

Job Description for Professional Posts

Reference: NA2025/52

Position and Grade:	Associate Plant Pests Officer, P2
Organizational Unit:	Insect Pest Control Laboratory Insect Pest Control Section Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Duty Station:	Seibersdorf, Austria
Type/Duration of Appointment:	FT – JPO, 1 year

Organizational Setting

The Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications implements the IAEA's major programme on nuclear techniques for development and environmental protection (Major Programme 2). This major programme comprises individual programmes in 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 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 is located in the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications of the IAEA in Vienna. The Joint Centre assists Member States of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IAEA in using nuclear techniques and related technologies to improve food security, alleviate poverty and promote sustainable agriculture. It does so by coordinating and supporting applied research, providing technical and advisory services to Member State field projects as well as laboratory support and training, and collecting, analysing and disseminating information. The Joint Centre consists of five sections, each with an associated laboratory, 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 associated laboratories are part of the FAO/IAEA Agriculture & Biotechnology Laboratories (ABL) located in Seibersdorf, 45 km southeast of Vienna.

The Insect Pest Control (IPC) Section assists Member States with the development, dissemination and transfer of sterile insect and related technologies for the area-wide integrated suppression, containment or eradication of major insect pests affecting crops, livestock and human health with the objective of supporting FAO and IAEA Member States in reducing food losses, insecticide use, and disease transmission whilst facilitating international trade in agricultural commodities.

Main Purpose

The Associate Plant Pests Officer will contribute to the development of the combined use of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) and the Male Annihilation Technique (MAT) for fruit flies.

Role

The Associate Plant Pests Officer is: (i) a researcher on the SIT and MAT; (ii) an analyst to statistically analyse the data generated, and (iii) a writer of scientific papers for submission to peer reviewed journals.

Partnerships

The Associate Plant Pests Officer will collaborate with the other members of the IPC Laboratory (IPCL) (staff, visiting scientists, intern and fellows), with the members of the IPC Section, and with staff of the Department of Technical Cooperation.

Functions / Key Results Expected

- Collection of information and statistical analysis of data.
- Project / meeting services to support programme projects, products and services.
- Conducts laboratory research on the combined use of the Male Annihilation Technique and the Sterile Insect Technique.
- Conducts experiments in field cages to assess the efficiency of the MAT and SIT
- Evaluates data and statistical analysis.
- Contributes to peer-reviewed publication and reports documenting R&D findings.
- Contributes to the development of protocols.
- Assists with other activities of the IPCL in relation to CRP and TC projects on fruit fly SIT.

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.

Expertise	
Expertise	Description
Insect Pest Control	Knowledge on the sterile insect technique and the male annihilation technique for fruit flies.

Education, Experience and Language Skills

- University degree in entomology, plant protection or biochemistry.
- Minimum two years of experience with research on fruit flies, or field experience in the area of plant protection or with the management of fruit flies.
- Experience with the sterile insect technique for fruit flies would be an asset.
- 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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