



AVRDC

The World Vegetable Center

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Agricultural Innovation & Extension Specialist

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center is a nonprofit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. AVRDC conducts research and development programs that contribute to improved incomes and diets in the developing world through increased production and consumption of nutritious and health-promoting vegetables. For more information on AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, please visit our website: www.avrdc.org.

AVRDC seeks an Agricultural Innovation and Extension Specialist to facilitate vegetable technology adoption and maximize the Center's research and development impact at the stakeholder level by implementing a pro-poor and gender sensitive research strategy to identify and meet the local needs of the Center's target groups. The position will serve the Center's four Global Themes (Germplasm, Breeding, Production, and Consumption) to ensure that the entire vegetable value chain is addressed. The position will be based in the Global Technology Dissemination group at AVRDC's Headquarters in Shanhua, Tainan, Taiwan and the candidate will report to the Head of the group.

Effective and efficient methods are needed across all of the Center's Global Themes to enhance technology adoption. Vegetable production, consumption and nutritional issues are particularly knowledge intensive for end users; however, simple methods for disseminating these complex issues are essential for promoting food and nutritional security worldwide.

The Job: The Specialist's major responsibilities will be in the following areas:

- 1) Develop a research program focused on technology dissemination and farmer education methods, to optimize the efficiency and cost effectiveness of AVRDC's research and development strategy.
- 2) Develop and contribute to project proposals to ensure appropriate stakeholder participation.
- 3) Provide expertise on gender issues for the Center in relation to technology dissemination and impact.
- 4) Develop extension publications that disseminate information on the Center's technologies in ways that enable adaptation and adoption by end users.
- 5) Provide a technology dissemination link between the Center's staff members at different geographical locations, as well as NARES and NGOs, to help "get the information out to the field".
- 6) Lead or support technology dissemination training and capacity building activities for the Center.
- 7) Assist the Global Technology Dissemination group to maximize impact of the Center's research and development outputs at the stakeholder level.

The Specialist, in partnership with other AVRDC scientists in a variety of disciplines, will develop project proposals, participate in implementing project activities, publish and communicate results and impact, and influence change among stakeholders to support vegetable technology dissemination and adoption.

The Person: A scientist with a PhD degree in rural Sociology, Socio-Economics, Agricultural Sciences or a related discipline with work experience in agricultural innovation and extension research, outcome and impact assessment, and rural development. At least three years of working experience in developing countries are required. Sound knowledge in application of quantitative and qualitative research methods, especially participatory research methods are essential. Proficiency in English (written and spoken) is necessary; proficiency in French is highly desirable.

The candidate must be able to work as a member of interdisciplinary teams in a multicultural, multinational environment, and should be able to interact effectively with partners as a service provider and project leader. The candidate must have the ability and willingness to travel frequently.

The Reward: This is an Internationally Recruited Staff (IRS) position with competitive pay and benefits. The initial appointment is for three years and may be extended depending on requirement, funding availability, and performance of the incumbent.

How to Apply: Submit application with Curriculum vitae, a recent passport size photograph and names and addresses (including telephone/fax/e-mail) of three referees by e-mail to human.resources@worldveg.org before **7 February 2011**.