *Projet Intégré de Croissance Agricole dans les Grands Lacs* (Integrated Project for Agricultural Growth in the Great Lakes) - PICAGL.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <http://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

THE PICAGL is a project of the DR Congo Ministry of Agriculture, funded by the World Bank and a Japanese grant. The main objective of the project is to increase agricultural productivity and marketing in targeted areas in the DRC, improve regional integration in the agricultural sector, and provide an immediate and effective response to a crisis or emergency declared. The project will be implemented in the provinces of South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. IITA leads the implementation of two components of the project - *Development of Agricultural Value Chains and Great Lakes Regional Integration*. The Great Lakes Regional Integration component which focuses on the creation of an environment conducive to intra-regional trade, the management of agricultural resources, and the promotion of a regional agricultural research for development program will involve five CG partners – ICRAF, ILRI, AfricaRice IFPRI and CIAT-HarvestPlus as well as national agricultural research and extension systems, non-governmental organizations and private sector partners.

**Position Responsibilities:** The Regional Integration Specialist will report to the Project Coordinator and will be part of the IITA project team. The incumbent will be directly responsible for day to day tasks of the *Regional Integration* component of the project including overall coordination of work planning, budgeting, activity implementation, partnerships, progress monitoring, financial and technical reports.

### **Specific Duties and Responsibilities**

#### *Development of and Implementation of Work plan and Budget*

- Provide leadership in identification, planning and designing of project interventions within the *Great Lakes Regional Integration Component* in collaboration with CG partners' focal points (AfricaRice, ILRI, CIAT-HarvestPlus, IFPRI and ICRAF) as well as other strategic partners.
- Coordinate the development of the annual work plans and budgets in line with donor requirements and guide their implementation.
- Monitor partners activities against budgets to ensure that expenditure is in line with and IITA, World Bank and PARRSA procedures.
- When necessary provide support to CG partners in project implementation by interfacing between the PICAGL Provincial Coordinators and CG partners.
- Oversee the development of sub-agreements with partners and ensure proper technical and financial reporting from them.

- Ensure that operations and processes follow all relevant policies required by the donor.
- Coordinate and contribute to project research for development activities.

#### *Partnerships for Delivery*

- Facilitate development and maintenance of multi-stakeholder platforms as well as strategic partnerships with national research organizations, government agencies, private sector, development actors and farmer organizations to ensure smooth implementation and delivery of project's activities
- Coordinate project interventions with other on-going activities of lead organizations, mainly, Rikolto (formally VECO), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
- Facilitate organization of and reporting on meetings of the platforms to promote scaling of technology generation, delivery and dissemination and engagement with policy actors.
- Proactively identify, address and mitigate technical and partnership challenges in collaborative manner

#### *Regional integration*

- Facilitate regional integration in the Great Lakes region in terms of trade, scientific exchanges and institutional collaboration through regular communication and liaison with CG partners, national partners and relevant IITA units.
- With the support of CG partners develop and introduce mechanism for regional cooperation amongst partners and stakeholders in the Great Lakes region.
- Work closely with Project Coordinator in building and maintaining good working relationships with all project stakeholders in the region and provide any coordination and assistance that may be needed.

#### *M&E and Reporting*

- Work with CG partner focal points to embed systematic M&E activities within their activities, capture success stories and have them published through various channels and media to local and international audiences.
- Facilitate and support monitoring and evaluation activities against project deliverables.
- Carry out periodic field visits to project areas to work with provincial PICAGL coordinators and national partners.
- Organize periodic progress reviews and improve the regional strategy as necessary.
- Oversee timely completion and submission of scheduled periodic reports (financial and technical) and collation of these reports for submission to the donor.

#### *Publication and communication*

- Participate actively in data generation and analysis to develop technical and scholarly articles and policy briefs.
- Take responsibility for planning and organization of regular communication events including workshops.
- Contribute to development of visibility material and other communication materials and engagement in evidence-based policy dialogue.

### *Capacity building and Resource mobilization*

- Oversee implementation of the capacity building component of the regional strategy including graduate research programs.
- Participate in project capacity building activities including developing and implementing training programs and tools to build the technical and business skills of youth and farmers along commodity value chains.
- Supervise the work of the Project Training Officer
- Participate actively in resource mobilization including development of new programs and initiatives.

### **Educational Qualifications and Experience**

- An advanced University graduate degree (PhD preferably) in any area of agricultural development preferably in agricultural extension or economics.
- At least ten years of relevant job experience with international organizations/NGOs/donors preferably international agricultural research organization in Africa, especially in the Great Lakes region (DRC, Rwanda and Burundi).

### **Core Competencies**

- Demonstrated project management skills and experience in resource mobilization.
- Excellent computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Power Point).
- Written and verbal communication skills in the French and English languages.
- Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, and multi-cultural environment.
- Ability to provide guidance and direction to others, including setting standards and monitoring performance.
- Strong track record in managing collaborative projects with a range of multiple actors including private sector.
- Familiarity with international agricultural research and World bank-funded projects is desirable.

**Duty Station:** Bukavu, South Kivu, DR Congo

**General information:** The contract will be for an initial period of two years, subject to fund availability from the donors. IITA offers internationally competitive remuneration package paid in U.S. Dollars.

**Applications:** Applications must include covering letter which should address how the candidate's background/experience relates to the specific duties of the position applied for, curriculum vitae, names and addresses of three professional referees (which **must** include either the Head of the applicant's current or previous organization or applicant's direct Supervisor/Superior at his/her present or former place of work). The application should be addressed to the Head, Human Resources Service. Please complete our online application form using this link: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

**Closing Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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

*Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.*