



**World Vegetable Center**

## Job Announcement

### **Research Assistant -Soil Lab**

Headquarters, Shanhua, Tainan, 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's research and development work focuses on breeding improved vegetable lines, developing and promoting good production practices, reducing postharvest losses, and improving the nutritional value of vegetables. The center aims to raise awareness of the importance of vegetables for improved health and global poverty alleviation. For more information, please visit our website: [worldveg.org](http://worldveg.org).

WorldVeg seeks an enthusiastic and dedicated Research Assistant to work in the soil laboratory on analyzing soil and plant samples. This may include biological, chemical and physical properties of soils and nutrient and soil microbiome composition of plants. Research interest and experience with analyzing soil samples will be crucial in this position. Analyzing experimental data by statistics and data analytics will be also an important part of this job. The Research Assistant will be part of the Agroecology/Agronomy research team, working together with an agroecologist, agronomist, soil microbiologist, and other WorldVeg experts and students.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Organize and maintain soil/agroecology laboratory (space maintenance, equipment maintenance, procurement of research materials and supplies, etc.).
- Conduct research activities such as soil and plant sample preparation and analysis, data collection and analysis, literature review, and drafting of research reports and articles.
- Develop/optimize protocols for soil and plant lab analysis and analyze the samples by some of the following instruments or methods: pH meter, EC meter, microscope, centrifuge, chemical extraction, colorimeter, wet sieving apparatus, soil DNA extraction kit, ICP-OES, TOC analyzer.
- Conduct data analysis using statistical methods and analytics (in R, Python, Stata or others).
- Supervise and mentor national and international students on research activities and lab analysis.
- Perform any other duties as required by the needs of the Center and as requested by the supervisor.

#### **Required Qualifications and Competencies (Technical and Behavioral)**

- MSc degree in Soil Sciences, Agricultural Chemistry, Agriculture, Plant Sciences, Ecology, or related fields.
- Experience with preparing and analyzing soil samples for chemical, biological or physical properties. Skills of analyzing arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, rhizobia, nutrient-solubilizing bacteria or soil microbiome would be a plus.
- Ability to analyze experimental data by statistical software like R, Python, Stata or others. Experience with statistical modeling like DNDC, DayCent, APSIM, etc. would be a plus.
- Familiarity with climate change, soil carbon sequestration, nitrogen cycling or greenhouse gas emissions.
- Good communication skills on writing and speaking both in Mandarin and English.
- Able to work as a member of interdisciplinary research teams multi-culturally, multi-nationally with multi-task and demonstrate critical thinking skills.

**Note:** This is a Nationally Recruited Staff (NRS) position.

**The candidate we hire will embody WorldVeg’s Five Core Values:**

1. *Dedication to Innovation and Knowledge Sharing* Supports the conduct of world-class science, respects ethical standards, and is committed to transparently sharing results.
2. *Commitment to Impact* Aspires to achieve positive, tangible, and lasting impact contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.
3. *Commitment to Partnerships* Believes in the value of partnerships to advance research for development.
4. *Respect for People* Respect the diversity of gender, culture, ethnic origin, religion, age, beliefs, and views.
5. *Respect for the Environment* Strives to minimize its environmental impact and to introduce greener technology and practices.

**How to Apply:** Applicants should submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a curriculum vitae in English, a recent passport-size photograph, names and addresses (including telephone and e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability to [jobapply@worldveg.org](mailto:jobapply@worldveg.org) or the job bank site before 22 December 2024. Please mention the position title in the subject line.