Biopesticide Specialist

TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT
Long-term volunteer (3 - 12 months)

COUNTRY AND PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT
GUYANA, Georgetown

TO APPLY
Send CV and cover letter to: jobs@wusc.ca. Include “PROPEL Biopesticide Specialist” in subject header.
- This position is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.
- Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and position will remain open until filled.

EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE
Departure will be as soon as possible upon completion of administrative requirements and approval of work permit.

PROJECT BACKGROUND
The Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) is a sustainable economic growth project which aims to increase the value of Caribbean fresh produce accessing high-value markets (HVMs) in the Caribbean and internationally by CAD $100 million over six years. Funded by the Canadian Government through Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and implemented by World University Service of Canada (WUSC), the project is working with private sector buyers, producers, business service providers and other market system actors to facilitate the safe, effective and efficient movement of fresh produce from the farm level to HVMs.

PROPEL identifies the needs of the HVM buyers as the local, intra-regional and extra-regional levels and then identifies producers that have the potential to meet that market demand in terms of quality and quantity of produce. PROPEL uses a market systems approach to facilitate the development of commercially based linkages between producers and HVMs that will be sustainable and reach scale in terms of sales and the potential to continue to grow sales over time.

The PROPEL regional office is located in Barbados with satellite offices in Jamaica and Guyana, and additional staff and consultants in Dominica and St. Lucia. For more information on PROPEL visit: http://wusc.ca/en/strengthening-ties-between-producers-and-buyers-caribbean.

VOLUNTEER POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES
The Biopesticide Specialist will work with the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), a semi-autonomous agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide capacity building support
for the development of protocols and uses of biopesticides. The Specialist will work with the CEO of NAREI, the Country Coordinator of WUSC Caribbean (Guyana) Inc. and other technical staff to:

1. Identify plant extracts that can be used to manage pests and diseases;
2. Conduct trials on identified extracts both in field and laboratory conditions;
3. Train technicians and farmers on the use of biopesticides and bio pest control strategies;
4. Identify commercial biopesticides for use locally;
5. Conduct field and laboratory trials on identified biopesticides; and
6. Assist in the rearing of natural enemies (predators) for identified pests.

QUALIFICATIONS

- University degree in Biotechnology, preferably in tropical pest control, or equivalent.
- 3 - 5 years of work experience in bio-control.
- Practical knowledge of Biotechnology and pesticide use in agriculture.
- Proven leadership, interpersonal and cross-cultural skills, and ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Ability to train and work with researchers, farmers and technicians.
- Adaptable and flexible self-starter, with innovative problem-solving skills.
- Experience and/or knowledge of tropical agriculture production systems in developing countries, preferably working in organic controls.
- Good communication skills.

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS AND SUPPORT

- Participation in pre-departure training where you will learn about the project, gain practical skills for living and working in an intercultural context and meet other volunteers. Travel, meals and accommodation for the training are covered.
- Return flight and work permit.
- Cost of required vaccinations.
- Comprehensive health insurance.
- Monthly living and accommodation allowance.
- Vacation leave entitlement.
- Return debriefing in Canada after completion of assignment. Travel, meals and accommodation are covered.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada between the ages of 18-70.
- Departure date is contingent upon the timely completion of all administrative requirements (e.g. visa processes, medical clearance, police checks, travel documentation).
- With the support of the program, all volunteers are encouraged to make a minimum financial contribution of $1,500 for participating in the program.