VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

POSITION TITLE: Agronomist
ORGANISATION: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
DUTY STATION: Lilongwe, Malawi
TYPE OF CONTRACT: Service Contract
LEVEL: SB-4
DURATION: 6 months (renewable depending on funding availability and incumbent’s performance)

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a lead UN Agency in addressing illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism and corruption. UNODC is a co-sponsor of UNAIDS and the lead organization for HIV among people who use drugs and in prisons settings. The Regional Office for Southern Africa covers 11 countries in the region, namely: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Under the primary supervision of the National Project Coordinator in UNODC Project Office in Malawi, and overall supervision of the Regional Representative, through the Regional Programme Coordinator, the Agronomist will contribute towards the Malawi Prisons Service strategic goal to enhance public security through safe custody of offenders among whose objectives is to provide improved health and nutrition services to inmates through intensifying food crops production and animal husbandry in all prisons, introduce irrigation technologies for agriculture in prisons located near rivers or water bodies, and rehabilitate prisoners through training in practical agriculture. This will ensure sustainable food security in Malawi Prisons Service through implementation and technical support towards the already existing farming activities, as elaborated under the regional project, Supporting Minimum Standards for HIV, Health and Rights in Prison Populations of Sub-Saharan Africa’s Subprogramme – Response to the Prison Crisis in Malawi.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agronomist undertakes the following tasks:

1. Identify an achievable set of targets in terms of crop yields in conjunction with Malawi Prisons Service Farming section.
2. Support innovative agricultural diversification activities within prisons.
3. Coordinate with Malawi prisons farm staff to organize farm tasks in an efficient and timely manner.
4. Coordinate and implement prisons agricultural stakeholders meetings and planning sessions with Malawi Prisons farming section.
5. Conduct routine crop planning, production and budgeting to maintain progress against budget parameters.

6. Initiate procurement processes of government approved farm supplies such as fertilizer, seeds (NonGMO), weeding chemicals and pesticides, and take effective management of such supplies when needed.

7. Facilitate implementation of annual approved agricultural activities through Malawi Prisons service farming section.

8. Maintain full responsibility for implementation of farming activities including land preparation, planting, growth monitoring, harvesting and managing the post-harvest process in UNODC prisons supported farms and those not supported upon request.

9. Understand the implications of the weather and making contingency plans such as planning for irrigation.

10. Managing administrative tasks related to overall success of the farming program

11. Organize and supervise chemical weed and pest controls operations in prisons farms according to National policy on Integrated Pest Management.

12. Track Prisons farm production data in UNODC supported farms, and others if requested by Malawi prisons


14. Prepare activity and technical reports on monthly, quarterly, bi-annually and annually to the National Project Coordinator and Regional Program coordinator.

15. Conduct any other activities as may be assigned by the supervisor.

16. Perform other duties, as required.

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

*Professionalism* – Substantive experience in crop production especially cereals and legumes, ability to work independently and proceed with objectives without close supervision & operate within the budget, ability to liaise with role players on highest levels, ability to work outside in all-weather & walk long distances, and getting results by taking initiatives, overcoming obstacles & finding creative solutions.

*Planning and Organizing* – Good planning and organization skills and managing working relationships with different stakeholders, ability to focus on priorities and meet strict deadlines.

*Teamwork* - Work effectively within a team environment, lead and influence projects and coach individuals in accomplishing defined objectives/goals of the project, and good interpersonal skills.

*Communication* - Ability to effectively communicate both orally and written in English and other national languages, proficient in computers skills with knowledge in Microsoft office software and spread sheets.
QUALIFICATIONS

Education
- A first-level university degree or equivalent in Agriculture with specialty in Agronomy. A Diploma or undergraduate qualification in similar fields in combination with five additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the first-level university degree.

Work Experience
At least 5 years of working experience of crop production in cereals and legumes in Southern African region required. Ability to write technical reports and conduct presentation at professional level in English is required. Previous experience in agriculture project(s) and/or donor environment would be an advantage. Knowledge of chemical weed control and pests control is an asset. Previous work in humanitarian assistance or relief setting will be an asset. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web-based management systems. Previous exposure with working in Umoja will be an added advantage.

Language
Fluency in English and other UN Languages. Fluency/Understanding of the national language of the duty station is desirable.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 12 March 2020

Qualified and interested candidates are requested to send their applications through the following UNDP vacancy link:
https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=29361&hrs_io_pst_seq=1&hrs_site_id=2