

JOB DESCRIPTION

Senior agro-economist expert based in Hanoi – extension and training expert

OVERVIEW

The Mekong Bamboo Consortium (MBC) aims to facilitate the development of a vibrant and sustainable world class bamboo industry in the region that alleviates poverty by creating value for all actors involved in the supply chain. We aim to improve economic conditions across the sector and to give all competitors a path to higher incomes at lower cost and with lower risk.

Our work, delivered directly and with a wide range of partners, strengthens and aligns bamboo supply chains, individual businesses and the policy environment – improving business models, introducing modern technology and production techniques, facilitating investment, improving information flows, gathering and sharing knowledge, supporting government engagement and probamboo policies, and facilitating networking and collaboration across the sector.

The partnerships to deliver these changes span the public, private and development sectors, and this unique role provides coordination and support across this web of relationships. MBC has three programme components: (1) farmers and resources, (2) business, supply chains and investment, and (3) sector enabling environment.

Gret is in charge of managing some of MBC lead supply-chain projects and the Farmers and Resources component inside MBC. You will work specifically on this component, in close cooperation with our partners. As such, your contribution will be critical to the success of the MBC programme. As an early member of the MBC, you will get as much responsibility as you can handle on the farmers and resources component.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SENIOR AGRO ECONOMIST

Under the responsibility of the Farmers and resources lead, in close collaboration with the senior forestry expert:

- Support the sustainable development of bamboo resources and farmers to meet growing demand in the region.
- Create products and services within the MBC for which there is clear demand from MBC partners, associates and others involved in the sector
- Contribute to the design and establishment of supply chain pilots.
- Provide ongoing technical support and review of supply chain pilots on all aspects of farmer and resource base development.
- Provide technical oversight of knowledge review, synthesis and information product preparation related to all aspects of farmer and resource base development.
- Identify current knowledge gaps, priorities for further research and opportunities to align these to activities in supply chain pilots.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

This section outlines the skills and requirements we are looking for. Please read it carefully and ensure your application relates to each of these requirements (giving clear examples).

	Essential	Desirable
Experience/ Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior agricultural extension agro-economist/ training expert • Experience on local small scale agro-forestry, farming systems • At least 6-years' experience working in similar role • Excellent computer skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong network of research / development experts / government contacts. • Experience with private sector, SME • Experience working with people of other cultures and backgrounds, INGO
Skills/ Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good analytical and writing skills • Good negotiation and facilitation skills • Strong working experience directly with farmers • Capacity to engage with poor people, businesses and government officials alike. • Good communication skills, both written and verbal, in English and Vietnamese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in Laos or Cambodia • Lao speaking
Personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly organized, analytical, proactive, capable, open minded, positive in spirit and solution drive. • A well founded enthusiasm in working towards poverty reduction • Willingness to travel and work in the region (30% of working time), occasionally in remote areas • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work autonomously, take decisions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Fixed term 12-month full-time contract (3 months probationary period), extendable subject to programme funding.
- Working inside MBC, contracted by Gret
- Gross annual salary range: **15,000 – 20,000 USD.**

CLOSING DATE: 30 June 2008

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a CV and cover letter to: recruitment@pi-email.org

The subject line of your email must be: **“senior agronomist application”**