



Vacancy for Internship in Zambia

Country:	Zambia
Client:	CDFA and CDWA
Period:	As soon as possible
Deadline for application:	
Number of students we need:	1

Who are we looking for?

A 3rd or 4th year BSc or MSc student in soil science or agronomy with a serious interest in African small-holders agriculture who has a pragmatic and hands-on personality; ready for some field-based experience and not afraid to get their hands dirty; willing to stay in rural slightly remote areas; good communicator.

Context

Chadiza District Farmers Association (CDFA) and Chipata District Women Association (CDWA) are actively working towards better agribusiness in sunflower oil processing. A key constraint is the low productivity and low member commitment. Both associations are actively improving their extension services, in order to build loyalty and trust with their members.

In 2018 CDFA participated in the Agriterra FACT training in Lusaka. During this training they developed a lobby issue to present to the government. They want the government to include lime in the Farmer Input Support programme to give farmers access to lime for neutralising their soils in the Chadiza district. The association realised that the yields of all their members crops had reduced due to deterioration of the land.

The soils in Chadiza have become acidic and leached due to the massive production of tobacco. This was previously the main crop of most farmers since it had ready market. Farmers were applying large quantities of fertiliser not realising the effect it was causing to the soil.

The government is aware of the low yields but does not seem to understand the root cause and/or possible solutions to address these challenges. Chadiza decided to lobby with the government to include lime in the FIS programme. For this lobby they need a report with accurate information. This information has to be gained through survey/research. The survey will be conducted by a Dutch intern and local intern.

CDWA also noticed the reduction of yields of different crops as compared to the time they formed the association for their members in all districts. They have decided to conduct a research to assess the reason behind the lower yields of crops for their members.

Main objective

The overall objective of the internship is to support the associations in conducting these researches and prepare evidence-based proposals they can use with their government lobby. Secondary goal is to support the extension staff in conducting soil testing and providing good soil advice to members as well as good agricultural practises.

The assignment

- Conduct soil testing with and for 200 farmers; interpret the results and support in implementing the advice
- Collect data of crops such as soya beans, sunflower, groundnuts and maize that were planted on at least 3 fields of each participating farmer
- Create a research report with recommendations on how to resolve the soil issues
- Help the association develop a lobby document to use with lobbying the local government
- Offer good agronomic advisory services to improve soil management

If time permits: Conduct a member needs assessment to prioritise member needs; prepare a structured service plan to increase member satisfaction & increase payment of membership fees.

Expected results

1. The interns should develop a research document with recommendations and interpretation of the results.
2. 200 farmers trained on good agricultural practices to improve their soil management
3. The lobby proposal should be finalised and ready to be presented to the government by the end of internship.

If time permits: Member needs assessment report

Profile of the intern

Knowledge: Strong background and interest in Soil Science/ agronomy (specializing in tropical areas). Knowledge about cooperatives is a plus

Experience: minimum 3rd year BSc student. Travel experience outside Europe is an added value

Competences: active and pragmatic; thinking in solutions; analytical; willing to travel and stay in remote areas;

Language level: Fluent (verbal and written) in English

Application

Send your CV and a short motivation letter to Ms Bertken de Leede, business advisor Zambia, deleede@agriterra.org. If you need more information about this internship you can contact her by email or phone 06-83517773.

About Agriterra

We are Agriterra, a Dutch agri-agency that provides business development services to ambitious cooperatives and farmer organisations in developing and emerging economies. We assist them with advice and training by locally based business advisors and by deploying practitioners from the Dutch and international farmer organisations and (cooperative) companies; the so-called AgriPool experts. We apply a three-track approach: we make cooperatives bankable and create real farmer-led companies, we improve extension services to farmer members and we enhance farmer-government dialogues. Agriterra has an annual turnover of approximately 15 million euros, is ISO certified and has over 140 employees, both in the Netherlands and abroad. For more information, visit our website www.agriterra.org.