

Call for an organic adviser to the CFC project on Organic Tea in India

Deadline for application: 15th January. Please send applications to j.katto@ifoam.org, including a CV and a letter of interest.

The project is financed by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, executed by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), based in Bonn, Germany, and supervised by the Food and Agriculture Organization through its Trade and Markets Division based in Rome, Italy.

The project has a duration of 3 years, with the Indian component running from September 2008 to September 2011. It aims to contribute to the development, production and trade of organic tea. To achieve these objectives, the project contains 3 main components:

- 1) Applied research on organic tea production by tea research institutes and model farms across India
- 2) Capacity building at all levels (smallholders and farm workers, farm managers, scientists and extension workers, etc).
- 3) Generation of market information and promotion of Indian organic tea.

IFOAM's program department is the executing agency for the project and manages overall project planning, monitoring and reporting. In India, the Tea Board of India (TBI) based in Kolkata, coordinates the implementation of the project, prepares the accounts and monitors progress in all 3 project sites (Assam, Darjeeling and South India). To enable optimum technical and organic guidance to the project, IFOAM is now looking for an organic adviser to the India component of the project, for the remaining 2 years (until Sept 2011). This position is a part time or consultancy-based position, with remuneration and time schedule to be negotiated with the successful candidate, based on his/her expertise. IFOAM will give preference to Indian nationals.

Position title: Organic Adviser to the CFC project on Organic Tea in India

Reports to: IFOAM Program Manager.

Objectives:

- To give guidance to the Tea Board of India and the other collaborating agencies and organizations involved in the project, with regards to the set-up, implementation and exploitation of the organic tea production research activities, and work with the collaborating agencies to produce reports of the research activities.
- To give advice to the Tea Board of India with regards to the coordination of capacity building activities on organic tea.

- To participate in annual evaluations of the project and provide external input to the project evaluation team.

Tasks:

- Review and comment on research protocols of all research institutes (3) and model farms (3) involved in the project, with a view to ensure adequate approach to organic research.
- Guide, review and comment on progress reports of research results during the course of the project.
- Maintain regular communication with the TBI regarding all questions related to the implementation of the research and capacity building components.
- Advise the TBI on the implementation and coordination of capacity building activities.
- Regularly communicate with IFOAM to ensure good project understanding among all partners, including the donor (CFC) and the supervisory body (FAO).

Required skills:

Indispensable:

- Senior level experience with organic agriculture research and training.
- Good connections with the organic sector in India and internationally.
- Excellent command of English, both spoken and written.
- Fluency in common computer software and regular access to Internet.
- Extensive experience in project management and reporting requirements for international projects.
- Extensive international exposure.
- Ability to maintain regular communication and to meet deadlines.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of tea production.
- Good understanding of organic certification systems.
- Experience in multi-cultural communication.
- Experience in collecting market information and organizing promotion for organic products.