

Vegetable Agronomist / Agro-ecologist

Shanhua, Taiwan

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and five regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to realize the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods. For more information please visit our website: worldveg.org

WorldVeg, with its treasure of the world's largest vegetable germplasm collection, with breeding and plant protection research programs in different parts of the world, is well-placed to develop improved cultivars with traits for tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses, enhanced shelf life, and improved nutrient content and health qualities.

The Center is in the midst of modernizing its research infrastructure and evolving into an 'Open Science Center', that will enable strengthened collaboration with advanced research institutions and universities. As part of this development, the Center has an ambitious plan to research, develop and introduce circular agriculture, novel agro-ecological approaches and precision horticulture for open and protected vegetable production systems.

WorldVeg seeks a Vegetable Agronomist / Agro-ecologist to contribute to these technologies and approaches that will enhance, farmer incomes, reduce losses and waste, increase food safety, improve food and nutrition security and have positive outcomes in terms of human, plant and environmental health.

The position will be based at WorldVeg's headquarters in Shanhua, Tainan, Taiwan and within the Safe and Sustainable Value Chains Program.

Key job responsibilities:

- Provide scientific leadership and build partnerships in the use of agro-ecological and circular agriculture approaches in open-field and protected vegetable production systems through a farming systems lens - contributing to more productive, climate-resilient, safe and sustainable smallholder vegetable production systems.
- Lead, collaborate and introduce precision horticulture and ICT-enabled decision-making technology in open-field and protected vegetable production systems - contributing to enhanced resource use efficiency, food safety, and reduced reliance on external inputs that could impact environmental or human health.
- Stimulate learning across WorldVeg projects and geographic regions, and contribute to the development and scaling of 'baskets' of improved agronomic practices.
- Develop effective methods to communicate improved agronomic practices to smallholder farmers and enable their adoption.
- Supervise a team of staff, students and partners' staff at WorldVeg regional centers and at headquarters.
- Enhance the capacity of partners in developing and promoting agro-ecological and circular agriculture innovations and ICT-enabled decision-making in vegetable production.
- Actively interact and collaborate with other research programs (internally and externally) to develop, implement and lead innovative R&D activities.
- Contribute to project management, reporting and resource mobilization.
- Perform any other duties as required by the needs of the Center.

Qualifications and experience:

- PhD degree in horticulture, agronomy or agro-ecology with about 7 - 10 years of demonstrated experience in precision horticulture, and/or agro-ecological and circular approaches to vegetable production.
- Familiarity with cropping systems in tropical and sub-tropical Asia and/or sub-Saharan Africa.
- Experience in initiating experiments, experimental design, execution of experimental plans and analyzing results.

- Demonstrated ability in proposal writing, project management and publishing in peer-reviewed journals.
- Fluency in spoken and written English, with good and effective communication skills.
- Team player, able to work in a multicultural environment and able to interact effectively with partners.

The Reward:

This is an Internationally Recruited Staff (IRS) position with competitive pay and benefits. The initial appointment is for three years and may be extended depending on performance of the incumbent and availability of resources. The position will be available on January 2021.

How to Apply:

Applicants should submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a *curriculum vitae*, a recent passport size photograph, names and addresses (including telephone/fax/e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability to human.resources@worldveg.org before **August 31, 2020**. Please mention the position title in the subject line.