



Cassava Extension Agronomist (Ref No: DDG-R4D/CE/A/09/15)

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Cassava Extension Agronomist**.

IITA is one of the world's leading research partners in finding solutions for hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Its award-winning research-for-development (R4D) approach addresses the development needs of tropical countries. IITA works with partners to enhance crop quality and productivity, reduce producer and consumer risks, and generate wealth from agriculture. IITA is a non-profit organization founded in 1967 in Nigeria and governed by a Board of Trustees. IITA works on the following crops: cowpea, soybean, banana/plantain, yam, cassava, and maize. It 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.

IITA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Liberia have an agreement to provide advisory and implementation services to farmers in 12 of the 15 counties of Liberia (Maryland, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Sinoe, River Cess, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Margibi, Bomi, Cape Mount and Gbarpolu), as part of the activities under the Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project financed under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). In line with this agreement IITA seeks a highly qualified and experienced **Cassava Extension Agronomist**.

Position Responsibilities:

- Contribute to the implementation of the National Cassava Development Strategy in Liberia in conformity with the SAPEC Work Plan.
- Train staff of the SAPEC Project, MOA, and NGOs on cassava value chain analysis.
- Provide technical assistance on postharvest technologies to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), NGOs, cassava processors, and other private sector actors in SAPEC Project counties.
- Introduce, validate, disseminate and promote improved cassava postharvest technology options.
- Provide technical support to the operation of existing Cassava Technology Training Centers (TTCs) in the SAPEC Project counties.
- Introduce and adapt cassava processing equipment (e.g. peeler, grater, chippers, presser, and dryer).
- Train local artisans in adaptation, repair, and maintenance of processing equipment.
- Provide technical assistance to the establishment and operation of micro-processing and market centers, including marketing strategies (pricing, packaging, collecting, etc) in the 12 SAPEC Project counties.

Educational Qualifications

The candidate should have a PhD in Extension Agronomy and significant field experience in farm level research, technology extension, multilocational testing, and farmer technology adoption processes.

Core Competencies

- Good knowledge of Cassava value chains.
- Applied knowledge in production of planting materials of cassava varieties.
- Experience in working with informal and formal sectors in dissemination of improved cultivars.
- Experience in field experimentation, trial management and quality control of planting materials as well as familiarity in variety release procedures and seed/planting material regulations.
- Excellent communication, leadership, interpersonal, and team building skills as well as ability to teach.

- Experience with project activity implementation and monitoring.
- Excellent spoken and written English.
- Demonstrated success in working with multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional teams and partnerships in a cross-cultural environment.
- Excellent social skills, a collaborative style, proactive and innovative attitudes.
- Willingness to travel extensively within Liberia.
- Capacity for planning and organizing as well as analyzing and resolving problems.
- Experience working with national partners in Africa will be an asset.

General information: The contract will be for an initial period of two years with possibility of renewal based on performance and availability of funding. IITA offers internationally competitive remuneration package paid in U.S. Dollars.

Duty station: Monrovia, Liberia

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: The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found for this important position.

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

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.