



Define Critical Policy as Platform Leader for a top Research for Development Institute

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's premier research organization dedicated to improving livelihoods and nutrition, abolishing poverty, hunger and malnutrition among those who depend on rice. In doing so, IRRI's work protects the health of rice farmers and consumers, and the environmental sustainability of rice farming in a world challenged by climate change. CTI has been retained to fill a key position at IRRI, the *Platform Leader for Agri-Food Policy*. This senior leadership role is a key piece of a recently launched Strategic Plan that redefines IRRI priority areas in response to the needs of a rapidly evolving rice sector.

This new strategic plan strengthens IRRI's international presence and external partnerships as well as effective research collaborations internally, allowing IRRI to secure the resources required to deliver against high performance expectations over the next decade. This is a newly created position and one of four Platforms established in order to deliver on priority areas of the Strategic Plan. The Agri-Food Policy Platform consists of these areas: developing inputs to policy debates and policy formulation processes, foresighting future developments in the agri-food sector, impact assessment, and economic and trade analysis and modeling.

Platform Leader for Agri-Food Policy

The position will play a key role in repositioning the Institute as a preferred provider of knowledge based outcomes leveraging IRRI's scientific expertise, international convening role and trusted advisor status, and extensive partnerships network. In addition to being a recognized international expert in the field, the successful applicant will have the leadership experience, standing and personal qualities required to provide inspirational leadership to a group of Research Cluster Leaders who will be leading contributions into IRRI's new cross-institutional Outcome Themes, and provide strategic guidance in research innovations, partnerships and delivery of program and projects. Platform Leaders have a critical role in shaping IRRI's research for development agenda by bringing together discipline-based teams (in what are called Research Clusters) with cross-institutional outcomes (referred to as Outcome Themes at IRRI), in order to ensure both the research and delivery imperatives of the Institute are met. The job reports to the Deputy Director General for Research. The Platform Leader will:

- Based on their international standing and experience, lead and manage a team of Research Cluster Leaders in the areas of policy analysis; foresighting, market analysis; and impact evaluation and learning;
- Be responsible for the ongoing development, articulation and execution of the Platform strategy;
- Contribute through their professional expertise to research for development in one of the target areas of the Platform;
- Have primary responsibility for several cross-Platform multi-disciplinary Outcome Themes, assuring that outcome delivery is aligned with IRRI's vision, mission, values, target goals, policies and procedures;
- Provide strategic leadership in research for development as a key member of the leadership group reporting to the Deputy Director General for Research;
- Explore and cultivate policy-side cutting edge ideas in resolving food and nutritional security issues related to the rice agri-food sector;
- Partner closely with IRRI leadership and the grants/resource mobilizations teams to assure funding within the Platform and contribute to (and on occasion lead) development of institution-wide initiatives;
- Work in close collaboration with other Platform Leaders, Regional Reps, IRRI Education and Research Support to assure cross-Platform contributions to IRRI's research for development and capacity building programs;

- Be responsible for ensuring scientific credibility and capacity within the Research Clusters, overseeing the recruitment, management/development of Platform staff, ensuring their access to key research materials and systems while promoting/modeling collaborative relationships amongst IRRI scientists and external partners;
- Contribute collaboratively to the Institute-wide research management team reporting to the Deputy Director General for Research in order to ensure cross-disciplinary, cross-site, and cross-functional collaborations;
- Ensure accountability of Research Cluster and Outcome Theme Leaders to deliver research outcomes in compliance with donor requirements and IRRI's policies and procedures;
- As part of a team, bring in new resources to support IRRI's objectives, ensuring high performance research for development delivery from the Platform in order to attract these new resources;
- Facilitate the identification of research priorities and optimum usage of IRRI's resources;
- Promote, sustain and develop new strategic partnerships and alliances with public and private stakeholders to cultivate collaborative research programs, always acting as a catalyst and champion of IRRI-wide changes to achieve IRRI's mission and goals.
- Coordinate with IRRI's Executive Team, through the DDG-R, in the execution of the Platform, Research Cluster and Outcome Theme goals and priorities;
- Represent IRRI in research fora, local and international conferences to sustain and develop working relationship with new target investors, donors, government partners, communities and private institutions;
- Advocate IRRI's research for development in international research fora to enhance the IRRI's global brand;
- Engage with IRRI's national and regional partners to provide evidence-based input into policy debates and policy formulation processes; and engage with CGIAR Research Programs, Platforms and Communities of Practice as determined by the DDGR;
- Facilitate the development, alignment and integration of Research Clusters and Outcome Theme operational plans, objectives and key performance indicators;
- Lead and facilitate the completion and delivery of research for development outcomes and ensure compliance to donor requirements within agreed timeframes;
- Harness the synergy and nurture the creativity of individual staff, multidisciplinary and cross functional research teams to generate innovative research programs and secure new sources of funding;
- Manage, develop and monitor the performance of Research Cluster and Outcome Theme Leaders to ensure the quality and continuous growth of human resources and to build high performing teams;
- Become an effective change manager by visibly supporting culture change and organizational development initiatives across IRRI; contribute in the review and ongoing revision of IRRI policies, procedures and processes.

Qualifications and Experience:

- PhD in a relevant field of policy based on the above mentioned disciplines involved.
- Recognized international leader in one of these relevant fields
- Significant multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary leadership and management experience
- Understand research for development challenges and opportunities
- Excellent people management skills
- Excellent advocacy, presentation, influencing, and entrepreneurial skills
- Excellent project management skills
- Proven ability to establish high level of cooperation and alliances
- Ideally, work experience in Africa or Asia

If you are interested in this role or can provide suggested contacts for CTI on this search, please contact us in confidence. *Our search is not confidential and this document may be redistributed.*

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