



JPO Position Title: Technical Specialist, VACS
Project or Unit: Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture
Supervisor: Carlo Fadda//Gianpiero Menza
Location: Nairobi

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

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (CGIAR) is seeking to hire a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to be assigned to the Italy-funded "Integrated Soils and Opportunity Crops Value Chain Development Initiative for East Africa", which is a 'Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) project to be implemented in East Africa by Bioversity International on behalf of CGIAR. VACS is a global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition by promoting climate-adapted nutritious crops and healthy soils. Launched by the U.S. Department of State, the African Union (AU) and funded by many countries including the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, VACS seeks to boost agricultural productivity by expanding access to diverse, climate-adapted crop varieties grown in healthy soils. The project targets key challenges in the global food system, such as undernourishment, climate change, and land degradation, by promoting traditional and indigenous food crops and sustainable soil management practices.



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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Responsibilities/Job Description

The JPO will play a crucial technical role in value chain development within the VACS project. Key responsibilities include:

- **Technical Support:** Provide support to the Grant Manager of the Italy-funded VACS project entitled 'Integrated Soils and Opportunity Crops Value Chain Development Initiative for East Africa', with a specific focus on supporting the project development and execution strategy and its components.
- **Research and Analysis:** As directed by the Grant Manager, conduct targeted field research, data collection, and analysis to support the development and scaling of sustainable value chains for opportunity crops.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Support the engagement with local farmers, cooperatives, government agencies, and private sector partners to ensure the alignment of project goals and activities.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Assist the Strategic Performance & Results Management (SPRM) team in designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of project interventions.
- **Reporting:** Prepare technical reports and contribute to the dissemination of project findings and best practices.

Requirements (qualifications and experience)

- **Education:** Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Environmental Science, Agronomy, Sustainable Development, or a related field.
- **Experience:** At least 3 years of experience in agricultural research, value chain development, stakeholder engagement or sustainable agriculture projects.
- **Skills:**
 - Strong analytical and research skills.
 - Proficiency in project management and data analysis tools.
 - Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
 - Fluency in English; knowledge of French is highly desirable.
- **Other:** Willingness to travel frequently within the project region.

Expected Outputs

Year 1:

- Assist the SPRM team in designing and executing a comprehensive baseline study on value chain challenges and opportunities for opportunity crops in the target regions.
- Facilitate, organize, and co-host the project's value chain development training and capacity development activities.
- Help establish monitoring and evaluation frameworks for project activities.

Year 2:

- Coordinate with Bioversity International and CGIAR scientists to backstop the design and implementation of pilot projects on sustainable value chain development in collaboration with local partners.
- Analyze and report on the effectiveness of implemented strategies, providing recommendations for scaling up successful practices.
- Facilitate stakeholder workshops to share project findings and promote best practices in sustainable value chains.

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.