



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Program Director, Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops

Ag Innovations Network (AIN) is now hiring a Program Director to serve as the lead coordinator, project manager, and communications representative of the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops (SISC), an unprecedented multi-stakeholder initiative to develop an industry-accepted system for benchmarking and reporting sustainable performance in the specialty crop sector.

Position Description

The Program Director will serve as the lead coordinator, project manager, and communications representative for the implementation of the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops. Primary responsibilities for this position include coordinating the efforts of many participating organizations to develop sustainability metrics, pilot test draft metrics, and develop tools and protocols for using SISC metrics in commerce. Additional responsibilities will include managing communications, outreach and fundraising. The Program Director will report directly to the President of AIN and will work closely with the SISC Steering Committee to implement the project. In collaboration with these and other project participants, the Program Director will:

- Support the SISC Coordinating Council and Steering Committee, including meeting scheduling, managing the agenda and meeting logistics, tracking work products and facilitating discussions and decision-making.
- Provide project management for the development and completion of sustainability metrics. The Program Director will work with metric facilitators and other stakeholders to develop metric solutions and evaluate them through in-field pilots.
- Coordinate SISC's process for achieving consensus on how to use sustainability metrics in commerce, including any necessary protocols, policies and tools.
- Work with the Steering Committee and the Coordinating Council to develop a communications plan and implement that plan, for both internal and external audiences. Communications efforts will include regular communication to project participants, outreach to the media, and recruitment of new stakeholder participants.
- The Program Director will serve as a spokesperson for the project and may present on behalf of the project at conferences and meetings.
- Oversee fundraising efforts, in collaboration with the Steering Committee and Coordinating Council, including the solicitation of contributions from project members, writing grant proposals and reports, and manage project finances.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following skills and experience:

- Demonstrated ability to manage complex projects, including at least five years of relevant professional experience. Qualifying experience may include work in not-for-profit organizations, government agencies, the private sector, and time spent earning a graduate degree in a related field. Expertise in one or more of the many sustainability issues relevant to food and agriculture is highly desirable.
- Previous leadership or extensive participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated ability in working with diverse stakeholders, including industry representatives and public interest advocates.
- Experience in creating and executing communications and public relations programs.
- Experience in fundraising, including corporate contributions and foundation and/or government grant writing and grants management.
- Excellent communication skills, including both written and verbal.
- Excellent meeting management skills including agenda preparation and meeting facilitation.
- Ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and project management software applications.
- Meticulous organizational skills and ability to keep track of multiple project efforts.
- Working knowledge of organizational development, financial management, and budgets.
- Ability to work as part of a team to solve problems, coordinate projects and to develop short and long-term business plans.
- Ability to multi-task; work within a fast-moving environment, while also driving toward clarity and solutions.

Position location

Position location is flexible, with preference for proximity to AIN's offices in Sebastopol, CA (i.e.: Greater San Francisco Bay Area)

Compensation

Compensation is negotiable, depending on experience. Medical and retirement benefits are included.

About AIN

Ag Innovations Network (AIN) is a leader in the effort to create a vibrant, healthy, and enduring food system (see <http://aginnovations.org/>). Since 2000, AIN has worked with farmers, ranchers, farm labor advocates, environmentalists, food processors, distributors, retailers, and health and food access advocates—virtually every stakeholder in the food system—to devise strategies that create better results at every

stop from farm to fork. AIN focuses exclusively on facilitating the dialogue between stakeholders that will lead to new business models, new ways to grow and distribute food, new community efforts, and new public policy to create a better food system. AIN provides coordination, facilitation and leadership to implement the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops.

About the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops

The Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops is a multi-stakeholder initiative to develop a system for measuring sustainable performance throughout the specialty crop supply chain. The project seeks to offer a suite of outcomes-based metrics to enable operators at any point along the supply chain to benchmark, compare, and communicate their own performance. To date, more than 400 people have joined SISC's open effort to develop sustainability metrics including growers and representatives from trade associations, nonprofit public interest organizations, universities, government agencies and consulting firms, among others. The project is governed by a Coordinating Council representing many of the nation's most influential agricultural organizations, food buyers and NGOs. A project Steering Committee provides day-to-day administration of the effort. Visit SISC on-line at <http://www.stewardshipindex.org/>

To apply:

Please send a résumé and cover letter describing your interest and qualifications to:

Dan Schurman, CEO
Ag Innovations Network
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Sebastopol, CA 95472
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Deadline for receipt of applications is May 31, 2010.

Ag Innovations Network is an equal opportunity employer.