

Candidate Brief

Socio-Economist, Europe

CABI - Switzerland

March 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. www.plantwise.org



THE ROLE

Job title:	Socio-Economist
Salary range:	74,000 – 80,000CHF (gross salary)
Grade:	HAY Band 5
Reporting to:	Centre Director
Direct reports:	none
Key peer group:	Global Director M&E, M&E Manager, UK Centre Director, Project managers, Executive Director Global Operations
Location:	Delémont

Purpose of the role

The Socio-Economist will lead and conduct research and studies to assess the social and economic impacts of CABI's projects and programmes, including their effects on the livelihoods of male and female farmers, and other programme participants. The researcher will work closely with CABI staff and country partners to set up qualitative and quantitative studies and impact evaluations, including the use of participatory approaches, on projects related to agriculture, invasives, ICTs, IPM, and extension/communication methods. She/he will oversee all aspects of studies, from design to data instrumentation, planning and facilitating training and supervising of field staff and fieldwork. The researcher will be expected to strengthen the evaluation culture within CABI through better articulation of impact pathways, causality and effects of the context as well as publish findings in international peer reviewed journals.

Key Accountabilities

- Either individually, or as part of the project team, lead, conduct and support socio-economic studies, research, surveys and assessments of outcomes and impact of CABI's work on project beneficiaries
- Implement qualitative and quantitative assessments through mixed methods approaches, including use of cost benefit, social network and systems analysis of CABI's projects and programmes as required
- Include socio-economic aspects of projects and programmes in all phases of the project cycle by participating and advising in project planning, survey design, implementation, analysis and reporting
- Carry out internal capacity building in social sciences through training, mentoring, learning by doing etc covering topics such as economic analysis, participatory evaluation, action research, organisational development and learning, to ensure that socio-economic considerations become embedded in CABI's development work
- Develop and support gender aspects in project work
- Publish the outcomes in peer reviewed journals, in particular focusing on the impact of CABI's work
- Ensure adherence to CABI policies and procedures, including access to biodiversity, quarantine, HR and health and safety requirements, financial and project management procedures, and IPR procedures.



CANDIDATE PROFILE

Knowledge & Skills

- Broad understanding of agricultural and rural development
- Good knowledge of agricultural or development economics and/or organisational development
- Good knowledge of qualitative and quantitative methods and statistical analyses
- Good understanding of innovation systems, participatory and action research approaches
- Fluency in English, with excellent written and oral communication skills
- Fluency in at least one other major language, such as Spanish or French, would be a benefit

Education & Qualifications

- Clear and demonstrable experience in any of the fields of economics, agricultural economics, rural sociology, anthropology, public policy or other related subject areas. Ideally the candidate would have a PhD degree with a few years relevant post-doctoral experience or an MSc and several more years clear and relevant post-graduate experience.

Experience

- Detailed and relevant experience working in research and evaluation in developing countries clearly demonstrating the breadth and depth of the subject matter required as detailed in the knowledge and skills requirements
- Strong quantitative and qualitative research and evaluation skills
- Strong scientific publication record
- Proven experience in successful project planning and management, both technically and financially
- Proven experience in project development and obtaining of funds

Personality Characteristics

- Strong organisational and learning skills
- A team player with good interpersonal, communication and networking skills
- Comfortable working on one's own initiative as well as following advice
- Robust with the operational grip and capacity to handle a demanding workload
- Flexible and creative in planning and problem solving
- Ability to deal with cultural differences of colleagues, donors and partners globally

Special Circumstances

- Ability to travel on a frequent basis to CABI projects, programmes and other offices worldwide

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.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please send the following to recruitment@cabi.org quoting job reference 11/2017 and stating where you saw this post advertised

- 1) a detailed covering letter describing in full how you meet the candidate profile and to include details of your current remuneration;
- 2) a full Curriculum Vitae;
- 3) the names and contact details of three referees, one of whom must be your current or most recent employer – referees will not be contacted without your prior permission.

Please note that the closing date for the receipt of applications is Sunday 30th April 2017. Interviews are likely to be held within early part of June 2017.

Please also note that candidates that fail to follow the application instructions above may disadvantage their application at the selection stages.

