



**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**National Consultant: Agronomist/ Conservation Agriculture Specialist**

**Duration: 10 months  
Duty Station: Swaziland, Mbabane**

**Project Number: TCP/SWA/3603**

The agriculture sector in Swaziland has large potential due to a favourable climate and good soils that allow for a variety of produce to be grown throughout the year and ample land that can be allocated for agricultural purposes. However, the sector's potential has not been realised due to challenges faced by the large numbers of smallholders. Among these challenges faced by smallholder, producers are low participation of youth putting the smallholder industry at risk of shrinking in the next generation, erratic rainfall, and a non-responsive and relevant agriculture education system.

To address some of these challenges the government of Swaziland is promoting climate smart agriculture on schools and training centres of Swaziland. CA and AF fit very well within this strategy mainly because they are relatively easy to implement for smallholder farmers as they require fewer inputs (i.e. less fertilizer and labour; and build resistance to agro-climatic conditions and tend to be relatively drought resistant. Many smallholder farmers are using these practices but the new generation farmers graduating from Schools and agriculture training centres are not conversant with these new practices

The government of Swaziland has requested FAO's assistance to explore the feasibility incorporating climate smart agriculture to schools and farmer training centres to addressing the issue of low youth participation in agriculture and an aging smallholder farmer and through the CPF identified food and nutrition security as one of its main areas of work where women and youth as critical role players. Similarly, the joint UN Development Action Framework (UNDAF) for Swaziland, among the strategies identified for food security is crop diversification and the cultivation and climate change resilience which will include drought resistant crops where necessary and promotion production of indigenous crops to a strong focus to youth and women involvement.

Interested and qualified Agronomist/ Conservation Agriculture Specialists are hereby invited to submit their CVs by close of business on the **10 November 2017** to [FAOSZ-Recruitment@fao.org](mailto:FAOSZ-Recruitment@fao.org)

**Specific activities and main responsibilities**

Working under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative for Swaziland (FAOR), the direct supervision of the Assistant FAOR with the technical supervision of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) and the LTO in the Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SFS), and in close consultation with the National Project Coordinator, the Agronomist/ Conservation Agriculture Specialist shall:

- Assess the status of existing inputs, technologies and agronomic practices/ cropping pattern in Climate Smart Agriculture production in the country and establish a cropping calendar;
- Develop a plan for improved production in collaboration with local research institutes including identification of suitable varieties and sourcing/ production of good quality OPV seed;
- Provide technical assistance and advice to the national project team in designing and monitoring;
- Conduct identification of participants and the Training and Demonstration Centres under the programme;
- Support capacity development workshops for schools and youth farmers/ farmers' groups on good agricultural practices;
- Provide guidance to the extension facilitators in conducting informal and formal training sessions on intensified production;
- Lead the development and implementation of production and marketing schedules;

- Prepare a technical report on production in the selected sites (expounding on current production versus potential levels; production costs; cropping patterns etc.);
- Provide any other assistance required during the project implementation;

### **Minimum Qualifications & Experience**

- University degree in Agronomy, Crop Production or a related field with academic or professional specialization in conservation agriculture
- Five years relevant experience in agronomic management practises with practical experience in Climate Smart Agriculture
- Effective communication skills, both oral and written and ability to communicate with a diversity of stakeholders at various levels.

### **Selection Criteria:**

- i. Extent and relevance of experience in developing and implementing programmes of work or projects related to conservation agriculture and soil management for sustainable crop production.
- ii. Extent of knowledge and relevance of experience in smallholder farming systems in the context of sustainable production intensification.
- iii. Extent and relevance of knowledge in agriculture management approaches in the context of climate smart agriculture.
- iv. Extent and relevance of knowledge of the linkages between sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### **The FAO Recruitment Office**

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FAO is an equal opportunity employer and qualified women are encouraged to apply. FAO is a smoke free environment.