

Job Description for Professional Posts

Reference: NA2024/49

Position and Grade:	Associate Animal Immunology Officer, P2
Organizational Unit:	Animal Production and Health Section Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Duty Station:	Seibersdorf
Type/Duration of Appointment:	FT – JPO, 1 year

Organizational Setting

The Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications implements the IAEA's Major Programme 2, "Nuclear Techniques for Development and Environmental Protection". This Major Programme comprises individual programmes on food and agriculture, human health, water resources, environment and radiation technologies. These programmes are supported by laboratories in Seibersdorf, Monaco and Vienna. The Major Programme's objective is to enhance the capacity of Member States to meet basic human needs and to assess and manage the marine and terrestrial environments through the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques in sustainable development programmes.

The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture assists Member States of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the IAEA in using nuclear techniques and related technologies to improve food security, alleviate poverty and promote sustainable agriculture. The Joint Centre consists of five Sections, each with an associated laboratory (located in Seibersdorf, 45 km south-east of Vienna), in the areas of: animal production and health; plant breeding and genetics; insect pest control; soil and water management and crop nutrition; and food and environmental protection.

The Animal Production and Health Section and Laboratory assist Member States in improving livestock productivity through the efficient use of locally available feed resources, reproduction and breeding practices, and disease diagnostic tools and control measures.

Main Purpose

The Associate Animal Immunology Officer will be co-responsible, under the supervision and guidance of the Laboratory Head and a technical officer, for the APhL activities related to the research and development of animal vaccines and in vitro systems to measure the host immune response to selected transboundary animal diseases.

Role

As a member of the Animal Production and Health team the Associate Animal Immunology Officer will be based at the Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratory in Seibersdorf and will maintain regular contact with the technical staff at the Headquarters. S/he will (i) conduct applied research and development (R&D) activities on immunology of major livestock species; (ii) design and implement R&D activities on the evaluation of selected animal vaccines and adjuvants; (iii) assist in the organization and conduct trainings aiming at transfer technology and capacity in MS on immuno-assays.

Partnerships

The Associate Animal Immunology Officer will work under the partnerships already established within the UN system as well as with other international organisations and the scientific and commercial communities.

Functions / Key Results Expected

The Associate Animal Immunology Officer will undertake the following activities:

- Develop a work plan to establish immortalized cell lines from bovine and caprine primary cells, to grow and expand viruses for vaccine development that will enhance the performance of the current vaccines.
- Develop novel and/or improve vaccine adjuvants using nuclear and nuclear derived technologies.
- Develop assays to measure immune responses in animals that can be easily transferred and applied in less-resourced laboratories in MS.
- Assist in developing a database on animal vaccines and immune assays to be used by MS.
- Assist with other activities of the Section in relation to CRP and TC projects on animal health/vaccines/immunology as appropriate.

Competencies and Expertise (do not revise or edit)

Core Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Communication	Individual Contributor	Communicates orally and in writing in a clear, concise and impartial manner. Takes time to listen and understand the perspective of others and proposes solutions.
Achieving Results	Individual Contributor	Takes initiative in defining realistic outputs and clarifying roles, responsibilities and expected results in the context of the Department/Centre's programme. Evaluates his/her results realistically, drawing conclusions from lessons learned.
Teamwork	Individual Contributor	Actively contributes to achieving team results. Supports team decisions.
Planning and Organizing	Individual Contributor	Plans and organizes his/her own work in support of achieving the team or Section's priorities. Takes into account potential changes and proposes contingency plans.

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Functional Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Analytical thinking	Associate	Gathers and analyses information, identifying critical relationships and patterns among data and proposes workable solutions.
Knowledge sharing and learning	Associate	Actively seeks opportunities to learn by formal and informal means; learns from others, adopting and sharing best practice.
Technical/ Scientific credibility	Associate	Acquires and applies new skills to remain up to date in his/her area of expertise. Reliably applies knowledge of basic technical/ scientific methods and concepts.
Judgement/ decision making	Associate	Consults with supervisor/manager and makes decisions in full compliance with the Agency's regulations and rules.

Expertise	
Expertise	Description
Animal Diseases	Good knowledge on Immunology and working knowledge on developing vaccines and/or immune assays.
Animal Diseases	Good understanding of livestock diseases and its prevention strategies.
Cleanroom Laboratory	Good knowledge of aseptic methods in cell culture laboratories.
Data Analysis	Competence in computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation graphics and statistical packages

Education, Experience and Language Skills

- University degree in biological, agricultural, veterinary or animal sciences. Post-graduate training up to PhD level or equivalent in a subject related to immunology, cell biology or vaccinology an asset.
- Minimum two years of post-qualifying experience on developing vaccines and/or immune assays.
- Excellent oral and written command of English. Knowledge of other official IAEA languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) is an asset.

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