

Job Description

Title: Associate Programme Officer (Agro-ecology)

Organization: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Organizational Unit: Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion (ECG) Division, Programme Management Department

Level: P2

Contract type: Fixed-term appointment (Junior Professional Officer)

Supervisor's Title: ECG Director

Duty Station: Rome

Duration: 2 to 3-year assignment (one-year fixed-term appointment renewable up to 3 years subject to satisfactory performance, recommendation by respective office and partner country agreement). Extension for a third year, possibly in a different duty station, will depend on availability of financial resources and the candidate's performance.

Organizational context

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations Agency whose mission is to invest in poor rural people to overcome poverty.

The IFAD Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division has a particular interest for agroecology, as it is a subject contributing to all mainstreaming themes responsibility of ECG.

IFAD targets small scale farmers and herders who are often the most exposed to climate change and land degradation while also having limited access to inputs, including pesticides and fertilizers. Many IFAD's projects support solutions based on agroecological approaches and practices. Frequently employed solutions include agroforestry, green water harvesting, land restoration, integration of agriculture and livestock, market gardening with limited use of chemical inputs and the improved management of pastoral land.

As agroecology promotes diversified farming systems as a means of improving resilience to climate and market shocks, it also leads to a more diversified diet at household level, thereby improving the nutrition status of children.

In many cases, agroecology is also applied by indigenous peoples who are at the forefront of the protection of agrobiodiversity in farming systems. IFAD supports these communities by improving linkages to niche markets, for example.

In April 2018, IFAD participated in a global symposium on agroecology in Rome, together with FAO and WFP. This symposium led to the launching of a new initiative called The Scaling up Agroecology Initiative which aims to accompany and support national agroecology transition processes through policy and technical capacity that builds synergies between countries. It will build alliances among different



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stakeholders, strengthen networks and allow co-creation of knowledge and knowledge sharing. The Initiative will develop, implement and continuously improve tools, instruments and guidance documents for guiding national agroecological transitions. This initiative brings FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP and other agencies together. In this context, FAO and IFAD have both initiated a stocktaking exercise to gauge the extent to which agroecology is present in their respective portfolios. The IFAD study is ongoing and has tested a grid to assess a panel of projects. The next step is the application of the tracking grid to a larger part of the portfolio.

ASAP and the projects co-funded by the GEF and the GCF are the main vehicles for introducing agroecological solutions in the IFAD portfolio. Among the 40 ongoing ASAP projects, more than 50 % include agroecological approaches and practices, with multiple entry points: a) mainstreaming agroecology in extension systems, b) promotion of agroecology in local policy processes, involving groups of women and youth, c) promoting the sustainable use of pastoral land through the fostering of pastoral users' unions. The GEF integrated Approach Programme for resilience and food security co-funds IFAD's projects in 12 countries, which support agroecological processes. IFAD is also seeking to introduce the transition towards agroecological agriculture and food systems into GCF proposals.

In the context of IFAD 11, IFAD is committed to monitor carbon sequestration to demonstrate the contributions to climate mitigation of its portfolio. The inclusion of agro-ecological solutions in designs will help to further increase carbon sequestration and generate mitigation co-benefits.

II. POST'S ORGANISATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The junior professional officer works under the supervision of the ECG director and the lead technical specialist in environment and climate change. S/he works collaboratively with 5 Lead Technical Specialists for climate and environment in IFAD partner regions, 3 Adaptation Specialists, Knowledge Management Specialists and IFAD Country Programme Managers.

The accountabilities/key results expected are:

- Sound Technical Advice and Support
- Country Programme Analysis and Support
- Knowledge Management and Capacity Building support
- Partnership Building
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

The following Key Results Expected/Major Functional Activities are generic and representational; the majority, but not necessarily all, will be performed by the junior professional officer.

III. KEY RESULTS EXPECTED/ MAJOR FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1) Technical Advice and support

Accountabilities may include:

- a) Supporting IFAD's country-level programme and portfolio, ensuring the inclusion of activities regarding agroecology
- b) Assisting in the programming of new multilateral environment and climate funding, e.g. from sources such as the Global Environment Facility or the Green Climate Fund, to promote the transformation towards agroecological agriculture and food systems in these designs



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- c) Providing technical support to staff, field missions and national programmes at all stages of the project cycle, including design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation to include activities regarding agro-ecology

2) Knowledge Management and Capacity Development

Accountabilities may include:

- a) Support in the generation of lessons learned through participating in the IFAD ongoing stocktaking exercise on agroecology, in partnership with the PMI division
- b) Participating in the writing of IFAD capitalization documents such as a How to do Note on agroecology.
- c) Participating in IFAD thematic discussions and developing technical and operational recommendations to mainstream agroecology in strategies and programmes
- d) Preparing the dissemination and exchange of relevant knowledge with institutions outside of IFAD, within the regions concerned and national Institutions. This may include mobilizing and engaging outside partners and stakeholders and the development of new knowledge products and operational tools that are informed by learning from the field
- e) Supporting IFAD's representation and communication on agroecology issues in policy dialogue/processes and strategic fora, including the Scaling up agroecology initiative, which involves other sister agencies such as FAO and WFP.

3) Partnership Building

Accountabilities may include:

- a) Building partnerships with complementary technical organizations, NGOs, and specialized departments of other development agencies involved in agro-ecology as potential operational and strategic partners at regional and country levels
- b) Supporting strengthening IFAD's engagement with bilateral Donors and Governing Bodies for the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund or other entities, on agro-ecological issues, including in Rome the permanent representations to IFAD (Friends of agroecology).

4) Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Accountabilities may include:

- a) Preparing thematic reviews on project or programme performance and results in the field of agro-ecology
- b) Aggregating results from IFAD supervision reports to contribute to annual reporting on agroecology

IV. IMPACT OF KEY RESULTS/KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Technical analysis and synthesis to improve the design and implementation of projects mainstreaming agroecology; knowledge sharing among peers and counterparts to enhance cooperation, complementarity and synergies across IFAD Divisions and Departments; and monitoring and evaluation to track results, measure and report on lessons learned, and codify best practices. The junior professional officer supports the Division's reputation for capacity and for programme delivery and enhances its recognition as a reliable development partner.



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V. REPRESENTATION / WORK RELATIONSHIPS

In the context of programme development and delivery, the junior professional officer ensures the exchange of technical information. S/He builds and maintains collaborative working relationships with counterparts and other partners to enhance consistency and reliability in the provision of development assistance to governments. In work relationships with counterparts s/he establishes and maintains relationships and projects the image of IFAD as a credible/reliable partner striving for harmonization of development activities.

VI. COMPETENCIES

- Capacity to communicate fluently with different counterparts (civil societies, government authorities, local communicates, project staff) to align parties and build networks.
- Writes clearly, succinctly and convincingly listens and communicates effectively to engage others.
- Ability to share technical guidance/knowledge at the peer level.
- Ability to manage multiple work streams simultaneously and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work effectively with people of different national and cultural background.
- Ability to work in a team environment to achieve common goals.
- Ability to plan and work of a mid-sized team.
- Ability to interpret data, present rational conclusions and defend recommended actions.
- Produces well-structured, factually and analytically accurate reports.
- Captures experience and knowledge from assignment for wider dissemination.
- Experience in monitoring an evaluation of projects and programs.
- Ability to work well with multi-cultural teams.
- Ability to set out a coherent argument in writing, presentations and group interactions.
- Good working knowledge of Windows-based computing, and electronic communication.

Minimum Recruitment qualifications

Education:

- Advanced university degree from an accredited institution in agronomy, environmental studies, environmental economics, development studies, geography, climatology, rural development, engineering, or a closely related field.

Experience:

- At least 2 years, preferably 3 years, of experience working on sustainable agriculture and food systems, environment and/or climate and/or issues in the context of rural development is required
- Knowledge of international policy frameworks and conventions related to global environment, climate change and rural development is required
- Experience in project design, implementation and supervision is required
- Experience in projects promoting agroecology is desirable

Language requirements:

- Full command of English, including the ability to set out a coherent argument in English in writing, presentations and group interactions
- Full command of French (spoken and written) is desirable
- Knowledge of another IFAD official language (Arabic, Spanish) or Russian is an asset