



JOB DESCRIPTION - ENTOMOLOGIST

Job Purpose:

As an Entomologist with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), your role is vital in ensuring the protection and health of Fiji's plant ecosystems by addressing the challenges posed by invasive insect pests. You will be responsible for conducting extensive research, surveillance, and management of insect species that jeopardize plant health, agricultural productivity, and natural biodiversity. Your expertise will contribute to effective pest control strategies, biosecurity measures, and the sustainable development of Fiji's ecological landscape.

Principal Accountabilities:

1. Pest Surveillance and Identification:

- Conduct systematic field surveys and inspections to monitor insect populations and identify potential invasive species.
- Apply advanced entomological techniques and tools to identify and categorize insect species accurately.
- Maintain accurate and organized records and databases documenting identified insect species and their geographical distribution.

2. Risk Assessment, Research and Analysis

- Evaluate the potential impact of identified insect pests on agricultural crops, native plants, and ecosystems.
- Conduct desktop research on pest literature, reports, and publications.
- Research to enhance understanding of plant pests, including their causes, life cycles, and epidemiology.
- Investigate new and emerging plant pests and their potential impact on crops and natural ecosystems.
- Collaborate with other researchers and institutions to develop innovative pest management and prevention strategies.
- Keep the Chief Plant Protection Officer informed and advised on progress in Import Risk Assessment (IRA) and Pest Risk Assessment (PRA).
- Collaborate closely with interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement integrated pest management strategies.
- Research, recommend, and implement appropriate pest control methods, encompassing biological, chemical, and cultural approaches.
- Employ statistical analyses to interpret research data, deriving meaningful conclusions to inform decision-making.
- Publish research findings in reputable scientific journals and present them at conferences and workshops.

3. Standards and Protocols:

- Develop scientific recording systems and ensure sound documentation practices.
- Formulate laboratory standards and protocols.

- Collaborate with the pest and disease identification team to create pest and disease identification guides.
 - Provide procedures and protocols for field survey activities.
 - Engage with stakeholders and importers to discuss import conditions and procedures for plant and plant products.
 - Ensure import facilities comply with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.
 - Provide recommendations on the use of pesticides and biological controls, ensuring compliance with regulations and safety standards.
4. Laboratory Management:
- Oversee and manage the NPPPO's entomological laboratory facilities, ensuring smooth operation and safety standards adherence.
 - Coordinate with Entomology teams in other BAF stations to gather progress and results.
 - Assist in the identification of intercepted insect specimens.
 - Compile laboratory equipment needs for purchasing and installation.
 - Conduct laboratory visits to assess achievements, progress, and areas for improvement.
 - Monitor equipment functionality, safety protocols, and overall laboratory standards.
 - Provide guidance and supervision to laboratory assistants and technicians in their tasks.
5. Database Management:
- Maintain and update the BAF pest and disease list database.
 - Contact overseas counterparts to identify exotic pests and diseases.
 - Coordinate with local experts for pest identification.
6. Regulatory Compliance:
- Contribute to the development and enforcement of plant health regulations and policies.
 - Monitor and enforce quarantine measures to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests.
 - Provide expertise and support in inspecting and certifying plants, seeds, and other plant materials.
7. Administrative Tasks:
- Review the annual business plan and assess achievements and shortcomings.
 - Develop the yearly business plan for Entomology.
 - Compile and review reports related to plant pathology and report to the Chief Plant Protection Officer.
 - Collaborate with the BAF surveillance team on pests and diseases of concern in Fiji.
 - Analyze reports from the awareness and surveillance team regarding pest and disease interceptions.
 - Map out action plans for improvement based on monthly findings and stakeholder meetings.
 - Prepare reports on the pest list database, stakeholder meetings, and new import conditions.
8. Training and Education:
- Deliver training programs and workshops to enhance the knowledge and skills of stakeholders in plant pest management.
 - Participate in public outreach activities to raise awareness about plant pest and their impact on agriculture.
 - Conduct in-house training on laboratory techniques and prepare teaching materials.
 - Organize quarterly in-house training on pests and disease identification.

- Conduct relevant training as required.
9. Policy Development and Communication:
- Contribute specialized entomological knowledge to the formulation of biosecurity policies and regulations.
 - Provide expert technical advice to government agencies, stakeholders, and the public on insect pests and their management.
 - Participate actively in public awareness initiatives to educate communities about the significance of pest prevention and control.
10. Collaboration and Teamwork:
- Collaborate effectively with fellow entomologists, researchers, and professionals across various domains.
 - Work closely with field officers, inspectors, and quarantine personnel to facilitate streamlined pest management activities.
 - Contribute to training programs and capacity-building efforts for entomologist and pest management staff and stakeholders.

Qualifications/Knowledge/Skills:

- A Master's or Doctoral in Entomology, Plant Protection, Plant Science, or a related field.
- At least 3 years of professional experience in plant protection, plant health management, biosecurity or a related field.
- Demonstrate expertise in insect taxonomy, identification, and integrated pest management.
- Proficiency in laboratory techniques for pest identification and research.
- Familiarity with plant health regulations and quarantine procedures.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently as well as in multidisciplinary teams.
- Experience in project management and research grant writing is desirable.
- Exhibit proficiency in experimental design, scientific data analysis, and the publication of research findings.
- Possess familiarity with Fiji's native and agricultural plant species and insect pests for informed decision-making.
- Demonstrate proficiency in utilizing entomological tools, software applications, and equipment.
- Showcase leadership qualities and the ability to function effectively independently and as an integral part of a collaborative team.

REMUNERATION

Remuneration will be commensurate based on an individual's qualifications and experience within the relevant salary band.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR APPLICATION

1. Visit our website www.baf.com.fj to access the **Job Description** and click on the **link** to apply.
2. Applications are required to submit cover letter, curriculum vitae and at least 2 referees, academic certificates and transcripts while applying through the online recruitment portal.
3. Applications close on Friday 7th February 2025 at 05:00pm.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. If you have not been contacted by BAF, then your application has not been successful and we thank you for your interest in applying.

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