



JOB DESCRIPTION - SENIOR PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER

Job Purpose:

The Senior Plant Protection Officer is responsible for providing strategic direction and technical expertise in plant protection to ensure the effective management and coordination of plant health programs and activities within the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). This role involves formulating policies, implementing regulations, coordinating emergency responses, and offering scientific advice to safeguard the agricultural and horticultural sectors from the risks associated with plant pests and diseases.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Develop and Implement Plant Health Policies and Strategies:

- Formulate and review policies, regulations, and guidelines related to plant protection, ensuring alignment with national and international standards (e.g., International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)).
- Develop strategies to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases, emphasizing sustainable management practices.
- Integrate emerging scientific research and technological advancements into policy and strategy development.

2. Coordinate Plant Pest and Disease Surveillance and Management:

- Design and oversee pest and disease surveillance programs to monitor the presence, spread, and impact of plant health threats.
- Coordinate the collection, analysis, and reporting of plant health data to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Develop and implement pest management strategies, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches, while ensuring stakeholder involvement.
- Collaborate with local, regional, and international stakeholders to facilitate timely and effective pest control measures.

3. Provide Technical Expertise and Advice:

- Serve as the subject matter expert on plant health issues, offering technical advice to internal teams, government agencies, industry representatives, and farmers.
- Conduct risk assessments and provide recommendations on the import/export of plants, plant products, and regulated articles.
- Collaborate with research institutions to study emerging plant health risks and provide guidance on their management.

4. Capacity Building and Training:

- Develop and deliver training programs for staff, field officers, and stakeholders on plant protection measures, pest detection, and pest/disease management.

- Provide mentorship and technical guidance to enhance the capacity of field officers and other relevant personnel.
- Foster collaboration with regional and international organizations to share knowledge and promote best practices in plant health management.

5. Emergency Response and Contingency Planning:

- Develop, review, and implement contingency and emergency response plans to address pest and disease outbreaks.
- Coordinate rapid response actions during emergencies, including quarantine measures, control programs, and public awareness campaigns.
- Ensure efficient communication and collaboration with relevant authorities to ensure a unified response during plant health emergencies.

6. Reporting and Documentation:

- Prepare detailed reports on plant health activities, achievements, and challenges for submission to stakeholders, including government authorities and international organizations.
- Maintain accurate records of pest occurrences, surveillance data, and control measures implemented.
- Contribute to the preparation of national and international reports on the status and trends of plant health.

7. Budgeting and Resource Management:

- Assist in preparing and managing the annual budget for plant protection programs and activities.
- Optimize the utilization of resources to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of plant health programs.
- Monitor and evaluate the utilization of funds and resources, ensuring adherence to financial guidelines and achieving program objectives.

8. Administrative and Leadership Responsibilities:

- Develop and review the yearly business plan and Public Sector Investment Plan (PSIP) for the Plants Team.
- Consolidate, compile, and review reports for the Plants Team, assessing achievements and identifying areas for improvement.
- Supervise and support the implementation of policies and strategies effectively within the team.
- Provide effective leadership and management to the Plants Team, fostering teamwork and professional growth.

Qualifications and Experience:

- A Master's or Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology, Entomology, Agriculture, or a related field.
- At least 3 years of professional experience in plant protection, plant health management, biosecurity or a related field.
- Demonstrated expertise in plant pest and disease management strategies, including integrated pest management (IPM).
- Proven experience in policy development, risk assessment, and emergency response planning.
- Strategic Thinking and Vision: Ability to align plant protection strategies with broader organizational and national goals.
- Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement: Proven ability to build partnerships and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders.
- Decision-Making: Sound judgment and decision-making skills, especially during emergencies.
- Adaptability: Capacity to respond effectively to emerging plant health challenges and dynamic work environments.
- Advocacy: Passion for promoting plant health and biosecurity measures to safeguard agriculture and biodiversity.

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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