

# Junior Professional Officer

## Rural Water for Food Security

*IFAD*

*Closing date: May 8, 2012*

### I General information

<b>Title:</b>	Junior Professional Officer Rural Water for Food Security
<b>Sector of Assignment:</b>	Policy and Technical Advisory Division (PTA), Programme Management Department (PMD)
<b>Country:</b>	Italy/Field
<b>Location (City):</b>	Rome
<b>Agency:</b>	IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
<b>Duration of Assignment:</b>	Initially one year with the possibility to extend up to 3 years
<b>Grade:</b>	P1 step 1 or P2 step 1 in the first year, depending on the level of education and relevant working experience

**Note :** this post is opened in the context of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) scheme sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands and is addressed exclusively to **people with the Dutch nationality**. For criteria see the website of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.minbuza.nl/en/key-topics/development-cooperation/associate-experts-programme>

### II Duties, responsibilities and Output Expectations

#### General

The JPO would address the full planning and implementation stages of the project life cycle of investments and knowledge management of Rural Water for Food Security. The incumbent would be expected to stream into an appropriate professional level function after this assignment.

#### 1. *Responsibility 1 (70% time)*

Summary of duties and expected output

Under the supervision of the Senior Technical Adviser Water, PTA, and in tandem with Country Portfolio Managers (CPM) and related PMD field and HQ staff, contribute to strengthening the performance of PMD, with a special focus on:

- Developing Agricultural and Rural Water elements of IFAD's portfolio
- Strengthening integrated land and water agendas as appropriate
- Identifying 'Best Practices' on water issues in Quality Enhancement (QE)
- Exploring further partnering on water issues with national and international private sector, bi- and multilaterals, IFIs, and research/resource centers of excellence.

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#### 2. *Responsibility 2 (30 % time)*

Summary of duties and expected output

- Undertake background research for and contribute to IFAD water policy/position paper inputs for events of international importance and scope
- Assist in strengthening the Water for Food Community of Practice and scouting for agricultural and rural water 'best practices', scaling up and innovations, including support to knowledge management (KM) and the water grants research and development programme

- Assist in rendering and mobilizing appropriate water expertise and technical backstopping to IFAD and partner country operations (primarily in Africa and Asia)

### **III Training component: Learning elements and expectations**

The JPO training programme includes the following learning elements:

- The first year is focused on acquainting him/herself with IFAD staff, corporate agenda, programmes and performance enhancing processes around land and water aspects of poverty reduction and rural development. KM and QE (design/implementation) would be the drivers of this learning space. First year would see incidental field exposure.
- The following 1,5 years would see enhanced travel and in-field learning and servicing country operations primarily in Africa and/or Asia. This may cover the full range of policy dialogue, knowledge management, and quality enhancement of ongoing and planned land and water portfolio, and will include participating in pertinent supervision and implementation support. An expected result of this hands-on learning will be a deepening of her/his understanding of key operational NRM, particularly land and water, issues impinging on rural poverty reduction. The JPO would engage more strongly with IFAD staff embedded in Regional Hubs or In-Country Offices with a pronounced water portfolio or agenda. (Regional Hubs can be found in West-Africa (Senegal) and East-Africa (Kenya). Suitable In-Country-Offices could be Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Burkina Faso.)
- The last half year would see *connected value capture* and streaming into an appropriate professional level function in IFAD, any other rural development UN organization, IFI or related agency.

S/he will also (during the full 3 years):

- Interact closely with other Technical Advisers with a view to collaborating to integrate land and water concerns in PTA's and PMD's wider thematic work.
- Gain hands-on experience in working with partner organizations as regards attention to land and water-related concerns.
- Assist in organizing and supporting the work of the Water for Food Community-of-Practice (W4F CoP), the learning and knowledge mechanisms such as Country Programme Management Teams, and similar means.

Upon completion of the assignment the JPO will be able to:

- Articulate IFAD's vision on key Natural Resources Management (NRM) issues and key thematic areas related to rural development in written and oral presentations;
- Contribute to reviews of grants and design documents according to IFAD procedures;
- Work independently with other Technical Advisors and with CPMs on functions related to her/his ToR. This qualification should ensure a level playing field condition for learning and endorsement for further (IFAD) career development. A mid-term assessment of the JPO prospects to achieve these outcomes will form part of the career coaching.

### **IV Supervision**

Title of supervisor: Senior Technical Advisor (STA), Rural Development (Water Management & Infrastructure), Land and Water Desk Manager, PTA, PMD

#### **Content and methodology of supervision**

The JPO will work closely with and be supported initially on a day-to-day basis by the STA, who will coach her/him to draw up the corresponding work programme, review and provide feedback on her/his written and other outputs, and periodically evaluate with her/him performance in responding to the ToR. Temporary (result-based) twinning with other junior and senior staff members from PTA and PMD, and where pertinent of other Rome-based UN agencies, is encouraged. Work will involve extensive travel and prolonged stays in IFAD Member Countries.

## **V Required Qualifications and Experience**

**Education:** Minimum Master Degree in subject related to Agriculture, Rural Water Development, Engineering, Geography or Rural Development

**Working experience :** Up to a 4 years of relevant working experience is preferred. Some working experience on pro poor NRM issues in IFAD borrower countries would be an advantage

**Languages :** Excellent English and solid working knowledge of French

### **Key competencies**

- Open to learning and self-motivated.
- Strong analytical, writing and communication/presentational skills.
- Ability to plan and manage his/her work, and to deliver results under pressure.
- Maturity, tact and ability to work in multi-cultural and trans-disciplinary teams.
- Able and willing to travel extensively; willing and able to temporarily live abroad.

## **VI Background information on Agency/Department/Section**

IFAD is an International Financial Institution and a Specialized Agency of the United Nations whose mission is to enable poor rural people to overcome poverty. IFAD's headquarters is in Rome, Italy, and its staff work with poor rural people, their governments, communities and organizations in more than 80 countries to develop and finance programmes and projects aimed at increasing rural productivity and incomes.

## **VII Information on living conditions at Duty Station**

Position will be based in IFAD HQ, Rome, Italy

## **VIII How to apply**

Interested candidates are requested to apply through IFAD's online system by completing IFAD's Personal History Form (PHF) in English. A separate CV may be attached if you so desire, only as a supplement and not a substitute to the PHF. ([www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org))

Closing date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Applicants will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their submission. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Candidates may be required to take a written test and to deliver a presentation as well as participate in interviews.