

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION: n.2 Plant Pathologists

Program: “Strengthening the Kosovo Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Development for the improvement of the vegetable production according to EU standards” - KOSAGRI

POSITION SUMMARY

- Title: Plant Pathologists for analysis of quarantine diseases
- Responsible Department: MAFRD - Kosovo Institute of Agriculture (KIA) - Peja
- N. of experts required: 2 (n.1 virologist and n.1 entomologist)

DATE OF PUBLICATION

30th November 2015

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

15th December 2015

BACKGROUND

The project “Strengthening the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development for the improvement of the vegetable production according to EU standards” (KOSAGRI), founded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and implemented by CIHEAM-Bari, aims to strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, with its departments and services, to adopt measures that would improve the economic conditions of the communities living in rural areas.

In particular, the project is focused on assisting the MAFRD in implementing initiatives on the Kosovo territory by Italian Institutions in order to support an adjustment to the EU quality standards, promoting the integrated fruit and vegetable production and building the structure for a national extension service which might generate favorable conditions for the development of organic agriculture, as planned in the ARDP 2007-2013 and confirmed by the pending approval ARDP 2014-2020.

MAFRD is redefining the purpose, structure and organization of the Kosovo Institute of Agriculture (KIA) in Peja in order to realign more closely the activities of this institute to the Ministry’s current strategy and priorities. For this reason MAFRD started an assessment, with the support of KOSAGRI Project, to assist the development of the field extension capacity of MAFRD’s Agricultural Advisory Services.

Consequently the new Extension Service, Kosovo Institute of Agriculture (KIA) in Peja (as National Reference Laboratory) will increase its performances for various phytopathologic services for at least four key big clients as well as for other farms:

1. the Kosovo farmers and nurserymen (e.g., soil testing, phytosanitary inspections and certifications, etc.) through the Extension Service;
2. the Kosovo businesses (pesticide residue testing, wine quality, phytosanitary certifications and testing, etc.);
3. the National Plant Protection Service, managed by KFVA, for a variety of phytopathology services;
4. the Faculty of Agriculture (by supporting educational programs that require laboratory facilities and providing internships and other opportunities for students in relevant disciplines).

OBJECTIVES

Under the general supervision of the CIHEAM Bari and of Project Management Unit, in close collaboration with the General Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) of Kosovo, the Plant Pathologists will actively contribute to increase the performance of phyto-diagnostic laboratories of Kosovo Institute of Agriculture (KIA) in various analytical and laboratory services as well as in field survey of pathogens.

In the framework of the project, the candidates will be specialized, with a specific training, respectively as:

1. **Virologist** for the diagnosis of virus through the biological, serological and molecular techniques;
2. **Entomologist** for the identification of quarantine insects and nematodes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The candidates will provide all the needed support to the Project staff and/or Italian experts and/or National Plant Protection Service relative to:

- Testing the soil and plant material in the quarantine and in the nursery activities and identification of pathogens (through traditional and/or molecular techniques);
- Monitoring of quarantine pathogens;
- Produce the list of needed laboratory equipment's, glassware and consumables materials;
- Interpretation of the results and incidence of pathogens in the Country;
- Managing the informative workshop, if required, and helping in divulgation work relative to this activity;
- Other laboratory's activities in relation to the flexibility requested by the project.

REQUIREMENTS

- University degree in agricultural and/or biological related to the subject matters;
- Post degree courses related to the subject matters as well as study abroad experiences will also be considered an asset;
- A minimum of one year of total professional experience in a position requiring laboratory's analysis;
- Good command of the English language (spoken, written, read);
- Good knowledge of the most common software (Operating Systems, MS Office, Power point, etc.);
- Basic knowledge of the Laboratory practice and organization;
- Establishing and maintaining cooperative and effective, positive working relationships with the working group;
- Demonstrated ability to work in team;
- Strong quantitative analysis and numerical skills;
- Previous working experience with International or National Organization will also be considered an asset;
- Reporting and presentation skills.

DELIVERABLES

- To carry out the required lab analysis and activities;
- To be available to follow specific training in loco and in Italy on the their own roles;
- To inform periodically the PMU and KIA Directory on the carrying out activities;
- To prepare monthly report about the activities carried out, following the project template;
- To cooperate with the PMU in the organization workshops, technical seminaries and/or other events related to their activities, if required;
- To interpret the results and to elaborate the sheets of analysis;

- To write and fill all needed documentation related to the technical and administrative monitoring and evaluation of his own activities;
- To perform any other additional task assigned in the framework of the project.

DURATION

n.6 months with possibility of renewal up to the end of program and with possibility of recruitment by the MAFRD.

LOCATION

Kosovo Institute of Agriculture (KIA) – Peja (KOSOVO).

HOW TO APPLY

The application form must include the following documents (**under penalty of exclusion**):

- CV in European Format (PDF format only) in English language, duly signed and including contacts (phone, email, etc.), civil status (married/single), picture, description of academic and professional recognitions and academic/cultural titles;
- Letter of presentation and motivation to apply for the position (maximum 2 pages), duly signed.

SELECTION PROCESS

The applications will be screened and preliminary evaluated by a Committee appointed by the General Secretary of MAFRD. Successively only shortlisted candidates will be invited to have an interview with the Committee.

DEADLINE OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Application dossiers must be sent **not later than 15th December 2015** only through the following e-mail address: kosagri@iamb.it

Subject of the e-mail must be: **“Plant Pathologists for analysis of quarantine diseases – KOSAGRI Project”**.

The candidature dossier is composed as follows:

1. Application form;
2. CV in European Format;
3. Letter of presentation and motivation.