



World Vegetable Center

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Principal Research Assistant – Vegetable Biodiversity Information Management

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a nonprofit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to improved incomes and diets in the developing world through increased production and consumption of nutritious and health-promoting vegetables. For more information about World Vegetable Center, please visit our website: www.avrdc.org.

The Center is looking for a dedicated researcher with a passion to conserve and understand the agricultural biodiversity of main and traditional vegetable species. The researcher will work in the team of the Genetic Resources and Seed Unit of the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) that maintains a genebank collection consisting of seed stocks of about 60,000 vegetable landraces and crop wild relatives.

The 'Genetic Resources and Seed Team' keeps the seed of the genebank collection alive for distribution and use. Another important task of the team is to collect seeds of landraces and wild relatives of main and traditional vegetables in farmer fields and natural populations. These genetic resources are threatened to disappear and can have important traits for breeding new varieties. Finally, the genebank team describes the phenotypic and genetic diversity of the collection and uses this information for better genebank management and to promote genetic resources for breeding improved vegetable varieties.

The researcher will generate phenotypic data of vegetable crops and will be responsible to manage these data together with genotypic and geographic information of the germplasm collection. The incumbent will work with a team of germplasm curators, genebank scientists, biotechnologists and plant breeders at the World Vegetable Center and at partner institutions to make best use of the germplasm collection for research and breeding.

This is a nationally recruited position and open for Taiwan nationals only.

Job responsibilities and tasks

- **Database management** of passport, documentation, characterization, and evaluation data of genebank accessions of WorldVeg
- Screening of genebank accessions with an **automatized field phenotyping platform** with laser triangulation
- Digitalize, automate, and innovate in other ways collection, processing, storage, and publication of vegetable biodiversity data for a better **vegetable germplasm information system**
- Define **subsets of promising genebank accessions** for specific traits and uses to enhance the utilization of vegetable germplasm maintained at the WorldVeg genebank
- Carry out **diversity analysis** to understand the agromorphological and genetic variation of main and traditional vegetables

The Person: MSc degree in plant sciences, plant biology, botany, horticulture, biodiversity informatics, computational biology or a similar discipline

Essential skills

- Establishment and management of field trials of horticultural crops
- Proficiency with Excel, Access, and data storage and management tools
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in English

Preferred skills

- Statistical analysis for crop biodiversity analysis
- R statistical software or other programming skills, such as Python, C++
- Crop phenotyping

The Reward: This is a Nationally Recruited Staff (NRS) position, at a mid-career researcher level, with competitive pay and benefits. The initial appointment is for one year and may be extended depending on requirements, funding availability, and performance of the incumbent.

How to Apply: Submit a letter of application in English with curriculum vitae, with details of education, work experiences, professional skills, names and contact addresses (including phone number/fax/e-mail) of three referees, and a recent passport size photograph by e-mail to jobapply@worldveg.org, **before 15th February 2019**.