

POSITION TITLE: Field Support Consultant
LOCATION: Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
UNIT: Agriculture & Volunteer Programs
REPORTS TO: Agronomist Manager
DURATION OF CONTRACT: 6 Months; February to July 2021

General duties and Responsibilities

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Inspired by its namesake Winthrop Rockefeller, Winrock International's mission is to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity and sustain natural resources. Winrock is a nonprofit organization that implements a portfolio of more than 140 agriculture, environment and social development projects in over 46 countries.

The Winrock International-implemented, USDA-funded Creating Linkages for Expanded Agricultural Networks (CLEAN) is a five-year project (2017-2022) that leverages relationships with the Laotian Department of Agriculture (DOA) to build the capacity of private sector partners to meet the growing demand for high quality agricultural products in regional and international markets. Using a market driven approach, CLEAN focuses on increasing production and reducing post-harvest losses, improving quality compliance and certification systems, developing linkages and boosting demand for higher-quality horticulture products in domestic, regional and global markets. CLEAN partners with market-ready farmers, agro-enterprises, entrepreneurs and traders on four targeted crops: coffee (specialty grade); cassava; cabbage and sacha inchi (a 'superfood' seed that possesses high levels of Omega 3) in two distinct regions: the Bolaven Plateau and the Vientiane Plain.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Field Support Consultant will be supported to increase productivity of horticultural products through training farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards, strengthening plant protection services and improving the functionality of quality compliance and certification systems. The Agronomist Field Officer will introduce agricultural innovation to support small and medium scale farmers; provide technical assistance on IPM and pesticide risk reduction; and develop package of practices (POP's) for the key four crops (cassava, coffee, sacha inchi and cabbages) with CLEAN's private sector partners and complemented by public sector extension. The Agronomist Field Officer will develop guidelines for establishing demo plots, conducting field days; develop guidelines for scouting/monitoring crops for pest and disease, forecasting yields; and develop training of trainers/facilitator guides. The Agronomist Field Officer will coordinate and report at field level with CLEAN Agronomist Manager and, support when needed the MEL and Grants Team Leads with further technical and data when required. CLEAN implementing direct partner is the Department of Agriculture (DoA), within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). And at the central level and provincial level (PAFO) and district with (DAFO). The job position is based in the South (CLEAN Pakse Office).

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Identify technologies, practices, tools, equipment, varieties and partners that have the greatest potential to improve the agricultural productivity and competitiveness in the regions of the Bolaven Plateau (Champasak, Salavan & Sekong Provinces) and more precisely bring further support in Laongam District.
- Design and organize training programs to address challenges for farmers including improved agricultural practices leading to increased productivity and quality.

- Develop messages, structures and systems to continually improve CLEAN services to improve the productivity and quality of small and medium farmers and help them turn that productivity into improved quality standard to reach out to local, regional and export premium markets commending higher price returns to farmers.
- Serving when technically needed as the primary liaison and coordinator between smallholder farmers and CLEAN staff and potential buyers.
- Integrate gender sensitivity and gender analysis in project planning, implementation and monitoring, not just by meeting gender beneficiary targets but also by innovatively considering the specific needs of women farmers and their constraints to farming (time, land, money, etc.) Ensure project activities are inclusive of disadvantaged groups and gender sensitive.
- Contribute in the development of work plans, program reviews, assessments, monitoring activities, learning and evaluations.
- Collect data based on project indicators to activity coordinators in support of team submission of timely reports that will be indicative of program progress during implementation.
- Coordinate with farmers, farmer's associations, private service providers, inputs suppliers, traders, processors, research institutions, CLEAN's partners and DoA.
- Provide project development and strategic support in a variety of extension areas, horticulture, water and land management.
- Conduct regular field visits to meet with target beneficiaries and monitor programmatic activities.
- The Agronomist Field Officer will primarily work under the guidance and supervision of CLEAN Agronomist Manager.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND:

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering with specialization in farm machinery or related files from university.

Work Experience:

- At least 2 years of professional experience in Agricultural works & Learning for international development projects, preferably with USDA or USAID.

Skills:

- Excellent negotiation skills
- Excellent communication, and organization skills are required
- Know how use Ms. Office
- Good in English and Lao required
- Ability to write clearly, accurately and concisely in both English and Lao.
- Readiness to travel frequently to fields.

HOW TO APPLY:

Qualified national candidates should apply via e-mail to CLEANJobs@winrock.org - indicating only **"Field Support Consultant"** in the subject line, by Dec 30, 2020 The e-mail should contain your CV, cover letter and three (3) professional references. Winrock will only contact candidates considered for the position.