

Seed Experts

BENEFIT-ISSD

Job title: Seed Expert

Category: Seed Science, Seed Science and Technology; Seed business Management; agronomy or plant breeding

Number of positions: Two

Duty Station: Haramaya University and Hawassa University

Level: Senior Level (8+ years of experiences with MSc/ 12+ years of BA/BSc)

Employment Type: Full time

Basic Salary: Based on ISSD Ethiopia Scale for regional experts

Closing date: 28 February

Job Description

The position

With a position of seed Expert, you will function within a team of individuals with complementary expertise in seed sector development. You will be supervised by the regional scientific coordinator, who will be assisted by a regional project manager. The regional project manager will supervise you on a day to day basis. Expertise, guidance, and support in gender; informal seed systems; business development; project implementation strategy; monitoring and evaluation (M&E); and data management will be provided by the Addis Ababa based ISSD Ethiopia project management unit (PMU). A team of experts from Wageningen University and Research Centre (Wageningen UR), the Netherlands will support PMU. Regional activity planning will be conducted with the participation of PMU

and often in collaboration with other projects united by the BENEFIT partnership. You will be an active participant in seed related issues with the teams based at other duty stations.

Key Responsibilities

1. Capacity strengthening of seed producer organizations, which include community based seed producer groups, seed producer cooperatives, small and medium public and private seed enterprises, in quality seed production.
2. You will be expected to train and coach seed producers on quality seed production and post-harvest management.
3. Facilitating linkages to key inputs and services.
4. Your role is also to help seed producers identify and connect with relevant input and service providers, including: crop researchers and technology developers; early generation seed producers; agro-input suppliers; seed regulatory authorities; suppliers of post-harvest seed value adding products and services; and other relevant actors.
5. Planning, monitoring and evaluating activities related to quality seed production, handling, storage and transport: You should actively support seed producers to contribute to project planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and work with the project's M&E team in data collection; management; analysis; and reporting.
6. Documenting and seed experiences on quality seed production, handling, storage and transport: You will

participate in any seed events within your own team and with others.

ISSD Ethiopia aims to improve access to quality seed

The goal of ISSD Ethiopia is to improve female and male smallholder farmer access to and use of quality seed of new, improved and/or farmer preferred varieties to sustainably increase agricultural productivity. The project builds upon more than eight years of existing experiences in supporting the development of a vibrant, pluralistic and market oriented seed sector in Ethiopia. In its current (2016-2019), it will strengthen seed producers in three different seed systems (informal, intermediary and formal); enhance the performance of seed value chains within these seed systems; and contribute to the improvement of an enabling environment for seed value chains in the different seed systems. In addition, the project will strengthen the professional capacities for implementing the ISSD approach.

ISSD Ethiopia is implemented in four regions of Ethiopia through multiple partnerships

The ISSD Ethiopia project is one of four projects united under the BENEFIT Partnership in Ethiopia. BENEFIT stands for Bilateral Ethiopia-Netherlands Effort for Food, Income and Trade. It is a partnership among four projects in the country, including ISSD Ethiopia, and with the Ethiopian agricultural sector itself, funded by the Dutch Government. ISSD Ethiopia is implemented by five regional ISSD units hosted at four universities (Bahir Dar, Haramaya, Hawassa and Mekelle) and Oromia Seed Enterprise in four regions of the country, supported by the ISSD-PMU and BENEFIT Partnership Coordination Unit (PCU), both located in Addis Ababa, and by Wageningen UR, the Netherlands. Regional implementing partners are: Bahir Dar University; Haramaya University and Oromia Seed Enterprise; Hawassa University; and Mekelle

University, operating in Amhara region; Oromia region (divided into eastern and south & western, respectively); Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR); and Tigray region, in corresponding order of mention.

Job Requirement

The kind of person we are looking for

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic hard worker, who is a team player and can work independently. Working in interdisciplinary team, good interpersonal communication, mediation and facilitation skills are required. Acting as a vital member of a dynamic team, the candidate is expected to be flexible, reasonable, accommodating, and constructive and to actively contribute to making the working environment a happy one. We are also looking for a person with a demonstrated interest/passion in developing Ethiopian seed sector and with excellent communication skill (speaking, listening, reading and writing) in English and Afaan Oromo.

Experience, knowledge, and skills required

The Seed Expert should have knowledge, experience, and skills in:

- Seed science, seed science and technology, seed business management, agronomy as well as plant breeding and be able to apply these practically to promote quality seed production;
- Specific knowledge working with cereals, pulses, oilseed, and other crops is advantageous;
- Agronomic practices for seed production (soil fertility management, pest and disease management, soil moisture and irrigation management).

- Seed quality assurance (establishing and promoting internal seed quality control processes, knowledge on seed quality standards and regulation).
- Post-harvest handling, conditioning, and storage of seed.

To perform the function optimally, the candidate should be able to:

- Coach seed producers, which include community based seed producer groups, farmer cooperatives, small and medium public and private seed enterprises, on the above-mentioned aspects of quality seed production and post-harvest management.
- Work effectively with seed producers to identify and address agronomic and infrastructural challenges to quality seed production, handling, storage and transport;
- Assist seed producers in setting up and managing internal quality control organization and procedures;
- Organize meetings, workshops, and forums in the seed sector for the purpose of facilitating improved availability and use of quality seed;
- Act as an ambassador to the project, its implementing partners and target groups;
- Contribute to project related seed and seed sector development;

Participate actively in project planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Applicants must satisfy at least all of the following minimum requirements:

- (Preferably) Master of Science in seed science, seed science and technology, seed management, agronomy, plant breeding, with 8 years of demonstrated experiences in one of the specified fields.
- Graduates with Bachelor of Science degree may still be eligible on condition that they have at least 12 years of experience using the skills and shouldered the key responsibilities needed for this job.
- Submit only motivation letter and detailed latest CV.
- **Proficiency in written and spoken English; for those applying for ISSD Oromia based at Haramaya University Afaan Oromo is also a requirement;**

Application procedures

Interested candidates are invited to send a well-formulated letter of motivation of no more than one page and their up-to-date CV within Ten days from the date of posting on www.ethiojobs.

Submit your application by email to vacancy.issdethiopia@gmail.com

Please indicate in the subject line either seed expert for ISSD Oromia based at Haramaya University or seed expert for ISSD SNNPR based at Hawassa University

Please note that only short listed candidates will be contacted for face-to-face interview. Short listed candidates are required to submit copies of their academic credentials at the time of interview.

For more information on the project, please visit our websites:
www.issdethiopia.org; www.issdseed.org