

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Tomato Breeder
(Tanzania)

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. AVRDC conducts research and development programs that contribute to improved incomes and diets in the developing world. AVRDC is seeking an experienced tomato breeder for its pan-African program on Vegetable Breeding and Seed Systems for Poverty Reduction in Africa, which will:

- establish four national units for vegetable breeding, breeding support, and seed production in four countries (Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali and Tanzania), as well as seed health and marketing in South Africa
- build vegetable seed system capacity in those countries as well as in their neighboring countries
- network the national vegetable breeding programs, private African seed companies and vegetable seed supply systems
- promote increased and sustainable vegetable production, marketing and consumption in these countries

Key Responsibilities

The tomato breeder will be responsible for AVRDC's tomato breeding program in Arusha, Tanzania and will support the program's national breeding units (NBUs) to develop and release new tomato varieties. With the countries' Liaison Officers and the Project Manager, the tomato breeder will prioritize varieties and breeding objectives, and design efficient breeding strategies. Activities will include establishment of infrastructure, procurement of equipment and supplies, staff training, and design of plant breeding protocols.

The tomato breeder will collaborate closely with staff of the NBUs, AVRDC staff at the Regional Center for Africa in Tanzania, the Sub-Regional Office in Mali, and AVRDC's headquarters. S/he will also develop cooperative linkages with contract seed producers, NARS regulatory personnel, and seed distribution channels. Frequent travel to the NBUs and neighboring countries to monitor program activities is expected.

Qualifications and Experience

- Postgraduate degree in horticulture, agriculture, plant breeding, or related discipline
- At least 5 years experience in applied plant breeding
- An understanding of African farming systems, and public and private sector seed systems, especially in developing countries
- Work experience in sub-Saharan Africa or developing countries
- Strong communication skills in spoken and written English, working knowledge of French
- Ability to perform effectively and efficiently in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment

Terms of Appointment: The incumbent will be based in Arusha, Tanzania. The initial appointment is for two years with possibility of annual re-appointments. Salary and perquisites are commensurate with qualifications and experience, and are comparable with those of other international agricultural research centers.

Application: Submit a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, with names and contact addresses (phone number and e-mail) of three referees. Send to: Ms. Lilia Tan Habacon, HR Manager , AVRDC, P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199, Taiwan; e-mail: lilia.tan-habacon@worldveg.org; fax: 886-6-583-0009.

Closing Date: The closing date for application is 15 December 2007, or until the position is filled. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center is the principal international research center dedicated to vegetable research and development. Its mission is to improve nutrition and reduce poverty in the developing world through improved production, quality, processing, marketing and consumption of safe vegetables. For more information on AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center, please go to our website: < http://www.avrdc.org >.
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