



## Cocoa of Excellence, Manager of the Programme

### The Organization

Cocoa of Excellence recognises, preserves, values, and promotes cocoa quality and flavour diversity across the value chain to improve smallholder farmers' livelihoods and drive sustainability of the cocoa supply chain for thriving, resilient and healthy communities, from origins to consumers. Our vision is Excellence in the cocoa sector catalysing multiple benefits for resilient and thriving agricultural systems at landscape and global level. Cocoa of Excellence is the entry point for cocoa producers to participate in the Cocoa of Excellence Awards, the most prestigious global competition that recognizes the work of cocoa farmers and celebrates the quality and flavour diversity of cocoas produced around the world. It provides global recognition to producers of superior quality cocoa and celebrates the diversity of flavours from different producing origins. Established in 2009, Cocoa of Excellence is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and organized in partnership with several public and private sector partners.

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people in a climate crisis.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

[www.cocoaofexcellence.org](http://www.cocoaofexcellence.org) / [www.alliancebioversityciat.org](http://www.alliancebioversityciat.org) / [www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)

### About the position

Based in Rome, Italy, and under the direct supervision of the Director of Cocoa of Excellence, the Manager of the Cocoa of Excellence Programme will be responsible for overseeing the achievement of the programme's goals and planning the successful delivery of the outputs and products according to the calendar of activities.

### Responsibilities

#### Programme Management and Strategic Leadership

- Lead the implementation of the new Cocoa of Excellence strategy, business plan, structure and organization
- Ensure daily programme management and that the organisation stays on schedule and on specifications
- Ensure oversight of all projects and coordinate their interdependencies
- Monitor, evaluate and report on progress towards the achievement of key performance indicators



The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

Bioversity International is the operational name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

Headquarters  
Via di San Domenico, 1  
00153 Rome  
Italy  
Tel. (+39) 06 61181

[alliancebioversityciat.org/](http://alliancebioversityciat.org/)  
[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)

- Establish clear feedback mechanisms to inform assessment and refinement of strategies, policies, and practices, and ensure they continue to reflect the desired organizational culture and business goals

#### **Partnerships and communications**

- Build and maintain strategic partnerships internally and externally, with relevant cocoa sector stakeholders, funders and investors, technical partners, and policy makers, towards achieving the objectives of Cocoa of Excellence
- Manage stakeholders' communication and ensure effective communication towards promoting the programme, its achievements and objectives as well as supporting fundraising and investments
- Develop communications strategies to raise the profile of Cocoa of Excellence in international development agendas

#### **Human and Financial planning and oversight**

- Lead and motivate a team of scientists and technical staff to ensure the delivery of outputs and outcomes contributing to the implementation of the 2022-2027 Cocoa of Excellence Strategy
- Facilitate the team to strategically plan and implement activities, including agendas for new research and outreach priorities, in an environment where teamwork is valued, and professional excellence encouraged
- Lead the development of annual work plans, including major risks and mitigating actions
- Manage and report on the financial resources of Cocoa of Excellence working with the Project Financial Analysis and Support (PLANS) Unit of the Alliance

#### **Fundraising and investment**

- Guide the development of the business model for sustainable financing of Cocoa of Excellence and identify investment opportunities
- Oversee the development of research proposals that advance Cocoa of Excellence, working closely with the team and the Alliance's Partnership & Communication Unit

#### **Essential requirements**

- PhD or Master's degree in a field relevant to the objectives of Cocoa of Excellence
- Managerial or supervisory experience
- Proven ability to inspire and develop a team of specialists, with strong commitment to promoting diversity, knowledge sharing, and staff development
- Previous work experience in the private sector or in research for development, including working with the private sector
- Proven track record of developing, planning, executing and monitoring the implementation of major projects or programmes
- Proven track record of designing and implementing strategies, policies, practices, and supporting systems in complex, geographically dispersed and multicultural organizations
- Specific knowledge of and experience with cocoa or/and coffee sectors
- Strong understanding of the issues related to agriculture or rural development, including commodity value chains
- Practical experience as project manager for large and complex initiatives

- Excellent facilitation, communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to effectively interact with people at all levels and build consensus in a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environment
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain positive, cooperative and effective relationships with colleagues and external partners, including research, development, private sector and funding partners
- Drive and entrepreneurship to envision and pursue new opportunities
- In-depth understanding of how technology can be leveraged to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of programs in a geographically dispersed organization
- Excellent command of the English language both written and spoken
- Demonstrated ability to serve as an agent of change to build a unified culture and a dynamic, integrated, and agile organization
- Experience with working in/or living in developing countries
- Knowledge of French and/or Spanish languages desirable

### **Terms of employment**

This is an internationally recruited position based in Rome, Italy. The salary is level 10, in a scale of 14 levels, with level 14 being the highest. The Alliance offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, non-contributory retirement plan, medical insurance, housing allowance and leave provisions. All benefits are denominated and paid in US Dollars. The initial contract will be for a period of two years subject to a probationary period of six months and is renewable based on performance and availability of funds.

### **Applications**

Please apply online through the website no later than 15 January 2023, attaching a letter of application with names and email addresses of at least three referees, and a curriculum vitae, both in English. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

### **Closing date for applications: 15 January 2023**

We invite you to learn more about us at:

<http://alliancebioiversityciat.org>

Please visit our careers page at:

<https://alliancebioiversityciat.org/careers>

