Business Partner – Research

The Organization

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people’s lives. The Alliance’s solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

About the position

In 2020, the Alliance initiated a series of reforms to improve efficiency and ensure the impact of its actions, including the decentralization of responsibilities and tasks. As part of this process, the Office of the Managing Director for the Americas (OMDA) was created to coordinate and oversee all Alliance activities in the region. The OMDA coordinates research activities in the region, oversees the activities of the Palmira Campus (Colombia), and serves as CIAT’s Director General.

The OMDA needs to hire a Business Partner (BP) to help coordinate and liaise with the Alliance Research team in the region, and in those related activities coming from OneCGIAR. In particular, the BP will focus on:

(a) Identifying initiatives with the corresponding Research teams in the region;
(b) Supporting the work of the MDA in relation to Research teams and activities;
(c) Interacting with the Research structure (Levers, OPD, GMU, PISA, etc.) to ensure proper coordination and information flow;
(d) Coordinating with other Alliance teams (Partnerships, Communications, MDA team, country office teams in the region, etc.) and external partners to ensure greater effectiveness and impact in the region.

The position will be based at the Hub of the Americas, located at the Palmira Campus, Colombia.

Key Responsibilities

- Contribute to the planning, coordination and follow-up of Alliance and OneCGIAR Research actions in the region that fall under the OMDA responsibilities
- Act as a representative for the MDA in events related to the position and its scope; initially sub-regional (South America), but depending on needs it could be changed or expanded
- Liaise internally with other OMDA staff, Research Levers focal points in the region and other regional research teams, research support units; and externally with different stakeholders such as governments, universities, NGOs, donors and funders, always in coordination with the corresponding/relevant units of the Alliance
- Cooperation with staff other OneCGIAR centers may also be part of its tasks, as appropriate
Help identify opportunities for new projects and initiatives, together with the Partnerships and the regional Research teams

- Compile and develop inputs for meetings (aide-memoire, talking points, PPTs, press releases, etc)
- Review of proposals, technical papers, contracts, agreements, etc., corresponding to the OMDA, and in relation to actions and/or the Research team
- Prepare and facilitate technical meetings with internal and external stakeholders
- Develop and lead meetings and workshops with partners
- Provide analytical support to the OMDA activities as required

Qualifications and requirements:

- Master’s degree in economics, public policy, international development, environmental management, rural and agricultural development, or related areas
- Knowledge and/or experience in research organizations, rural sector development at national and/or global level, economic, political or diplomatic institutions
- Verifiable experience in the establishment of strategic alliances to obtain resources with organizations from different sectors
- Previous professional experience of at least 5 years in similar tasks
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English (essential) and as well in Spanish
- Strategic planning orientation
- Project, partnership and resource management skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and to liaise with internal and external partners
- Results oriented within deadlines
- Innovative vision
- Flexibility and adaptability to change

Terms of employment

This is a national scope search and we will offer to the selected candidate a national contract according to the Colombian labor law regulations.

We offer a fixed term contract up to one (1) year, subject to a probation period of two (2) months, and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources. The Alliance Bioversity-CIAT offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits. We are an equal opportunity employer, and strive for gender, diversity and inclusion in our staff, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, marital status, or any other characteristic.

Applications

Applicants are invited to send a cover letter illustrating their suitability for the above position against the 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 Human Resources Office, at (t.solis@cgiar.org) and should clearly indicate “Application: Business Partner – Research”.

Closing date for applications: Mar/05/2021.

We invite you to learn more about us at: