Science and Data Lead

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT; www.ciat.cgiar.org) works to reduce hunger and poverty, and improve human nutrition in the tropics through research aimed at increasing the eco-efficiency of agriculture. CIAT recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, commemorating half a century of generating and strategically positioning state-of-the art knowledge to inform policy and on-the-ground actions in pro of a sustainable food future.

CIAT’s global research contributes to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, and cuts across four key themes: big data, climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem action, and sustainable food systems. CIAT works in collaboration with hundreds of partners to help developing countries make farming more competitive, profitable, inclusive and resilient through smarter, more sustainable natural resource management. Through our research, we help policymakers, scientists, and farmers respond to some of the most pressing challenges of our time, including food insecurity and malnutrition. CIAT’s global team includes almost 1000 scientists, technical and administrative based in three major hubs: Hanoi, Nairobi and Cali.

CIAT is searching for a Science and Data Lead in anticipation of the upcoming call from USAID for the SERVIR-Ama onia regional hub in regional and wider contexts and be responsible for the hub’s activities. SERVIR is a collaboration between NASA and USAID and aims to provide timely geospatial information to address key development challenges to stakeholders in the Amazon Basin. The SERVIR-Ama onia hub will be part of the global SERVIR network and activities will be consistent with the priority themes and general approach of the SERVIR Global program. The Science and Data Lead will be based at CIAT headquarters in Cali, Colombia and will coordinate activities in the target countries in the Amazon Basin, with focus on Peru, Brazil, Colombia, and possibly Guyana and Suriname. The position will involve frequent travel to these and other countries in the region, as required.

Responsibilities:

Project Implementation:

- Provide technical and strategic direction to the project and supervise all aspects of project implementation.
- Serve as the principal interlocutor with the NASA science team, and ensure that the project team fulfills the grant agreement and respects CIAT policies and procedures.
- Ensure timely responsiveness to donor requests and formal reporting as specified in the grant agreement.
- Oversee the developing new high quality user-tailored data, tools, applications, and models to address on-the-ground priorities, and for the data sharing components of the project.
- Ensure that the technical outputs of the project meet the needs of target communities and partners.
- Provide technical backstopping to partners and sub-grantees, monitor sub-grant milestones, and ensure that deliverables are submitted in a timely manner.
- Promote the project with stakeholders, the donor community, and the general public in Amazonian countries and support a pro-active communications program.
- Ensure that data, tools, applications, and models integrate gender and youth concerns in their design.
• Coordinate with CIAT’s Safety and Security Manager to ensure monitoring and analysis of the security environment and adherence by all staff to the CIAT security protocols and procedures

**Representation:**

• Represent SERVIR Amazonia to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the region, as needed.
• Participate in regular review meetings with NASA and USAID to ensure that the project is well understood and highly regarded by the donor and project partners.
• Develop and maintain a strong understanding of national development plans related to land use and planned funding initiatives by other stakeholders in the region.
• Build and manage strong and productive partnership with NASA, USAID and implementing partners and facilitate learning and knowledge exchange across the project partnership.

**Project Support Operations:**

• Implement and monitor financial and operational policies and procedures for compliance with all USAID and CIAT policies, regulations, and requirements.
• Coordinate with finance, procurement, and CIAT M&E teams to ensure operational systems are in place to support local partners and activities including logistics, procurement, security, operational, and human resources.

**Requirements**

**Technical skills and education:**

• At least a Master’s level degree in GIS, Remote Sensing, Geography, Natural Resource Management, or other field relevant to this position.
• At least seven years of experience in developing user or client driven geospatial tools, or applications, including modeling, database management and data quality control.
• Project management experience focused on geospatial or other tools specific to the environmental sciences.
• Strong knowledge of proprietary and open source software for spatial analysis and data management.
• Proven record of productive engagement and collaboration with scientists.
• Proven record of productive engagement with government stakeholders or other clients/users of geospatial tools and applications.
• Strong written and verbal communication skills in at least two of the following languages: English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

**Leadership Competencies**

• Strong relationship, business, and project management skills
• Exceptional strategic planning abilities, attention to detail and delivery
• Excellent communications skills, oral and written
• Team and people development
• Change management champion
• Strong capacity to build and maintain relationships

Terms of employment

The position is internationally recruited and based at the CIAT Headquarters Office in Cali, Colombia. The initial contract in the User Engagement Lead category will be for two (2) years, subject to a probation period of six (6) months, and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources. CIAT offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits; we believe that the diversity of our staff contributes to excellence. CIAT is an equal opportunity employer, and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

Applications

Applicants are invited to send a cover letter illustrating their suitability for the above position against the listed qualifications, competencies, skills together with a detailed curriculum vitae, including names and addresses of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate’s professional qualifications and work experience. All correspondence should be addressed to the CIAT Human Resources Office to Natasha Marulanda (n.marulanda@cgiar.org) and should clearly indicate “Science and Data Lead”.

Closing date for applications: March 30th of 2018 or until a suitable candidate is identified.

We invite you to learn more about us at: http://www.ciat.cgiar.org