



Vacancy for Internship

'Introduction of soil testing and GAP and prepare an evidence based proposition to the government for better input supply'

Country: Zambia
Client: CDFA and CDWA
Period: August-November 2019
Deadline for application: May 23, 2019
Number of students we need: 1

Who are we looking for?

A third or fourth year BSc or MSC student in soil science or agronomy; having a serious interest in African small holders agriculture; being pragmatic and hands-on; looking for some field based experiences and ready to get dirty hands; 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 low productivity and low member commitment. Both associations are actively improving their extension services, in order to build loyalty and trust with their members.

CDFA participated in 2018 in the Agriterra FACT training which was held in Lusaka and during the training they developed a lobby issue to be presented to the government for them and their members to be helped. The issue they thought was to be tabled with the government was the inclusion of lime on the Farmer Input Support programme in order for farmers to access lime to neutralise their soils in Chadiza district. The association realised that the yields of all crops of their members had reduced due to deterioration of land in Chadiza. The soils in Chadiza have become so acidic and leached due to massive production of tobacco that 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. Henceforth, the district has experienced very poor yields with all kinds of crops planted. 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 the government to include lime on FISP to make it easier for farmers to neutralise the soils and revamp their production to where it used to be in the olden days. And the only way they can do it is by lobbying the government with good justification which has facts and numbers and these can be developed from a survey/research to be conducted. The survey is proposed to be conducted by a Dutch intern and local intern who will be able to take up the mission.

CDWA also observed the reduction of yields of different crops as compared to the time they formed the association for their members in all districts. This made them decide on

conducting a research to assess the reason behind the lower yields of crops for their members. The first parameter they thought of assess was pH and of course they will check on the levels of phosphorus, potassium and Nitrogen and find a way to mitigate the problem as it will be described in the assessment.

Main objective

The overall objective of the internship is to support the associations to in conducting evidence based proposals to the government introduce soil analysis; follow up soil improvement and crop advice and present production figures as input for a report to be presented to the government in to empower the lobby initiatives of CDFA for lime in the FISP programme.

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
- Develop a research report with recommendations on how to resolve the soil issues
- Help the association develop a lobby document to used with lobbying the local government
- Offer good agronomic practices advisory services to improve soil management

If time permits: Conduct a member needs assessment in order to prioritise member needs; prepare a structured eservices plan so members are satisfied and pay their 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 third year Bsc student. Travel experience outside or 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 letter of motivation to [Agriterra vacancies@agriterra.org](mailto:Agriterra_vacancies@agriterra.org) for the attention of Mr C.C. van Rij, MBA, manager agri-advice.

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. Our advisory practice covers the full range of services on Management & Organisation, Financial Management, Governance, Business Development and Lobby & Advocacy.

Agriterra works from local offices in a large number of countries. We work with selfsteering teams, so our employees are challenged to use every bit of determination, creativity and strategy to achieve our compelling goals. Being a self-steering organisation makes Agriterra an inspiring and challenging environment for professional growth and development. Agriterra has an annual turnover of approximately 15 million euros, is ISO certified and has over 130 employees, both in the Netherlands and abroad. For more information, visit our website www.agriterra.org.