Produce Quality Assurance Advisor

TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT

Long-term volunteer (9 – 12 months)

COUNTRY AND PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT

DOMINICA, Roseau

TO APPLY

Send CV and cover letter to: jobs@wusc.ca. Include “PROPEL Produce Quality Assurance Advisor” in subject header.

- This position is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.
- Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and position will remain open until filled.

EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE

Departure will be as soon as possible upon completion of administrative requirements and approval of work permit.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) Project is a sustainable economic growth project which aims to increase the value of Caribbean fresh produce accessing high value markets (HVMs) in the Caribbean and internationally by CDN $100M over six years. Funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and implemented by World University Service of Canada (WUSC), the project is working with private sector buyers, producers, other value chain actors and business service providers to facilitate the safe, effective and efficient movement of fresh produce from the farm level to high value markets.

The fresh produce value chain in the Caribbean has numerous challenges, particularly those associated with production and the many trade links prior to commodities reaching end markets. PROPEL is supporting up to 11,500 small-to medium-scale producers and up to 45,000 indirect beneficiaries including processors, related businesses and family members across five countries in the Caribbean. In this regard, it is imperative that recommendations from the Environmental Management Plan are integrated in the implementation of country level programs. There is also further need to have technical expertise in the area of sustainable agriculture to evaluate and advise on a more responsive approach to environmental management and climate risk resilience. PROPEL is implemented in five countries: Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia. The PROPEL regional office is located in...

**VOLUNTEER POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

Reporting to the PROPEL Barbados/OECS Coordinator and Agri-business and Marketing Consultant (Dominica, Barbados and St. Lucia) based in Dominica, the Produce Quality Assurance Advisor shall support the development of the quality of fresh produce reaching High Value Markets (HVMs) highlighted by the project for PROPEL including targeting the inclusion of women and youth in agriculture and supporting key actors along the value chain responsible for fresh produce quality assurance.

The volunteer will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Dominica Bureau of Standard and the Dominica Export Import Agency (DEXIA) in implementing Good Agricultural Standards (GAP), fresh produce standards and quality control program for export certification of tropical crops.

The Produce Quality Assurance Advisor will assist in increasing the quality and quantity of fresh produce from farm to table. His or her responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in developing and putting into place dynamic and effective quality assurance programs and systems for PROPEL in Dominica with support in Barbados and St. Lucia;
- Acting as an interface with the project and WUSC;
- Assessing capacity needs of relevant partners, as required;
- Developing training modules and training PROPEL, partner staff and producers on GAP, Standards and quality control and assurance of fresh produce.
- Training resource persons in charge of fresh produce quality assurance and control at partner organizations on the development and management of quality standards;
- Working in support of the development of fresh produce quality material in Dominica with support in Barbados and St. Lucia to highlight gender and youth issues in the agriculture sector;
- Ensuring the participation and representation of women and men in all activities; and
- Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Dominica Bureau of Standards and the Dominica Export and Import Agency (DEXIA) in Dominica to implement DOM GAP (Dominica GAP standards) and to improve the quality of fresh produce exported by DEXIA particularly to Barbados.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- University degree in food science, food technology, post-harvest management or related field
- Experience in fresh produce quality control as well as elaborating quality assurance plans, programs and strategies
- Experience in developing fresh produce standards; food safety systems, particularly ISO 22000 and Global GAP
- Knowledge and understanding of tropical fresh produce quality attributes
- Expertise in fresh produce packaging and labelling to meet market needs, an asset
- Knowledge of the Caribbean and/or the agriculture sector, an asset
- Sufficient experience in elaborating and delivering trainings at all levels across the market system including rural producers
- At least three years of quality control experience
- Knowledge of gender equality issues
• Analytical skills, ability to summarize and write clearly
• Excellent English language skills (written and spoken)
• Ability to work in an intercultural environment
• Ability to work independently and as part of a team

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS AND SUPPORT:

• Participation in pre-departure training where you will learn about the project, gain practical skills for living and working in an intercultural context and meet other volunteers. Travel, meals and accommodation for the training are covered.
• Return flight and work permit
• Cost of required vaccinations
• Comprehensive health insurance
• Monthly living and accommodation allowance
• Vacation leave entitlement
• Return debriefing in Canada after completion of assignment. Travel, meals and accommodation are covered.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

• Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada between the age of 18-70.
• Departure date is contingent upon the timely completion of all administrative requirements (e.g. visa processes, medical clearance, police checks, travel documentation).
• With the support of the program, all volunteers are encouraged to make a minimum financial contribution of $1,500 for participating in the program.
The Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) project is implemented by World University Service of Canada (WUSC) with the financial support of donors and from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC).