

Project Manager
SAFEVEG-West Africa Project
Cotonou, Benin

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 is seeking a highly experienced individual to manage a 5-year project entitled 'Safe locally produced vegetables for West Africa's consumers' (SAFEVEG) and provide leadership to activities related to strengthening of vegetable business networks. SAFEVEG is funded by the European Union and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is expected to commence during the last quarter of 2020. The position will be based at WorldVeg's regional center for West and Central Africa – Coastal and Humid Regions in Cotonou, Benin and report to the Regional Director.

SAFEVEG will promote the role of vegetables in agricultural research and local food systems in West Africa, thereby contributing to climate resilience across the vegetable value chain, better incomes and sustainable land use for smallholder farmers and better nutrition for farm families and other consumers. SAFEVEG will be implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali and will operate around urban centers in each country, involving rural and peri-urban farmers. SAFEVEG tests and scales tools to raise awareness of the benefits of vegetable consumption and new vegetable production technologies, including quality seed of locally adapted and climate resilient varieties and safe agricultural practices. Demand and supply come together in vegetable business networks that create stable business relationships between consumers, traders/retailers, and farmers. The project will identify these networks and strengthen them through coaching and technical support.

SAFEVEG also aims to strengthen the capacity of national agricultural research systems and other partners in vegetable research and development and to generate better evidence for the impact of policies and interventions promoting vegetable consumption and production. WorldVeg's principal partners in this project are: INRAB (Benin), INERA (Burkina Faso), IER (Mali), CIRAD (France), and Wageningen University & Research (The Netherlands).

Key job responsibilities:

- Build a strong project team by encouraging effective teamwork and team spirit.
- Oversee overall project implementation, ensuring activities are implemented efficiently and effectively, and in compliance with donor requirements, delivering quality outputs on time.
- Provide leadership to activities related to strengthening of vegetable business networks.
- Develop annual work plans and budgets ensuring that all project team members have clear responsibilities and convene regular project management meetings.
- Build partnerships with research and development organizations, ministries of agriculture, non-governmental organizations and the private sector for scaling of SAFEVEG innovations.
- Lead risk management and business continuity efforts related to the project in close collaboration with Regional Directors and project partners.
- Ensure appropriate review/due diligence and prevention is done on compliance issues (fraud, bribe, conflict of interest, human rights violation, all forms of harassment and abuse) including reporting to the concerned agencies, as required.

- Liaise with focal points of the Netherlands' embassies and European Union delegations in the three target countries.
- Undertake any other duties as required by the SAFEVEG project and needs of the Center and as reviewed from time to time by the Regional Director.

The Person:

- Master's degree or PhD in agricultural economics, agribusiness or another agricultural discipline but with a strong interest and proven expertise in business development.
- At least 10 years of experience in managing multi-country agri-food systems projects in West Africa; extensive knowledge of agriculture, food systems, agri-business, rural networks and organizations, cultural practices, etc., in the countries in West Africa.
- Strong communication skills in spoken and written French and English.
- Able to work with multidisciplinary teams in a multicultural and multinational environment.

The Reward:

This is an Internationally Recruited Staff (IRS) position with competitive pay and benefits. The appointment is for three years, 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 donors.

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 **25 August 2020**.