



Issued on: 27 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 10 November 2017

JOB TITLE: Biosafety Policy Specialist

TYPE OF CONTRACT: Consultant

DUTY STATION: Colombo, Sri Lanka

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAOLK

DURATION: 75 days WAE over a period of 1 year with 3 missions to Sri Lanka

*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 government of Sri Lanka, through the 4-year project, "Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety", which is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), is strengthening the country's institutional and human capacities for the implementation of the National Biosafety Framework (NBF) and hence the safe handling of living modified organisms (LMOs) or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The National Executing Agency of the project is the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MoMD&E) while the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) is the GEF and Implementing Agency.

An International Consultant - Biosafety Policy Expert will contribute to the implementation of this project.

## Reporting Lines

The international consultant will work under the overall guidance and supervision of the Assistant FAO Representative in Sri Lanka, the Lead Technical Officer, the FAO Legal Office and relevant FAO Technical Officers, in consultation with relevant government departments, non-government organizations and other national and international organizations. He/she will interact closely with the national and international consultants and will be supported by the project management unit (PMU).

## Technical Focus

Enabling environment, encompassing policy and legal instruments, guidance documents and administrative tools, for implementing the NBF in Sri Lanka.

## Tasks and responsibilities

The International Consultant will lead the preparation of the draft National Biosafety Master Plan and Biosafety Regulations; the development of relevant administrative biosafety systems and supporting guidelines, especially for the tasks implemented by the National Competent Authority (NCA) and Sectoral Competent Authorities (SCAs) and conduct relevant training activities.

## Specific Functions

- Provide technical leadership, reflecting international best practices, to the project's Biosafety Policy team (composed of National Consultants for Legal Matters and Biosafety Policy Expert, respectively).
- Review the existing National Biosafety Act and the National Policy on Biosafety in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the successful administrative systems of other countries and identify key elements for integration into the draft National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and the Administrative/Operational system and supporting guidelines for Sri Lanka
- Oversee and review information assembled by national consultants for incorporation in the draft Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and Administrative/Operational system in Sri Lanka
- Prepare the drafts of the National Biosafety Master Plan and Biosafety Regulations working closely with the national consultants and other relevant stakeholders
- Present the drafts of the National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and sundry documents related to the Administrative/Operational system of the NBF Master Plan at relevant stakeholder consultative meetings
- Considering the inputs from the consultative meetings, revise the drafts of the National Biosafety Master Plan, Biosafety Regulations and sundry documents related to the Administrative/Operational system of the NBF Provide technical guidance and advice for the preparations and hosting of countrywide awareness workshops on the biosafety regulatory regime
- Define terms of reference for committees and rules for appointment of members for administrative and operational procedures

- Prepare a draft Manual on Biosafety Administrative and Operational Procedures
- Prepare guidelines for handling applications related to GMOs/LMOs
- Provide technical guidance and inputs reflecting international best practices to training workshops on administrative processes and decision making relating to LMOs/GMOs

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## CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

### Minimum Requirements

- Advanced University degree in biotechnology, biosafety or related disciplines
- At least 5 years of experience in supporting the preparation of laws and policies related to biosafety, biotechnology, environment, agriculture or related subjects
- Working knowledge of English and limited knowledge of Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish

### FAO Core Competencies

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

### Selection Criteria

- Experience in developing institutional mechanisms for handling requests related to GMOs/LMOs is highly preferable
- Previous experience in Sri Lanka/South Asia is highly preferable

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

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All applications will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.
- FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.
- 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](mailto: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/>

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## 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](mailto:iRecruitment@fao.org)

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