Project Manager – Vegetables for Eswatini

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices in Africa and Asia. WorldVeg conducts research and development that contribute to realizing the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods. The Center implements its science for development agenda through three outcome-oriented ‘flagship programs’: Safe and Sustainable Value Chains, Healthy Diets, and Vegetable Diversity and Improvement, and one cross-cutting flagship program: Enabling Impact. For more information please visit our website: worldveg.org

WorldVeg holds the world’s largest international collection of vegetable germplasm in the public domain, including a genebank of African vegetables in WorldVeg’s Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) office in Arusha, Tanzania. The Center has well-established vegetable breeding programs in Asia and Africa, and develops and delivers improved vegetable crops with the help of national agricultural research systems and the private seed sector.

Job description

WorldVeg seeks to employ a Project Manager – Vegetables for Eswatini to be based in Eswatini. The incumbent will be responsible for the implementation of a vegetable production and consumption program to diversify school and home meals in Eswatini, comprising of the following activities:

- Producing and scaling high-quality seed of selected climate-resilient and nutritious African vegetables with the help of partners to diversify food production in Eswatini;
- Establishing school garden and home gardens with local champion farmers, primary schools, and other stakeholders to diversify food consumption in Eswatini; and
- Developing a ‘Home Grown School Meals’ Approach with fresh African vegetables to strengthen the national school-feeding program in Eswatini.

The Project Manager will establish and supervise a small project team in Eswatini and report to the Regional Director of ESA based in Arusha, Tanzania for institutional and administrative matters and for technical matters to WorldVeg’s Genebank Manager based at WorldVeg headquarters in Shanhua, Taiwan.

Technical job responsibilities

- Plan and provide oversight for project operations, maintain project schedule, deliverables, evaluate activities, and prepare and submit project reports for WorldVeg and the donor;
- Facilitate organization of international and national workshops in plant genetic resources, seed and vegetable production of African traditional vegetables, and training for farmers, teachers, community leaders and others;
- Supervise and coordinate the work of the staff responsible for school and home garden activities, strengthen the national school–feeding program, production of traditional vegetables, and management of plant genetic resources;
- Coordinate the implementation of an infrastructure modernization plan of local genebank facilities in collaboration with national partners and with guidance from the WorldVeg’s Genebank Manager; and
- Liaise with schools, ministries, and other organizations in Eswatini to encourage uptake and institutionalization of project interventions and outcomes;

Institutional job responsibilities

- Establish and manage the project office in Eswatini as per the hosting agreement between national authorities and WorldVeg;
- Oversee the project finances, human resources, and infrastructure;
- Ensuring optimal working conditions for staff and manage recruitment of national staff in collaboration with the Regional Director and WorldVeg’s Genebank Manager;
- Represent WorldVeg in Eswatini, and promote WorldVeg’s vision, mission, and activities as guided by the Regional Director;
- Establish and maintain good relationships with the ministries of Eswatini, UN agencies, and other development partners; and
- Perform any other duties as required by the needs of the Center and as directed by the supervisor.
**Skills and requirements**
Candidates must have a Master degree in horticulture, rural development, or a related field, and with considerable work experience in project management and in independently planning and implementing development projects. Experience in promotion of vegetable production and consumption, knowledge of agronomy, plant genetic resources, and knowledge exchange will be an advantage.

Candidates must have strong communication skills in spoken and written English. Proficiency in one or more national or common languages used in Eswatini is a plus. Candidates must be able to work in a multidisciplinary team, and be able to communicate with a wide range of stakeholders including farmers, school teachers, practitioners, students, scientists, and policy makers.

**The Reward**
This is an Internationally Recruited Staff (IRS) position with competitive pay and benefits. The appointment is for three years and renewable. The position is expected to become available in the last quarter of 2020. The recruitment is conditional on a project funding agreement between WorldVeg and the project donor.

**How to Apply**
Applicants should submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a curriculum vitae, names and addresses (including telephone/fax/e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability to human.resources@worldveg.org before October 3rd 2020. Please mention the position title in the subject line.