Consultancy Brief

Biosecurity Specialist to conduct review of Ports of Entries in Barbados and the OECS

May 2019
CABI BACKGROUND

CABI is an international not-for-profit organization that improves people’s lives by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. CABI is an intergovernmental organization that can trace its origins back to 1910. Our 49 member countries guide and influence our core areas of work, which include International Development and Publishing.

We have over 500 staff based in 16 countries. We have offices in Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, the UK, the USA and Zambia.

International Development projects and research
Through knowledge sharing and science, CABI helps address issues of global concern such as improving global food security and safeguarding the environment. We do this by helping farmers grow more and lose less of what they produce, combating threats to agriculture and the environment from pests and diseases, protecting biodiversity from invasive species, and improving access to agricultural and environmental scientific knowledge.

CABI’s Knowledge Business
CABI produces key scientific publications, including CAB Abstracts – the world-leading abstracting and indexing database covering applied life sciences. We also publish multimedia compendia, books, eBooks and full text electronic resources aiming to further science and its application to real life. CABI invests its publishing surpluses directly into development projects, helping to improve livelihoods worldwide.

For more information go to www.cabi.org and www.plantwise.org
THE ROLE

Job title: Consultant in Biosecurity

Fees: Commensurate with qualifications and work experience

Reporting to: International Project Steering Committee via CABI's Regional Representative, Caribbean and Central America

Location: Eastern Caribbean

Duration: Six Months June – December 2019

Purpose of the role:

CABI, in conjunction with our international donors and partners, implements and manages a wide range of initiatives around the world, ranging from research projects to rural development activities. The successful candidate will conduct this consultancy in furtherance of outcomes of the project: “Preventing the COSTS of IAS in Barbados and the OECS countries” with funding from the Global Environmental Fund.

Key accountabilities: Review current biosecurity procedures and processes at ports of entry in Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Dominica; Grenada; St. Lucia; St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and make recommendations for upgrading policies; human capacity; and infrastructure to ensure that any introductions can be effectively detected; destroyed or contained to prevent release and establishment in the environment.

- Review the current legal and policy environment that govern the operations of both air and sea ports and make recommendations to update these to international best practice
- Review the current biosecurity procedures and processes at air and sea ports; identify gaps and make recommendations for implementing international best practice that will result in the increase of interceptions and eradication/containment to significantly reduce the risks of new introductions.
- Determine the current human capacity and recommend measures for enhancing same.
- Review the current biosecurity infrastructure, identify needs and make recommendations for its improvements.
CANDIDATE PROFILE

Knowledge & Skills

Required
- Fluency in English, with first class written and oral communication skills
- Broad understanding of the use of applied biological science in international
development with specific reference to matters of biosecurity at air and sea ports
  in Small Island Developing States.
- Proven ability to rapidly evaluate complex information to ascertain its potential
  usefulness, and to produce a synthesis
- Excellent numeracy skills
- Familiarity with the logical framework and other strategic planning approaches
- Good working knowledge of the MS Office suite of programs specifically Word, Excel,
  PowerPoint and Outlook.

Desirable
- Working knowledge of operations at Ports of entries in the OECS countries
- Understanding of gender issues and how to mainstream gender perspectives in projects

Education & Qualifications

Required: A first degree and/or M.Sc. in a biological science, preferably in agriculture,
agricultural development or international development.

Desirable: PhD or equivalent experience.

Experience

Required
- Considerable and demonstrable post qualification experience in bio security and
  safeguarding agriculture and other economic sectors that are impacted by invasive alien
  species.
- Broad range of experience of operating on multiple projects and across borders and
  cultures.

Desirable
- Significant developing country experience in agricultural development and applied
  research, ideally working with a wide range of stakeholders including local communities,
  NGOs, government officials, other partners, researchers, etc.;
Good knowledge of international best practice in biosecurity at ports and sea ports.

Personal Characteristics

Required
- Highly motivated, organized and adaptable, with strong inter-personal and communication skills
- Comfortable working both independently or as part of a team
- Able to work under pressure and deliver high quality products to tight deadlines, including occasional out-of-hours working
- Trustworthy and capable of dealing with sensitive information in a discreet and confidential manner
- Robust with the operational grip and capacity to handle a demanding workload, including some travel

Desirable
- Ability to articulate scientific concepts effectively to technical experts and non-experts
- Strong influencing and networking skills
- Ability to work and interface with public officials at ports of entry

NOTE
This job description is not intended to be exhaustive. It is expected that the post holder and CABI will adopt a flexible attitude and accept that the duties may have to be varied according to circumstances, in particular may vary from island to island.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CABI is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of age, gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation or marital status. No applicant will be disadvantaged by conditions which cannot be shown to be justified and selection will be based on merit.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please submit your CV and a covering letter via our online recruitment to n.ramnanan@cabi.org with copy to a.witt@cabi.org

Please note closing date for receipt of applications is 27th May 2019. We reserve the right to close the vacancy, interview and appoint before this date if a suitable number of applications are received.