



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Professional Vacancy Announcement No: IRC3471

Issued on: 18 July 2016
Deadline For Application: 15 August 2016

Position Title:	POLICY OFFICER (FIRST Programme)	Grade Level:	P-4.
		Duty Station:	Vientiane, LAOS
Organizational Unit:	FAO Representation	Duration *:	Fixed-Term: 2 years, (with the possibility of extension)
		Post Number:	2005932
		CCOG Code:	1L09

* The length of appointment for internal FAO candidates will be established in accordance with applicable policies pertaining to the extension of appointments

Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.

Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

The incumbent may be re-assigned to different activities and/or duty stations depending on the evolving needs of the Organization.

Organizational Setting

The main aim of the FAO country offices, which are headed by an FAO Representative, is to assist governments to develop policies, programmes and projects to achieve food security and to reduce hunger and malnutrition, to help develop the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors, and to use their environmental and natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) is a FAO and the European Union partnership programme with the purpose of providing a policy assistance mechanism for improved food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. FIRST is designed to strengthen the enabling environment for food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture in a number of selected priority countries. FIRST will be embedded within the FAO's programme management and coordination structure. It will contribute directly to the food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture policy and governance related results envisioned under FAO Strategic Objectives 1 and 2.

The Policy Officer will work in close consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the EU Delegation in Lao PDR, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), and other relevant stakeholders.

Reporting Lines

The Policy Officer (FIRST Programme) reports to the FAO Representative and receives guidance on technical issues from FIRST Manager (FAO HQ).

Technical Focus

Provides leadership, guidance and operational support for results-based policy assistance, governance, capacity development and facilitates policy dialogue around food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Key Results

Development and implementation of coherent, integrated and effective policy assistance and governance work supporting member states at country level.

Key Functions

- Provides technical and policy advice and/or support to the Government and relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of their policies and programmes for improved food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture;
- Advocates strategic partnerships, best practices, and policy dialogue in support of enhanced policies and governance for food, nutrition security and sustainable agriculture;
- Plans, organizes and participates in capacity development plans and activities involving the provision of technical advice and assistance, and oversees the development of related materials;
- Interacts with UN Regional and Country teams to improve cross-sectoral policies and strategies concerning food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture;
- Analyses global and country specific requirements, organizes and leads an in-depth assessment of the policy and institutional framework of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and identifies areas for

- improvements;
- Organizes and participates relevant meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences, advocates strategic partnerships, best practices, and increase policy dialogue and develop and negotiate effective collaboration;
- Prepares reports to FAO, the European Union and the Government on progress achievement and issues related to FIRST implementation;
- Designs and participates in resource mobilization activities.

Specific Functions

- Prepares detailed plan and strengthens the capacity at the national level in support of governance with the formulation, review and implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture policies and programmes, and integrating nutrition within agriculture sector plans and programmes at national, provincial and district levels;
- Prepares detailed plan and strengthens the capacity at the subnational level, in order to support the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy Plan of Action with a specific focus on scaling-up nutrition-sensitive agriculture policies and programmes;
- Analyses the role of nutrition stakeholders in the agricultural sector and the political economy in particular at the sub-national level, and provides technical support to organize regular joint Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture consultations;
- Supports the government and key stakeholders to strengthen data quality and existing data systems for monitoring nutrition-sensitive aspects of agriculture, with particular focus on supporting MAF input to the Lao PDR Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) II and a Lao "National Information Platform for Nutrition";
- Develops and shares good practices in order to strengthen the technical and human resource capacity of District Agricultural Officers for improved nutrition-sensitive agricultural service delivery in the remote areas of Lao PDR, and scaling-up nutrition-sensitive agriculture value chains at the local level;
- Assists the development of joint MAF/EU/FAO communication and visibility plans, and supports MAF engagement in the development and roll out of the National Nutrition Social and Behavioural Change Communication Campaign;
- Advises on approaches to promote civil society participation in the nutrition policy debate and coordination.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in agricultural economics, development economics, nutrition, food security and/or sustainable agriculture or a related field
- Seven years of relevant experience in nutrition, food security and/or agriculture and rural development, including capacity development
- Working knowledge of English

Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable.
- Extent and relevance of experience in development of policy processes and institutions in the areas of nutrition, food security, agriculture and rural development.
- Practical experience of the development context and issues in Southeast Asia would be an asset.
- Proven ability to effectively engage with governmental agencies at the policy level and to support development of complex institutional partnerships.
- Strong facilitation and training skills.
- Strong planning and organizational skills.

Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All candidates should possess computer/word processing skills.
- Evaluation of qualified candidates may include an assessment exercise which will be followed by a competency-based interview.
- Your application will be screened based on the information provided in your iRecruitment online profile (see “*How to Apply*”). We strongly recommend that you ensure that the information is accurate and complete including employment record, academic qualifications and language skills.
- Please note that FAO will only consider academic credentials or degrees obtained from an educational institution recognised in the IAU/UNESCO list.
- Other similar positions at the same level may be filled from this vacancy notice and the endorsed candidates will be considered for the Employment Roster for a period of 2 years.
- Candidates may be requested to provide performance assessments.

REMUNERATION

A competitive compensation and benefits package is offered. For information on UN salaries, allowances and benefits, click on the following link: http://www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/salaries_allowances/salary.htm

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/iRecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org

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