

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF28899
Post Title:	Post-Doctoral Research Assistant (GCRF Cocoa Soils Project)
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	Agriculture, Policy and Development
Reports to:	Dr Andrew Daymond/ Prof Hadley
Responsible for:	Grade 5 Technician

Purpose

We seek a highly motivated post-doctoral researcher to work on a BBSRC-GCRF funded project on improvement of cocoa soils in Ghana through composting and biochar production, running to March 2021.

Main duties and responsibilities

The post-doctoral researcher will be responsible for:

- Working with project partners in Ghana to design and implement greenhouse, field-level and on-farm experiments (spending up to six weeks per year in Ghana)
- Conducting controlled environment experiments on the performance of cocoa seedlings in different soil amended media
- Providing oversight of analyses of soil and plant samples
- Statistically analysing and interpreting research data
- Contributing to the writing of papers for publication in high impact academic journals and other relevant media
- Disseminating findings at national and international conferences
- Undertaking project-related administration (e.g. organising project meetings, workshops)

Supervision received

Principle supervision will be provided Dr Andrew Daymond and support and advice provided by the rest of the project team (Dr Tom Sizmur, Dr Steve Robinson, Dr John Hammond and Prof Paul Hadley).

Supervision given

A grade 5 technician.

Contact

Frequent contact required with staff at Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

Terms and conditions

This is a full-time, fixed term contract until March 2021. Requests for part time or flexible working will be considered.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: 30/04/19

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Post-Doctoral Research Assistant (GCRF Cocoa Soils Project)	Agriculture, Policy and Development

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad range of skills in agronomy and soil science Skills in whole plant physiology Good data handling and statistical skills 	
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD in Crop Science, Soil Science or other relevant discipline 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent knowledge of composting and biochar Basic understanding of tropical agriculture 	
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience undertaking fieldwork Experience of greenhouse and/ or controlled environment experiments Experience of soil analytical techniques Experience of presenting research findings at seminars or conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of working in a tropical environment Experience of nanopore technology Experience of NMR, FTIR and ICP analysis
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness to spend periods of time in Ghana Diplomatic when working with project partners Ability to work independently and take initiative Strong team player Willingness to work flexibly Ability to plan and prioritise work to meet deadlines 	

Completed by: Andrew Daymond	Date: 30/04/2019
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