

Candidate Brief

Managing Editor SciDev.Net

CABI Wallingford

January 2017

CABI BACKGROUND

CABI (www.cabi.org) is a not-for-profit development-led organization supported by a solid scientific research base and a world class publishing service. Our mission is to improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Our work increases food security and protects biodiversity.

We have over 500 staff based in 16 countries. We have offices in Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, the UK and the USA.

CABI is an intergovernmental organization that can trace its origins back to 1910. Our mission and direction are influenced by government representatives from our 48 member countries who help guide the activities we undertake. These include scientific publishing, development projects and research, and microbial services. We are also leading a major new initiative, Plantwise, which aims to improve food security and the lives of the rural poor by reducing crop losses.

CABI's Knowledge Business

We produce key scientific publications for the global research community, including CAB Abstracts, the world-leading database covering agriculture and environment, and Global Health - the definitive bibliographic database for public health information. We also publish multimedia compendia, books, eBooks and full text electronic resources aiming to further science and its application to real life. Our Knowledge Business also supports our international development mission with the creation of innovative information solutions and appropriate technologies to transfer knowledge to farmers and extension workers. Behind each of our products is a team of subject specialists committed to delivering the most relevant and authoritative information to users worldwide.

Development projects and research

Our staff research and find solutions to agricultural and environmental problems. We use science, information and communication tools to help solve issues of global concern. Our work is arranged around four core themes:

- **Commodities** – we work to enable smallholder commodity farmers to compete in global markets. We diagnose and control plant pests and diseases, and help farmers get a better price for their crops. We work on crops such as coffee, cocoa, wheat, rice and cotton.
- **Invasive species** – we are helping to reduce the spread and impact of invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed, water hyacinth and insects such as coffee berry borer and cocoa pod borer. We also advise countries at a policy level about agriculture, trade and the environment.
- **Knowledge for development** – we work with farmers, extension workers, researchers and governments to deliver agricultural knowledge and develop communication strategies and systems.

Microbial services

We manage one of the world's largest genetic resource collections, the UK's National Collection of Fungus Cultures. We conduct microbiological identifications, provide cultures for sale, and offer preservation and consultancy services. We are also screening our collection, looking for natural products such as antibiotics, vitamins and enzymes.

Plantwise

Plantwise is a global programme, led by CABI, to increase food security and improve rural livelihoods by reducing crop losses. Sustainable networks of local plant clinics provide farmers with practical plant health advice, reinforced by the Plantwise Knowledge Bank, an online gateway to plant health information. Working in close partnership with relevant actors, Plantwise strengthens national plant

health systems from within, enabling countries to provide farmers with the knowledge they need to lose less and feed more. Find out more at www.plantwise.org

THE ROLE

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| Job title: | Managing Editor, SciDev.Net |
| Salary range: | TBC |
| Grade: | Hay Band 7 |
| Reporting to: | Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) |
| Location: | Head Office, Wallingford, UK - In order to process any applications from nationals outside of the EU and UK, we would require documentation to show the applicant is currently resident and able to work in the in the UK, or is able to relocate on own means and possesses full authorisation from the UK Border Agency (for further information please use the following link http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/) |

Purpose of the role

SciDev.Net's aims are to make scientific evidence and technological innovation accessible for a range of audiences to enable its use in global development policy making and practice. Furthermore, we support journalists in developing countries to build their skills and careers in reporting on research.

In addition to a Global edition, we have five **regional editions** – [Latin America and the Caribbean](#), [Asia Pacific](#), [Sub-Saharan Africa French](#), [Sub-Saharan Africa English](#) and [Middle East and North Africa](#) - which publish locally relevant material in French, Spanish, English and Arabic.

The primary role of the Managing Editor is to lead the growth and development of SciDev.Net. The next two years in particular will require the post holder to lead an exciting transition as the charity merges with an important strategic partner.

Candidate profile

The Managing Editor is fully responsible for all editorial content on SciDev.Net and should ensure editorial independence of all editorial output. They will take a leading role in developing SciDev.Net's web content, ensuring it is balanced, well informed and meets the objectives of being accessible and informative in relation to science in development. The Managing Editor will take a leading role in the professional development and capacity building of Regional Coordinators and editorial associates/freelancers.

Key Accountabilities

- Working alongside the COO lead on the development and delivery of SciDev.Net's strategic objectives
- Ensure content across the site reflects the editorial standards of SciDev.Net for breadth of coverage, rigour and trustworthiness.
- Develop and build SciDev.Net's capability to meet market challenges and opportunities
- Maintain an up to date knowledge of issues relevant to science in development and take a pro-active role in communicating these as appropriate

- Work closely with staff to ensure the continued progress and improvement in the monitoring and impact evaluation of SciDev.Net and that impact is clearly communicated to funders and other relevant audiences
- Ensure that the objectives of SciDev.Net are supported by staff and systems;
- Inspire and develop the in country teams and develop and foster an entrepreneurial approach to ensure new opportunities are identified and maximised;
- Act as an Ambassador for SciDev.Net and ensure it is represented positively and visibly in all relevant forums whilst proactively identifying and developing new opportunities, partnerships and relationships
- Support internal stakeholders across the organisation to represent SciDev.Net and seek opportunities in support of its strategic ambitions.
- Working with colleagues network with institutional funders and other potential donors to develop relationships, and identify new revenue opportunities whilst securing continued funding for SciDev.Net;

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Knowledge & Skills

- Ability to communicate science topics clearly and engagingly to a wide range of audiences
- Ability to evidence appreciation of how science can aid development and the role that might be played by different media in improve access to and understanding of science
- An understanding of the process of institutional policy development
- Experience of social media campaigning internationally
- Experience of e-commerce planning
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Education & Qualifications

- Post graduate degree in the media or science related fields
- Fluency in one of the languages that SciDev.Net publishes in other than English, i.e. Arabic, French or Spanish

Personality Characteristics

- Excellent people management and development skills
- A considered and balanced approach to problem solving

Experience

- Professional media publishing experience (print, online, radio, television)
- Professional experience of international development
- Personal experience of working closely in and with teams in middle and low income countries

NOTE

This job description is not intended to be exhaustive. It is expected that the post holder and CABI will adopt a flexible attitude and accept that the duties may have to be varied according to circumstances, in particular changing corporate requirements and individual development needs.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CABI is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of age, gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation or marital status. No applicant will be disadvantaged by conditions which cannot be shown to be justified and selection will be based on merit.

By taking the [CABI Equal Opportunities Survey](#) you will be helping us to follow best practice recommendations that employers should monitor selection decisions to assess whether equality of opportunity is being achieved. Please follow the link to take the survey.

(If the link does not work please cut and paste the following URL into your web browser http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CABI_Equal_Opportunities_Survey)

The information in the survey will be treated as confidential and used for statistical purposes only, forming no part of the selection process. This information will be received separately from your application.

SECONDMENT

This role may be filled on secondment from the corporate sector or from other large international development organisations. To discuss a secondment opportunity, please contact Neil MacIntosh, HR Director, at n.macintosh@cabi.org

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please send a covering letter detailing how you meet the candidate profile and a full CV quoting Job Reference 02/2017 to recruitment@cabi.org Please state where you saw this advertisement.

Please note closing date for receipt of applications is 14 March 2017