



JPO Position Title: Sustainable Cocoa Value Chain Development Officer

Project or Unit: Partnerships Unit//Multifunctional Landscapes

Supervisor: Christopher Kettle//Gianpiero Menza

Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The Organization

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people in a climate crisis.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

<https://alliancebioversityciat.org/>

www.cgiar.org

Background

Bioversity International (CGIAR) is seeking to hire a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) for the Sustainable Cocoa Value Chain project in West Africa, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. The project funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation aligns with Italy's G7 Apulia commitments as part of the e G7 Apulia Food Systems Initiative (AFSI) and part of the Italian strategic planning for the Piano Mattei for Africa. The project will tackle challenges in the cocoa sector, enhance sustainability, and foster economic growth. The project led by Bioversity International leverages CGIAR's expertise in cocoa and agricultural research for development and will be implemented in collaboration with various partners including Save the Children, CIHEAM Bari, and the private sector.

Responsibilities/Job Description

The JPO will primarily focus on the technical aspects of value chain development. Key responsibilities include:

- Project Design: Contribute to the development and planning of project activities ensuring they are well-structured and aligned with overall goals.
- Project Coordination: support the execution of various project activities, ensuring timely progress and effective communication among team members and stakeholders.
- Research and Analysis: Conduct field research and analyze data to support the development of sustainable value chains, focusing on improving soil fertility, managing pests and diseases, and increasing yields.



The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

Bioversity International is the operational name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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- Stakeholder Engagement: Support the engagement with local farmers, cooperatives, government agencies, and private sector partners to ensure the project.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Assist in creating and implementing frameworks to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of project interventions.
- Reporting: Prepare comprehensive reports and share project findings and best practices with relevant stakeholders.

Requirements (Qualifications and Experience)

- Education: Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Science, Sustainable Development, or a related field.
- Experience: At least 3 years of experience in agricultural research, value chain development, or sustainable agriculture projects.

Skills:

- Strong analytical and research skills.
- Proficiency in project management and data analysis tools.
- Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
- Knowledge of sustainable cocoa production and value chain development.
- Fluency in English and French
- Other: Willingness to travel frequently within the project region.

Expected Outputs

Year 1:

- Contribute to the designing of a detailed multi-year project plan for sustainable value chain development and conduct initial stakeholder meetings to align project goals with local needs.
- Support the development of a comprehensive baseline study on cocoa value chain challenges and opportunities in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.
- Support the definition of a communication plan to facilitate effective coordination among team members and stakeholders
- Participate in the establishment of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for project activities.
- Prepare and distribute the first comprehensive report on project activities and findings.

Year 2

- Refine and adjust the project plan based on Year 1 findings and stakeholder feedback.
- Support and coordinate the implementation of key project activities
- Analyze data from field research to identify successful practices and areas needing improvement.
- Organize workshops with stakeholders to review progress and adjust strategies.
- Organize stakeholder workshops to share project findings and promote best practices.

Expected Benefits for Incumbent

The JPO will develop his/her skills in partnership building and program design, will be exposed to the work of an international research organization. As part of the JPO programme, the incumbent will benefit from structured guidance provided by the supervisors, especially at the beginning of the assignment, with the purpose of gradually increasing his/her responsibilities. The role is very dynamic and the JPO will be able to take full advantage of learning opportunities offered by the organization as well as external learning and training within the area of responsibility. It is an exciting time to join Bioversity International, as the successful candidate will be simultaneously exposed to several new opportunities offered by OneCGIAR.

- Professional Development: Gain hands-on experience in value chain development and sustainable agriculture within an international research organization.
- Networking Opportunities: Build connections with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners.
- Skill Enhancement: Enhance technical, analytical, and project management skills through diverse and challenging assignments.
- Career Growth: Opportunity to contribute to high-impact projects, supporting professional growth and career advancement in the field of sustainable development.