

Job Opportunity: Technical Advisor: Sustainable Agriculture

ABOUT MPUMALANGA GREEN CLUSTER AGENCY (MGCA)

The Mpumalanga Green Cluster Agency employs the triple helix cluster model with representation from Government, Industry, and Academia as part of its design setup. The cluster works at the interface between business, government, and academia in order to identify and remove barriers to economically viable green economy catalysing its uptake to enable the region and its citizens to prosper.

MGCA is a non-profit organisation that works to advance a sustainable and inclusive green economy and create shared value in the Mpumalanga province. We work both at the micro and macro level supporting green-tech SMEs build their businesses, enabling bigger businesses to improve their environmental footprint, and assisting the provincial government to create the right environment for a more resilient green economy. Ultimately, we are helping to facilitate more investment, ecosystem building and stimulate job creation into Mpumalanga's green economy.

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that aims to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA integrates the need for increased agricultural productivity, enhanced resilience, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

JOB PURPOSE

A Technical Advisor on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) plays a crucial role in guiding and supporting the implementation of CSA practices and policies. Their primary purpose is to ensure that agricultural practices are adapted to meet the challenges posed by climate change while promoting sustainability, productivity, and resilience. The technical focus of this position combines functional expertise in project management with technical advisory expertise in agriculture climate change adaptation and value chain development. The advisor will be responsible for overall project design, source funding, research and catalysing /facilitate implementation of sustainable agriculture practises as follows:

- **Expert Guidance and Support:**

- Provide expert advice on the design and implementation of CSA practices.
- Assist in developing strategies and action plans for integrating CSA into agricultural systems.
- Offer technical support to farmers, extension workers, and agricultural organizations

- **Capacity Building and Training:**

- Develop and deliver training programs for farmers, agricultural workers, and stakeholders on CSA practices and technologies.
- Build the capacity of local institutions and extension services to promote and support CSA.

- **Policy Development and Advocacy:**

- Collaborate with government departments to formulate and implement policies that support CSA.
- Advocate for policy changes that promote sustainable agricultural practices and resilience to climate change.
- Participate in policy dialogues and provide evidence-based recommendations.

- **Research and Innovation:**

- Conduct or facilitate research on CSA practices, technologies, and their impacts.
- Promote the adoption of innovative CSA practices and technologies.
- Stay updated on the latest developments in CSA and integrate new knowledge into advisory services.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Develop frameworks and tools to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of CSA initiatives.
- Analyze data and provide feedback to improve CSA strategies and practices.
- Report on the outcomes and impacts of CSA programs to stakeholders.

- **Resource Mobilization and Project Management:**

- Assist in securing funding and resources for CSA projects and initiatives.
- Manage and coordinate CSA projects, ensuring they meet their goals and objectives.
- Work with international organizations, donors, and partners to support CSA efforts.

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Networking:**

- Foster collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, policymakers, NGOs, public and private sector entities.
- Organize and participate in workshops, conferences, and field visits to promote CSA.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices.

- **Technical Documentation and Reporting:**

- Prepare technical reports, policy briefs, and guidance documents on CSA.
- Document successful CSA case studies and best practices.
- Provide clear and accessible information to various audiences, including farmers, policymakers, and the general public.
- Provide technical, coordination advice and support to the work of MGCA
- Performs other duties as required by MGCA in order to achieve the above tasks.

Job Requirement	Technical Advisor: Agriculture
Qualification / Education	degree in Agriculture or related field of qualification. Post Graduate qualification will be an added advantage.
Knowledge & Experience	2-4 years' relevant experience in agricultural sector. Experience or knowledge of agricultural sector, or related field Project management training and experience advantageous Experience with community engagement
Skills and attributes	Time management skills. Strong analytical skills. Quantitative data collection and management ability. Interest in sustainable market trends High levels of integrity. Ability to work well individually or in a team Capable of establishing professional working relationships with diverse stakeholders, including business, investors and government. Strong communication skills (written and verbal), with confidence in both formal and informal public speaking engagements High levels of professionalism. Use initiative be proactive in project execution
Remuneration	Basic Salary (consummate with skills of applicant)
Location	Middelburg with extensive travelling across Mpumalanga
Term	1 year (12 months)

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector
- supporting producers and producer organizations adapt to climate change
- inclusive and sustainable value chain development
- business planning and agriculture finance
- digital agro-meteorology and advisory service

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A successful candidate for the position will have the following skills:

1. Must have a passion for the inclusive sustainable development of South Africa and a willingness to travel around South Africa and outside of South Africa
2. Must enjoy connecting with diverse stakeholders, listening and engaging to understand their context, barriers and opportunities, and ability to translate learnings and insights across diverse sectors to facilitate buy-in to a common vision and plan.

The following will be an advantage:

1. Fluency in spoken languages in Mpumalanga Province
2. Have an existing network of key stakeholders in the sector

CONTRACT LENGTH AND REMUNERATION

This is a contract position for 1 year (12 months), contract renewal will depend on performance and the organizations requirements at the time. There will be a three-month probation period for this position.

Remuneration will be market-related, with the recognition that MGCA is a not-for-profit organisation. Offers made will take qualifications, experience and level of responsibility into account.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications must include:

- A letter of motivation
- A detailed CV
- Certified Copies of academic Qualifications
- Proof of eligibility to work in South Africa (copy of SA ID or work permit)

Applications and queries can be submitted via email to: info@mpumalangagreencluster.co.za and copy celeste@mpumalangagreencluster.co.za

Closing date: 21 June 2024