

Liberia Vegetables Sellers Association (LVSA)

Job Description: Agricultural Technician

Reports to: The Administrative Manager (LVSA)

Location:

Start Date: 1 July 2018

Background

The Liberia Vegetable Sellers association (LVSA) is the umbrella organization for fruits and vegetables traders in Liberia. The Liberia Vegetables Sellers Association (LVSA) aims to shift vegetable purchases from imported varieties from neighbouring countries to produce grown in Liberia. To foster an improved relationship between local traders and farmers with a view to increasing the availability of quality of local produce on the market, LVSA has launched the '**LVSA Produce Buying Program**'. The LVSA Buying Program will seek to formalize trade relationships with local farmers in order to ensure consistent, quality sourcing. As part of the Program, LVSA will offer agronomic advisory to participating farmers and in recognition that support will be needed to ensure quality and consistency requirements.

In view of this, the LVSA seeks to hire a qualified individual to perform the below functions:

Job Description

The Agricultural Technician will report to and work directly with LVSA. He/She, in close collaboration with the farmers and LVSA, will develop and execute farm advisory plan and schedule to help participating farmers to attain required Produce Buying Program produce specifications.

The role will require significant agricultural advisory/extension experience, with emphasis on land selection and preparation, crop/inputs selection and management, farm management, post-harvest handling methods, and pest and disease control. The role demands a proactive, "can do" attitude and the ability to work under pressure – in at times remote locations – to meet deadlines and make things happen.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The Technician will work directly with LVSA and the contracted farmers and will be responsible for:

- Assisting and advising the farmers on land and input selection, application, and management.
 - This will be aligned to LVSA Produce Buying Program requirements and within the production/sales schedule.
 - Support to farmers will encompass:
 - Remote and in the field advisory support
 - Seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, preservatives, and packaging selection, application, and management
 - Farm management
 - Land selection and preparation
 - Pest, disease, crops and soil management
 - Seed testing, specification and recommendations
 - Post-harvest and irrigation technologies/management
 - Production in totality
 - Share up-to-date information with farmers on new technology and policies

- Devise a visit schedule and visit the farms of the contracted farmers on a regular basis.
- Offer and provide regular remote consultation with farmers and agricultural businesses
- Assist and support farmers with basic business management/recordkeeping practices and skills – primarily focused on computing and tracking production.

Qualifications

- Minimum 3-5 years professional experience in providing agricultural and extension services
- Bachelor's degree in agriculture/agronomy or related field, focus on tropical agricultural an advantage.

The candidate will need to show evidence of the following:

- Knowledge of the agricultural sector and ability to work with small farmers.
- Organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Flexibility to adapt schedule, engagement, and content to changing market circumstances and company needs
- Self-motivation and the ability to motivate others.
- Willingness to work in remote areas of Liberia, to travel often and for extended periods of time
- Good written and oral communication skills

Application submission

Closing date: 15 June 2018

Using the subject line “Agriculture Technician” interested and qualified individuals should submit their application by attaching:

1. CV
2. Cover letter that details that they are fit for the opportunity

To the following address: Opportunities@GrowLiberia.com