Join CIFOR-ICRAF and make a difference!

Junior Scientist – CocoSoils
Research team
EXTERNAL VACANCY – ICRAF

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) envision a more equitable world where trees in all landscapes, from drylands to the humid tropics, enhance the environment and well-being for all. CIFOR and ICRAF are non-profit science institutions that build and apply evidence to today’s most pressing challenges, including energy insecurity and the climate and biodiversity crises. Over a combined total of 65 years, we have built vast knowledge on forests and trees outside of forests in agricultural landscapes (agroforestry). Using a multidisciplinary approach, we seek to improve lives and to protect and restore ecosystems. Our work focuses on innovative research, partnering for impact, and engaging with stakeholders on policies and practices to benefit people and the planet. Founded in 1993 and 1978, CIFOR and ICRAF are members of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food secure future dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security and improving natural resources.

CIFOR-ICRAF is recruiting for its partner IITA a:

Junior Scientist

Overview

The main purpose of the position is to provide support to Cocoasoiis Project research and development team and partners. He will be working also with national research institutes, private companies involved in the cocoa sector (industrial and exporters), agricultural extension agencies and farmers organizations.

Summary of responsibilities

1. **Support Research Operations**
   - Facilitate the development of research protocols for on-station and on-farm research.
   - Contribute to the identification and selection of cocoa producers and plots for research activities in smallholder plots.
   - Contribute to the development of data collection tools for research activities carried out in research stations and in peasant plots.
   - Contribute to the collection and management of data collected in research stations and farmers plots.
• Contribute to the monitoring and capitalization of the Partnership Committees’ implementation activities in the target countries.
• Contribute to information collection and the synthesis of activities related to research outputs training to extension agents.
• Work to validate, improve, and communicate research results to stakeholders in the cocoa value chain.
• Work for the involvement of producers and actors in the private sectors of the cocoa sector in the joint development of pedagogical tools adapted to the adoption of research results.
• Develop work plans and budgets related to field activities in the framework of the CocoaSoils project and other activities related to the cocoa project portfolio in Côte d’Ivoire.

2. Administration, Partnership and Staffs Supervision Activities
• Contribute to the recruitment and training of temporary field agents and / or interviewers in the CocoaSoils project and other cocoa project portfolio activities in Côte d’Ivoire.
• Demonstrate leadership in the management of CocoaSoils Temporary Field Officers and / or Interviewers.
• Provide technical support for research activities conducted by students and trainees working on cocoa.
• Produce workshop and meeting reports as part of the cocoa project portfolio.
• Contribute to the mobilization of stakeholders and work to maintain the interest of both local and international partners.
• Assist the P4D Component Coordinator and the Field Research Manager

Education, knowledge, and experience:
• Master’s degree or Engineering Diploma in Agronomy, agriculture, or related disciplines
• Proficiency in English and French (speaking and writing) is required.
• Strong analytical skills including competence in statistical analysis and modelling
• Proficiency in MS Office
• Relevant experience of two to three (2-3) in the development of agricultural research activities on cocoa.

Personal attributes and competencies
• Proven ability to conduct research for development activities.
• Excellent communication skills in French with English language skills and some local languages from CI
• Excellent computer and statistical knowledge for data analysis.
• Ability to work in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams.
• Ability to work under pressure and to work independently.
• Excellent communication and networking skills in an international environment.
• A good knowledge of the key players in the cocoa sector in Côte d’Ivoire is an advantage.
Terms and conditions

- This is a Locally Recruited Staff (LRS) position. CIFOR-ICRAF offers competitive remuneration in local currency, commensurate with skills and experience.
- The appointment will be for 9 months, inclusive of a two-month probationary period, with the possibility of extension contingent upon performance, continued relevance of the position and available resources.
- The duty station will be in Abidjan.

Application process

- The application deadline is 07th March 2024.
- We will acknowledge all applications but will only contact short-listed candidates.

To apply, please visit our career site at:
https://www.cifor-icraf.org/about/work-with-us/

To learn more about CIFOR-ICRAF, please visit our websites at:
https://www.cifor-icraf.org

CIFOR-ICRAF promotes Gender Diversity – Applications from women professionals are encouraged.

CIFOR-ICRAF is an equal opportunity employer. It fosters a multicultural work environment that values gender equality, teamwork, and respect for diversity.