

Wageningen International (WI) is within Wageningen University and Research responsible for (a) the provision of capacity building services and institutional development support for sustainable development in an international context (b) facilitating access for international partners and clients to the services and products of the various Wageningen UR Science Groups and (c) the coordination of Wageningen UR's international plans and programmes. The WI section dealing with capacity building and institutional development coordinates and implements projects, training activities, technical advisory services, etc. related to various thematic areas including sustainable agriculture and rural development, biodiversity, market and trade, water, etc. These activities are often implemented in close cooperation with colleagues of other Wageningen UR institutes and /or partners elsewhere in the Netherlands or abroad.

Rural Business Development Specialist (1,0) m/v

Background to the position

The increasing openness of the agricultural and food markets, the rising quality demands of consumers throughout the world, more stringent regulatory requirements and growing integration of food trade contains risks and at the same time also opportunities for rural producers in the developing world. In projects and programmes that intend to increase the value share that remains in the rural areas and thus opens paths out of poverty, agricultural chain development complements rural livelihood strategies and regional rural development approaches. To strengthen the team working on international market and trade issues in the context of development WI wishes to recruit one or two suitable candidates for the position of Rural Business Development Specialist.

Requirements:

If you are interested in this area of work and would like to apply for the position you will need to possess the following skills and qualifications:

- A Masters degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field such as rural development, business, economics, or agricultural marketing
- Several years relevant work experience
- Experience with international development cooperation and experience working in countries with emerging or developing economies
- A good understanding of participatory approaches to development, an ability to facilitate multi-stakeholder processes and experience with the design and implementation of capacity building programmes
- A proven ability to mobilise resources and effectively manage collaborative projects
- Experience in the business sector would be highly desirable
- An ability to communicate clearly verbally and in writing is essential
- Excellent English language skills; French or Spanish language skills will be an added benefit
- Ability to learn fast and work effectively in a team environment

What we offer:

The suitable candidate will be offered a one-year contract (full time) that can be extended by mutual consent into a contract for a longer period. The remuneration for this position will be conform market scales and will be linked to number of years (relevant) experience. The Rural Business Development Specialist will work under the supervision of the Head of WI Section responsible for capacity building and institutional development. Our new colleague will work for most of the time from the WI office in Wageningen, but will be expected to work for up to 8 – 12 weeks per year on location in Central & Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Information and application:

For additional information on the work of Rural Business Development Specialist please contact Mr. Frank Joosten (0317-495348). Information on the terms of employment and application procedure is available with Ms. Els van Beijnhem (0317 – 495345). Application letters outlining your motivation and interest for this position supported with your curriculum vitae should be send to els.vanbeijnhem@wur.nl or Wageningen International t.a.v. E.H. van Beijnhem, Postbus 88 6700 AB WAGENINGEN.