

Consultancy Announcement

Social Protection policy and programming specialist - Lesotho

The FAO Social Protection Team (SOCPRO <http://www.fao.org/economic/social-protection/en/>) is spearheading new work on strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection in developing countries. This is shaping country and global-level discourse on approaches to combatting poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We generate evidence on the linkages between agriculture and social protection and use this for providing policy and capacity development support and for engaging in advocacy. Our work stems from “The From Protection to Production (PtoP) Project”, which provided evidence on the productive impacts of social cash transfer programmes on household economic decision-making and the local economy (<http://www.fao.org/economic/ptop/en/>).

We are seeking a **social protection policy and programming specialist** to deepen FAO’s contribution to strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection in Lesotho by:

- Providing technical support to the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) and its related programmes and programmes/policies in the agricultural sector, including the National Food Security Policy.
- Assisting in the design, operationalization and monitoring of the emergency response to El Nino drought with national upscale of complementary agricultural and social protection interventions

As a social protection policy and programing specialist you will:

- Lead FAO’s contributions to the NSPS by contributing to planning and technical discussions with Government and development partners meetings, identifying technical needs and gaps and proposing follow-up activities;
- Represent FAO in institutional coordination mechanisms by contributing to discussions on linkages between agriculture and social protection;
- Advise FAO on its in-country planning for strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection, including on shock-responsive social protection;
- Plan, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of FAO contributions to the NSPS, with a particular focus on facilitating collaboration between FAO, development partners and between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Social Development;
- Provide technical advice to national and development counterparts on the design of coherent agricultural and social protection interventions and shock-responsive social protection;
- Facilitate active participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in relevant policy and programming processes by liaising with them and providing on-the-job support to deepen their understanding of linkages between agriculture and social protection and the ministry’s potential contributions to strengthening these;
- Design Terms of Reference/Letters of Agreement for delivering technical services to national partners;
- Organize, facilitate and provide expert technical contributions to technical roundtables and advocacy events to influence policy and programme design with high-level representatives of development partners and government;
- Design and coordinate the implementation of complementary agricultural and social protection interventions, and possibly also health, in response to the drought;
- Support monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and other analytical activities by facilitating coordination between FAO analytical units, Government and other stakeholders, with a focus on 1) the M&E framework for the Child Grants Programme (CGP) + up-scaled homestead gardening intervention and on 2) the baseline survey of the impact evaluation of the CGP +



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Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and access to Government Services (SPRINGS) intervention

- Conduct lesson-learning exercises and write-up findings (e.g. policy briefs, newsletters etc.) to deepen understanding on experiences in bringing together agriculture and social protection and on shock-responsive social protection.
- Perform other duties as required.

The suitable candidate will have:

- MSc in economics, agricultural economics, rural development, development studies or other related subject;
- At least 7 years of experience in coordinating programming activities and providing technical support to Government;
- Excellent written and spoken English; and
- Experience in working with UN and/or international development agencies and with the agricultural sector is preferable.

Begins: as soon as possible

Duty station: Maseru, Lesotho

Duration: till December 2016, with possibility of renewal

Salary: commensurate with experience

If interested please send your curriculum vitae and a covering letter of maximum 350 words in English, clearly stating “social protection policy and programming specialist - Lesotho” in the subject title, to: ESP-vacancies@fao.org by Friday, 10 June 2016.

