World Vegetable Center is hiring an experienced consultant for a study of seed laws and regulations affecting the vegetable seed sector in sub-Saharan Africa

Deadline for applications: March 30, 2020
Duration: Part-time assignment of 4 to 6 months, deliverable-based
Location: Home-based with some travel required

Background

World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a nonprofit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. The Center conducts research, builds networks, and carries out training and promotion activities to raise awareness of the role of vegetables for improved health and global poverty alleviation. Vegetable breeding is a key aspect of the Center’s research agenda. WorldVeg supports seed companies in Africa and Asia with gene bank accessions and improved breeding lines to develop well-adapted varieties with resistance to key biotic and abiotic constraints. Through vegetable breeding and capacity development, WorldVeg contributes to strengthening the emerging private seed sector in Africa.

Scope of the Assignment

WorldVeg seeks to employ the services of an experienced Consultant to conduct a study on how seed laws and regulations in sub-Saharan Africa affect the development of the local private vegetable seed sector. The study is expected to cover the following key aspects:

1. An overview of the status of the formal vegetable seed sector in Africa
2. An overview of the evolution of seed laws and regulations in Africa
3. Update on seed harmonization initiatives within regional organizations (e.g., ECOWAS, COMESA)
4. An overview of the current status of seed laws and regulations in Africa, particularly focusing on:
   a. Variety registration requirements for vegetables
b. Foundation seed production requirements for vegetables

c. Seed certification requirements for vegetables

d. Seed import requirements for vegetables

e. Plant variety protection, protection of farmers’ rights and breeders’ rights

f. Enforcement mechanisms dealing with seed piracy/counterfeiting in vegetables

The Consultant is expected to design or select a suitable method for how to collect and analyze the required data. The study should focus on the formal vegetable seed sector comprising seed companies and public research organizations, but also pay attention to the informal seed sector (i.e., farmers’ own seed saving, informal seed exchange, and the role of seed associations). The study does not need to cover all of sub-Saharan Africa, but should include countries with an existing or emerging vegetable seed sector. The output of the study is a report or scientific paper to be made available in the public domain.

Qualifications & Competences

Applicants are expected to fit the following profile:

1. A person with a strong interest, technical knowledge and practical experience in analyzing the seed laws and regulations.

2. An experienced writer and skillful communicator.

3. Ability to communicate effectively in English and to write fluent English.

4. Ability to read and speak French would be an advantage.

5. Ability to deliver outputs following a time schedule that will be agreed upon at the start of the contract.

Terms and Conditions

The expected duration of the assignment is 4 to 6 months (part-time) and the work is expected to begin in April or May 2020. An attractive professional fee will be paid based on WorldVeg’s consultant hiring policy and the timely delivery of satisfactory outputs. The Consultant will not be eligible for any other allowances or benefits. The Consultant can work from their home base, but will be expected to travel to Africa at the start and toward the end of the assignment. Travel expenses will be reimbursed based on actual expenses on the basis of travel claims supported by receipts.
How to Apply?

Applicants should submit an application letter explaining their suitability for and interest in the study along with a curriculum vitae, a writing sample relevant to the assignment, salary expectation, and date of availability to Ms. Ying Kanokwan by e-mail to kanokwan.rattanamung@worldveg.org. For further information please contact Dr. Pepijn Schreinemachers, Flagship Program Leader for Enabling Impact, at pepijn.schreinemachers@worldveg.org. For more information about the World Vegetable Center, please visit our website: https://avrdc.org/. Closing date to receive applications is 30 March 2020. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.