

## JOB DESCRIPTION

### **Junior Professional Officer, Sustainable & Resilient agribusiness value chains**

<b>Category / Staff Rules</b>	Junior Professional Officer / P-2
<b>Division / Section</b>	Division of Sustainable and Inclusive Trade/ Green and Inclusive Value Chains (DSIT/ GIVC)
<b>Duty station</b>	Geneva
<b>Comments</b>	1 Year with possible extension

#### **ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT AND ORGANISATIONAL SETTING**

The International Trade Centre (ITC) assists developing and transition economy countries to take advantage of expanding trade opportunities in an increasingly complex global environment. ITC supports Trade Impact for Good, promoting sustainable and inclusive development goals through trade.

ITC's Division of Sustainable and Inclusive Trade (DSIT) works to advance ITC's strategic vision to support sustainable and inclusive livelihoods through trade. The division contributes to shaping policy, practice, and new thinking on how to make trade more inclusive and to enable micro, small and medium-size enterprises to benefit from green trade. It will scale existing successful initiatives and develop new approaches to ensure women, youth and vulnerable groups benefit from growth and trade.

The Green and Inclusive Value Chains Unit (GIVC) is responsible for developing and disseminating sector level expertise for sustainable market driven solutions in ITC, including the Alliances for Action (A4A) approach. A4A seeks to develop responsible, inclusive and sustainable trade by aligning investment and coordination across the full ecosystem of VC actors and by building competitiveness especially in agribusiness. The establishment of partnerships and networks is an essential underlying element of the A4A approach as it contributes to mobilise collaboration, expertise and investment into the alliances along with sustainability of the approach over time. Alliances for Action (A4A) is an ITC initiative to establish a network that advances the Sustainable Development Goals through value chains partnerships that cultivate ethical, climate smart, sustainable and equitable trade. With A4A, ITC aims at achieving resilience and growth for farmers and MSMEs through more mindful and responsible trade, production and consumption systems and improved opportunities to compete on a global market. This includes building resilience and competitiveness of MSMEs, and enabling sustainable market linkages and value addition. The A4A approach is being implemented in several ITC projects including EU-ACP Business-Friendly (BF), EU Alliance for Coconut Industry Development in the Caribbean and Promoting jobs and growth through competitive alliances in Eswatini.

One important area for current and future capacity building is mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (mHREDD) in view of the recently issued EU Directive on Corporate Social Due Diligence (CSDD). For mHREDD to be effective, a system of shared responsibility must be adopted to identify, prevent, mitigate and remediate risks and harms. In addition, the focus should go beyond non-compliance to identify areas of improvement in sourcing, procurement and production practices that would prevent risk and harms.

The goal of this job function is to contribute to projects that aim at achieving resilience and growth for MSMEs and farmers through more mindful and responsible trade, production and consumption systems and improved opportunities to compete on a global market. This includes contributing to innovative

projects that leverage on linkages between trade and sustainable development, and build resilience and competitiveness of MSMEs, promote sustainable market linkages and local and regional value addition and consumption.

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the overall guidance of the Head of Inclusive Agribusiness, and direct supervision of the Senior Programme Officer A4A the Junior Professional Officer will:

- Support the effective coordination of field operations across countries and provide cross-cutting support to Project Managers from a strategic perspective;
- Undertake research in support of the work of the project team, e.g. in the design, implementation and analysis of MSMEs and farmers characterization surveys and on initiatives to integrate social and environmental concerns into trade policy frameworks;
- Contribute with technical insights in relation to advancing ITC's programming and project development in the areas of Corporate Due Diligence and to the development response to ESG compliance and associated challenges and opportunities;
- Support the direct Implementation of Value Chain and Market Systems projects in African, Caribbean, Latin American and Pacific countries, value chains and sectors;
- Assist in the design and support methodological innovation for the implementation of programme/project development and implementation including innovative approaches to build resilience and address the disruptions caused by the Food, Environmental, Economic and health crises;
- Support effective communication on A4A Market System Development principles and MSMEs outside ITC: contributing to research, briefs/thought pieces, leveraging ITC data to offer new insights, co-organising advocacy events and multi-stakeholder dialogues to shape the narrative on these critical issues;
- Contributes to the preparation of various written outputs such as draft background papers, analytical notes, sections of reports and studies, inputs to publications leveraging ITC data to offer new insights;
- Provides coordination and substantive support to advocacy events and multi-stakeholder dialogues;
- Support development, monitoring and mainstreaming of social environmental and economic sustainability in project work in agri-business value chain;
- Perform any other related duties as required.

## REQUIRED COMPETENCIES AND KNOWLEDGE

**ITC'S VALUES** are: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

**ITC'S CORE COMPETENCIES** are: Communication, Teamwork, Planning & Organizing, Accountability, Creativity, Client Orientation, Commitment to continuous learning, Technological awareness.

### CRITICAL JOB-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES

**PROFESSIONALISM:** Knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts and approaches relevant to particular sector, functional area or other specialized field. Ability to identify issues, analyze and participate in the resolution of issues/problems. Ability to conduct data collection using various methods. Conceptual analytical and evaluative skills to conduct independent research and analysis, including familiarity with and experience in the use of various research sources, including electronic sources on the internet, intranet and other databases. Ability to apply judgment in the context of assignments given, plan own work and manage conflicting priorities. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations.

Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

**TEAMWORK:** Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings.

**CLIENT ORIENTATION:** Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "clients" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; establishes and maintains productive partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; identifies clients' needs and matches them to appropriate solutions; monitors ongoing developments inside and outside the clients' environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; keeps clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client.

#### **Mandatory knowledge and skills**

- Analytical skills;
- Knowledge of value chain development;
- Knowledge of Inclusive and Sustainable development principles and policies.

#### **Desirable knowledge and skills**

- Knowledge on supporting producer organizations, promoting sustainable production and commercial alliances and fair and responsible MSME market systems would be an asset.
- Knowledge in evidence based participatory approaches that promote inclusive agribusiness systems and policy support frameworks for development; desirable.
- Knowledge in agricultural and trade economics, finance and market dynamics in agri-food is an asset.

### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **Education**

Advanced university degree in business administration, economics, management, political science, development studies or related field.

*Note: A first level university degree with a relevant combination of academic qualifications and professional experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.*

#### **Experience**

A minimum of two years of relevant experience in project or programme management, economics, international development or related area.

Experience in private sector development desirable. Experience in sustainable and inclusive market systems desirable. Experience working with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries will be an asset.

#### **Languages**

Advance level in English required.

Working knowledge of French or Spanish will be an asset.

### **LEARNING ELEMENT**

The Junior Professional Officer will be involved in the design and implementation of a set of participatory alliances for action projects across sectors, countries and regions

Through the assignment, the Junior Professional Officer will:

- Gain knowledge and experience on trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) project implementation
- Gain experience in performing quantitative and qualitative analysis to support TRTA project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Participate in conferences and workshops convening an inclusive collaboration between buyers and their value chain partners and stakeholders on the practicalities of implementing mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (mHREDD), to surface concrete ideas,

innovations, policies and tools within the typology of potential accompanying measures to the new EU regulations, that will help all actors operationalise mHREDD.

- Undertake field visits in the context of TRTA Projects.

On completion of the assignment, the Junior Professional Officer is expected to

- Have acquired a clear understanding of how to design, facilitate and convene inclusive collaborations between value chain actors and stakeholders, specifically to foster meaningful dialogues and common action on topics at the intersection between sustainable development, trade and investment policy frameworks.
- Be able to analyse and surface concrete ideas, innovations, policies and tools related to the practicalities of implementing mHREDD.
- Have acquired field level hands on experience in the facilitation of participatory evidence based private public partnerships for development
- Strengthen analytical and communication skills

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Alliances for Action Team is composed of multicultural and diverse professionals who are passionate about participatory partnership and bottom up approaches to development.

The JPO will work directly with the Head of ITC's "Inclusive Agribusiness Systems" team primarily to support the Alliances for Action (A4A) initiative that promotes inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chains through a model that works holistically from consumer to producer and results in better trade and increased producer resilience to shocks (environmental, economic, health). Our vision is to establish impact networks that transform value chains and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through producer partnerships that cultivate ethical, climate smart, sustainable value chains. We aim at achieving resilience and a sustainable approach to growth for farmers, workers and MSMEs through more mindful and responsible trade, production and consumption systems, and improved opportunities to compete and thrive on global, regional and local markets. To achieve these goals, we need to build strength and competitiveness of MSMEs and enable through partnerships at scale better participation and value distribution within value chains.

Interaction with other sections/clients: The JPO will interact with the Division of Country Programmes and with the technical sections in the Division of Enterprise and Institutions and the Division of Market Development.

Projects/Countries /Events: ACP Countries.