



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC4697

Issued on: 21 September 2017

Deadline For Application: 5 October 2017

JOB TITLE: Food Safety Specialist

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant or PSA

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE)

DUTY STATION: Cairo, Egypt

DURATION: 6 months (with possibility of extension)

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Organizational Setting

The Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE) is responsible for leading FAO's response to regional priorities for food security, agriculture and rural development through the identification, planning and implementation of FAO's priority activities in the region. It ensures a multidisciplinary approach to programmes, identifies priority areas of action for the Organization in the Region and, in collaboration with departments and divisions at Headquarters, develops, promotes and oversees FAO's strategic response to regional priorities. RNE also advises on the incorporation of regional priorities into the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget and implements approved programmes and projects in the region, monitors the level of programme implementation and draws attention to problems and deficiencies. RNE develops and maintains relations with region-wide institutions including the Regional Economic Integration Organizations (REIOs). The Regional Office supports regional policy dialogue on food security, food safety, agriculture and rural development issues, facilitates the emergence of regional partnerships, and supports capacity development and resource mobilization for food security, agriculture and rural development in the region.

As part of FAO's global efforts to improving food safety, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE) is hiring an international consultant to expand the Organization's efforts to strengthen national and regional food safety programs in the Arab region. FAO is increasingly supporting the progressive improvement of food control systems in the region and is in the process of strengthening its contribution to regional food safety coordination mechanisms and expand its assistance to the implementation of regional harmonized food safety standards and protocols in member countries. The incumbent will play an important role on the implementation of an existing regional food safety program and will assist the development of new food safety FAO Technical Cooperation Projects in the region.

Reporting Lines

The consultant will work under the overall guidance of the RNE Regional Representative, the technical oversight of the Lead Technical Officer of the UNJP/RNE/010/UI project in AGFF, and under the day to day supervision of the Agro-Industry Officer (Agribusiness and Value Chains) in RNE.

Technical Focus

Food safety, food control systems and Codex Alimentarius

Tasks and responsibilities

- Support the implementation of FAO/UNIDO food safety project in the region. This includes the implementation of the following activities:
 - Review the Arabic translation of the FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool;
 - Assist the organization and conduction of regional workshop on harmonization of food control tools;
 - Facilitate the emergence of a regional network of professionals involved in Codex matters, through the creation of a common key contact list within region;
 - Analyse the current level of engagement and contribution of Arab countries in Codex proceedings, current convergence of discrepancies between Codex standards and Arab standards, current priorities and areas of interest/focus of Arab countries in Codex proceedings, and current level of engagement of national stakeholders in Codex-related activities;
 - Preparation of guidance supporting sound national processes aiming at strengthening countries participation in Codex;
 - Organize two Capacity Building Workshops to create regional dynamic around the identification priorities for the development of Codex Standards, best practices in applying Codex standards as a basis for national food safety

standards and capacity building of Codex delegates on “Arab Guidelines for Contribution on Codex” currently under development;

- Implement guidance in three pilot countries as basis for further regional validation and dissemination.
- Improve FAO’s participation and technical contributions to Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA);
- Assess the opportunities for the development and implementation of FAO TCPs to support RNE’s active support on food safety and CODEX matters in the region;
- Review and analyse the national framework for food safety for some countries in the region, and identify key types of support that FAO can provide to the countries;
- Lead the development of a FAO plan of action to support the implementation of food safety activities to support member countries in the region.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in veterinary science, food microbiology, food science, food technology or related fields;
- At least seven years of relevant experience at national and international level in food safety;
- Working knowledge of English and Arabic. Knowledge of French would be considered an asset.

FAO Core Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Selection Criteria

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable;
- Extent and relevance of experience in developing countries and/or in the Near East and North African Region is considered an asset;
- Extent of experience setting up and operationalizing food safety control systems;
- Experience working within or with state structures on similar issues are of advantage;
- Experience working with Codex Alimentarius;
- Experience in organizing and facilitating international meetings, seminars and training courses in the technical general area of food safety and agro-industries development.

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
- For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/iRecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org

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