



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC4768

Issued on: 06 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 20 October 2017

JOB TITLE: International Consultant (Laboratory Specialist / Technician)

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant (B-Level)

DUTY STATION: Kabul, Afghanistan

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAO REPRESENTATION – AFGHANISTAN

DURATION: 11 Months on WEA bases
(Extendable)

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 FAO in Afghanistan assists the Government to develop policies, programmes and projects to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition; to help the Government develop the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors and to use the environmental and natural resources in a suitable way. It participates in the development of FAO's field projects in the country and implements it, including the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the damaged relevant sectors.

FAO works with three counterpart ministries – the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The FAO Representation is based in Kabul with regional offices in Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz and Provincial offices in Badakhshan, Bamyán, Kapisa and Parwan.

The post is located in the FAO project in Kabul – Afghanistan and will have frequent travel to project locations.

Reporting Lines

Under the general supervision of FAO Representative / Budget Holder (FAOR / BH) in Afghanistan with direct supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor / Team Leader (CTA/TLs) and in close consultation and cooperation with the National Project Coordinator the incumbent will undertake and be responsible for the following tasks.

Technical Focus

The Consultant will carry out the work plan for various key task and activities, preparing of mid-term report and final report, procurement of laboratory materials / equipment's, formulation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), external quality assessment schemes etc.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Provide direct assistance to the OSRO/AFG/402/JPN International Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and to the National Project Coordinator to ensure that technical specifications for the procurement of laboratory equipment, consumable and diagnostic kits are appropriate and consistent with project activities and objectives;
- Work in close collaboration with the National Project Coordinator and the Director of the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVDRL) in Kabul to assess the status of the laboratory equipment and instruments and prepare proposal for replacement (if needed);
- Ensure (in close collaboration with the Director of CVDRL) that laboratory staff that will be involved in processing the biological samples collected under the OSRO/AFG/402/JPN project has all the necessary skill. If required the incumbent will provide the necessary re-fresh training;
- Provide assistance and guidance to the Director of CVDRL for the development and formulation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) ensuring that the laboratory methods are consistent with the requirements of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for what concerns animal health and with the Codex Alimentarius for what concerns food safety of animal origin;
- Provide assistance and guidance to the Director of CVDRL in the establishment of a management system to ensure that the quality of the testing process (including the quality of the diagnostic reagents used, the equipment and laboratory devices, chemical and biological reagents used in the testing process) provide confidence that the laboratories within the CVDRL fulfil requirements for quality;
- Facilitate the participation of the CVDRL in external quality assessment schemes/proficiency testing;
- Any other task (within the professional competence of the consultant) which may be assigned by the CTA or FAO-R.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in veterinary, animal health, livestock or field
- At least 07 years of relevant experience in the management of transboundary animal disease control programmes with specific reference to laboratory experience, which include experience in bio-molecular methods for the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases of animals, or closely related field.
- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or Arabic, Chinese, Russian.

FAO Core Competencies

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

Technical/Functional Skills

- Previous working experience in the region and familiarity with the country situation will be highly desirable
- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions, is desirable
- Strong knowledge and understanding of FAO projects;
- Extent and relevance of experience in preparation of projects and programmatic approaches (particularly irrigation, project management and animal health or livestock projects) and in results-based monitoring and supervision of multidisciplinary projects
- Extensive field experience in developing countries.
- Proven experience in managing and coordinating the activities of a veterinary diagnostic laboratories
- Experience acquired with control programmes for FMD and other Trans-boundary animal diseases is highly desirable as well as understanding of the socio-economic context institutional set-up and challenges in relation to the control of FMD and other Trans-boundary animal diseases in developing countries.
- Ability to prioritize tasks work without direct supervision and promptly deal with urgent problems as they arise.
- Demonstrated capacity to write technical reports in English
- Relevance of experience in Asia and the Pacific region is desirable
- Knowledge of FAO's project approval processes and Field Project Monitoring and Information System (FPMIS) would be an asset
- Demonstrated analytical and conceptual skills with ability to analyse and integrate diverse information from various sources
- Familiarity with the UN Communications rules and procedures, experience in developing communications strategies for the UN is necessary.

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/iemployment-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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