

Foreign Service Limited Position Opportunity - Agriculture/Production Systems Technical Advisor-FL-0401-02, Center for Agriculture Led-Growth, PD# 406532

- **Agency:** U.S. Agency for International Development
- **Organization:** Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS)
- **Location of Position:** Washington, DC
- **Open Period:** February 8th - March 8, 2021
- **Appointment Type:** This is an excepted service, time-limited appointment that is not-to-exceed five (5) years
- **Salary:** (USD) \$116,786 - (USD) \$171,504 (annually)
- **Number of Vacancies:** 1

Description of Organization: This position is located in the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security's (RFS) Center for Agriculture-Led Growth. RFS's mission is to partner to advance inclusive agriculture-led growth, resilience, nutrition, and access to water and sanitation to accelerate and protect progress on the Journey to Self-Reliance. RFS oversees four high-level, integrated efforts in support of this mission: (1) Feed the Future, guided by the *Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS)*, (2) the *USAID Multi-Sector Nutrition Strategy*, (3) the *U.S. Global Water Strategy*, and (4) efforts to increase resilience in areas of recurrent humanitarian crisis. To deliver on this work, RFS partners with other Federal Departments and Agencies, USAID Bureaus and Missions, universities, civil society, and other public- and private-sector actors.

The CA leads the Agency's agriculture work. Through technical assistance, training, and curated learning products, the Center supports USAID Missions' programming, policy, and partnership work in agriculture input systems, production systems, market systems, and finance. The Center manages global research and analysis investments to generate agriculture innovations and evidence for wide application. Through strategic engagement and partnership, the Center influences global agriculture investments and agendas. The CA Production Systems Division supports agricultural research and innovation at scale to increase yields of crops and animals for sustainable production systems and to improve food, nutrition and income security. The Production Systems Division in the USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security supports Feed the Future's work through programs, staff and expertise in two key areas:

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION (ISFP)

- a) Manages research investments that identify, evaluate, and adapt innovations providing the highest on-farm impacts within relevant farming systems.
- b) Provides global thought leadership in the area of international sustainable agricultural production.

INFORMATION, OUTREACH AND TRAINING (IOT)

- a) Facilitates the exchange of information and technical services that smallholder producers and other production system actors need to sustainably apply innovative technologies, management practices and production strategies.
- b) Delivers support to the field through technical guidance, training, and the facilitation of connections to research and innovation system actors.

The Production Systems Division technical areas span the following specialties: [Agronomy](#), [Aquaculture](#),

Climate-Smart Agriculture, Extension and Advisory Services, Fisheries, Horticulture, Land Use Planning, Livestock Production, Natural Resource Management, Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture, Soil Health and Fertility, Sustainable Intensification, Emerging threat management (to crops and livestock).

Description of Position:

The Agricultural Development Officer will undertake the following duties and responsibilities:

RESEARCH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT 40%

Manages agricultural research programs led by U.S. universities (Feed the Future Innovation Labs), private partners, international agricultural research centers (IARCs) and national agricultural research systems (NARS) focused on addressing emerging plant diseases and pests, addressing production challenges as well as pre and post-harvest and food safety issues in smallholder farming systems and increasing availability of and access to safe and nutritious foods. This research portfolio seeks to identify and support development of resilient pathways out of hunger and poverty for smallholder farm families through sustainably intensified production systems that sufficiently improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

Monitors and oversees all aspects of program implementation, including research design, activity planning, fiscal management, environmental compliance, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), reporting against standard Feed the Future indicators, research progress against stated program objectives, and supervises other staff contributing to research program management. Ensures that research objectives align with and contribute to the Global Food Security Feed the Future Research Strategy and reports the accomplishments of the portfolio to USAID senior leadership and other policy makers. Prepares and tracks grant documentation and reports on program implementation and status. Provides advice on adjustment and revision of programs and procedures to facilitate operations in the face of technical or administrative obstacles; and gathers and applies the latest research and management information to advise on resolution of novel or controversial situations for which standard or proven methods are not applicable.

GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ENGAGEMENT 30%

Serves as a technical authority concerning international agriculture research programs that relate to plant and animal diseases, food safety, pre- and post- harvest management and crop productivity in smallholder food production systems. Provides global thought leadership through service on Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) governance bodies such as the Independent Science and Development Council on issues related to plant and animal disease as they relate to agricultural production in low- and middle- income countries, with a focus on how plant and animal disease control contribute to poverty reduction and nutrition goals. Monitors progress and advances in international agricultural research conducted by U.S. universities, International Agriculture Research Centers (IARCs), the private sector, and developing country National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and universities. Collaborates with colleagues to ensure relevant knowledge on crop production, (including

fish and livestock) and pest and disease issues are managed in ways that make it accessible for Missions, Bureaus and Offices for use in program design and implementation. Promotes science and research as tools for improving program success to USAID Missions, Offices and Bureaus and other donors and provides guidance to program managers on these issues. Provides support to Missions, Offices and Bureaus support in identifying priority areas for agricultural investments that lead to improvements in program outcomes including poverty reduction, nutrition, and resilience outcomes. Coordinates with other USG agencies and other research partners engaged in international agricultural research and strengthens collaborations between USAID research partners and other research institutions. The activities of the incumbent affect the work of research scientists, managers and operations officers, as well as the formulation and execution of program management, and the progress of international research. Engages concerned USAID Mission staff at the activity design stage, and on a regular basis throughout program implementation for all Lab and centrally-managed RFS activity support mechanisms to ensure that these activities are well-aligned with the Missions' development priorities and Country Development Collaboration Strategy (CDCS). Promotes thought leadership that works across technical sectors and areas of specialization.

MISSION SUPPORT, OUTREACH, AND COORDINATION 30%

Supports improved coordination and outreach between USAID/Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and USAID Missions having agriculture and food security programs. Provides technical support to USAID Missions on the integration of research outputs, including technologies and knowledge, into the design and implementation of agriculture development and technology scaling activities, across the full range of production systems components. Also provides knowledge and information about the relevance of pest and disease management considerations in Mission programming and facilitates this knowledge transfer from other program managers. Fosters technology transfer and improved collaboration between RFS-led research programs (Feed the Future Innovation Labs and activities of the IARCs and NARS) and USAID Mission implementing partners. Facilitates USAID Mission access to centrally-funded RFS-led research mechanisms, including research mechanisms, for support on local capacity building, technology transfer and technical expertise. Provides support in designing activities that will be implemented by U.S. Universities or IARCs or in collaboration with USDA, National Science Foundation or other partners both within and outside the US Government including regional and global representative organizations, donor partners, and others. Presents recommendations to individuals or groups with differing goals and viewpoints in the implementation of program objectives. Ensure participation in the Bureau's Country Support Team Structure to support field-level programming and data driven decision-making as this is a foundation of the Bureau. Is expected to exhibit capacity for higher level strategic outreach and coordination and network building that supports the broader mission of the Bureau.

Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level FSL-03 of this position. Examples of specialized experience include:
 - Design of research programs in production systems.

- o Engage concerned USAID Mission staff at the activity design stage, and on a regular basis throughout program implementation for all Lab and centrally-managed RFS activity support mechanisms to ensure that these activities are well-aligned with the Mission's development priorities and CDCS;
- o Monitor and oversee all aspects of project implementation, including research design, activity planning, fiscal management, environmental compliance, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), reporting against standard Feed the Future indicators and progress against stated program objectives.
- One of the following:
 - o A) A degree in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position; *or*
 - o B) A combination of education and field-based agricultural development experience: Courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A) above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.
- Must be eligible to obtain and maintain a Secret security clearance.
- Experience working in agricultural production systems in a developing country context.

Interested candidates should submit a:

- Resume/CV;
- A short written statement of interest; and
- Official or unofficial transcripts, if education is noted as a requirement above.

Please submit your application package to <rfsjobs@usaid.gov>. Please use the subject line “FSL APPLICATION PACKAGE: Agriculture/Production Systems Technical Advisor, FSL-02, RFS/CA/Production Systems Division., PD 406532,” **Application submissions are required by 11:59 pm (EST), February 8th - March 2, 2021. Packages not submitted by the deadline with the specified subject line—or incomplete packages—will not receive consideration.**

This notice may be used to fill additional vacancies, as the workforce needs of the Bureau may change.

[EEO Policy Statement](#)

[Reasonable Accommodation Policy](#)

Any questions concerning this notice may be directed to:

-- Marcus Dinkins, BFS/AMS, 202-712-0742, mdinkins@usaid.gov