



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. Our three main goals are: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Job Title:	National Paddy Seeds Production Specialist
Duty Station:	Colombo
Duration:	6 months
Remuneration:	SB 4

The project “Responding to the Economic Crisis: Protecting smallholder farmer livelihoods through safe and efficient use of fertilizer and quality seed for better productivity in paddy farming GCP/SRL/080/EC” aims at responding to the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka, protecting smallholder farmer livelihoods through safe and efficient use of fertilizer and quality seed for better productivity in paddy farming. The project promotes transition of Sri Lankan agriculture towards more sustainable farming inputs including increasing the quality paddy seeds supply for the paddy farmers by scaling up the production of certified seeds for paddy. For this, the project will focus on increasing capacity of 1200 Sri Lankan farmers to grow quality paddy seeds for meeting the country's requirement and strengthening government owned farms in seed processing and certification. This would address a vital missing component of lack of quality seeds for paddy and would be extremely beneficial for enhancing the productivity of paddy.

The incumbent will provide technical leadership and backup in order to ensure the delivery of project outputs under the results 3 of the project to a high standard, and in a cost effective manner, taking into account national and international best practices and research results, and in accordance with FAO, Government and donor norms. He / She will be under the overall administrative leadership and supervision of the FAO Representative in Sri Lanka (FAOR) and the direct supervision of the Assistant FAOR (Programme) and the National Project manager. He / She is expected to function with the technical guidance of the Lead Technical Officer (LTO) at the Headquarters in Rome, National Project Manager and in close consultation with the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka & The Department of Agriculture and the selected private sector agencies.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Develop a standard procedure for producing quality seeds meeting the requirement of certified and quality declared seed.
- Develop criteria for the selection of farmers under this output, 1,200 medium to large paddy farmers for enhancing quality seed production from the Mahaweli Special and provincial irrigated areas in Hambantota, Ampara, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura.
- Prepare a technical guidance for farmers to comply with the seed quality assurance regulations and certifications through the consultation with the seed registration authority.
- Provide technical inputs to strengthen four Government seed farms of MASL and DOA with provision of seed processing and drying machinery to enhance existing production and processing capacity;
- Provide technical specifications to choose seed processing and drying machines;
- Provide technical guidelines to select suitable rice varieties to promote through the seed production programme;
- Selection of farmers in collaboration with the Department of Agrarian Development, Department of Agriculture and MASL.
- Development of curriculum and training of extension officials and farmers on paddy seed production and upgrading the quality seed paddy production manual.
- Support targeted new seed paddy farmers with necessary technology, the supply of urea, basic seeds and seedling trays.
- Support Government seed paddy farms with machinery to enhance production capacity.

How to Apply

To view the detailed Terms of Reference and to apply, visit the FAO Sri Lanka website at the following link <http://www.fao.org/srilanka/fao-in-sri-lanka/employment/en/> and create an online profile through the FAO Career Portal to submit your application. Only applications received online will be considered. Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile. Vacancies will be removed from the recruitment portal at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the closing date for applications. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline. If you need assistance, or have queries, please contact: Careers@fao.org.