



Position title: Head, IRRI Experimental Station

Supervisor: Deputy Director-General, Operations and Support Services

Country: Philippines

The SRI Group has been appointed by the **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** to assist with a major recruitment drive. IRRI is currently undergoing a huge growth phase with urgent requirement for postdoctoral fellows, and other more experienced international candidates with expertise in some of the following areas - plant genetics/breeding, plant physiology, plant biochemistry, and developmental biology. These roles will be based in Philippines or India and will be at least 3-5 years in duration, with a good likelihood that the contracts will be extended further.

Based in the Philippines, the International Rice Research Institute is the oldest and largest international agricultural research institute in Asia. It is an autonomous, nonprofit rice research and education organization with staff based in 14 countries in Asia and Africa. Its mission is to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure that rice production is environmentally sustainable. We work closely with most rice-producing and -consuming countries and their national agricultural research and extension systems as well as farming communities and a range of international, regional, and local organizations. In partnerships with these national systems, IRRI conducts research and provides training and education for those helping rice farmers by disseminating information and proven, sustainable technologies. IRRI was established in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations in cooperation with the Philippine government. Its headquarters—which feature modern laboratories, training and accommodation facilities, and a 252-hectare experimental farm—lie next to the main campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, about 60 kilometers south of the Philippine capital, Manila.

Position title: Head, IRRI Experimental Station

Location: IRRI headquarters, Los Banos Philippines

Supervisor: Deputy Director General (Operations and Support Services); other reporting line: DDG-R for support in research-related matters

Position Purpose:

To lead IRRI's Experimental Station, including cost-efficient management of all resources at high quality standards of a modern, international research farm operation.

Responsibilities:

IRRI's Experimental Station is approximately 280 ha in area and includes field, greenhouse and phytotron space used by different research groups. Rice is double-cropped annually with distinct wet and dry season crops, as well as in rotation with other crops. The Experiment Station's mandate is to (i) provide the operations, manpower and facilities necessary to conduct field and greenhouse research projects at high quality standards, (ii) manage production land in a cost-efficient and sustainable manner, and (iii) meet high standards of environmental management, occupational health and safety. The Experimental Station has approximately 80 employees.



The services of the ES include:

- Allocation and management of land, greenhouse, and phytotron space to research and production activities;
- Develop and implement policies for operating field, greenhouse, and phytotron facilities;
- Field management services such as land development, land preparation, fallow management, irrigation, nutrient and pest management, crop scouting and providing advice to research groups, and harvesting;
- Repair and maintenance services for tractors, graders, threshers, harvesters, dryers and other farm infrastructure, special equipment and associated facilities;
- Management of the Grounds unit services which includes landscape development and maintenance as well as waste management at the staff housing and the research center;
- Infrastructure development and maintenance (buildings, roads, machinery, irrigation, grain processing)
- Managing contract labor services which serves the temporary unskilled agricultural manpower requirements of IRRI researchers;
- Implementation of environmental management systems;
- Cost-efficient crop production on 50-100 ha of land and operation and maintenance of the rice mill;
- Professional staff development and conduct of training activities related to all aspects of field and greenhouse research and production operations;
- Provide efficient systems for billing, materials and labor management, and self-sustained business planning.

Job Specifics

Specifically the Head of the Experimental Station will be required to:

- Develop, implement and monitor operational plans for the management of assets (land, buildings, machinery/equipment) and farming activities on (or under the control of) the Experimental Station.
- Develop and implement new business approaches for managing the ES resources. Implement full cost recovery initiatives on the research station in a transparent and supportive manner; and maximize the usage of new technologies to enable innovation, communication and greater efficiencies.
- Manage experimental station assets and introduce new procedures for the acquisition, security and disposal of machinery, equipment, buildings, produce and consumables
- Implement new construction and refurbishment projects in a cost-efficient, time-bound and transparent manner.
- Proactively identify areas for improvement in field and greenhouse management and communicate this to research groups and IRRI management.
- Lead the IRRI Farm Advisory Committee as the principal interface between the ES and research groups in IRRI.
- Improve and maintain professional competencies; take responsibility for individual and staff career development and participate in appropriate networks.
- Implement appropriate risk management strategies including workplace health and safety and ensure site operations comply with all corporate governance and regulatory frameworks



- Display a high level of interpersonal skills, ensuring effective communication when consulting, representing, communicating and negotiating with management, and staff at all levels.
- Develop and maintain constructive working relationships and networks with staff, clients and stakeholders.
- Foster diversity and tolerance of diversity in the work unit.

Requirements

- Degree or Diploma from a recognized tertiary institution or equivalent academic qualifications and experience, in agronomy, agricultural engineering or other fields relevant to the position
- At least 5 years experience in the management of an agricultural research stations or comparable operations
- Demonstrated knowledge of modern farming technologies and farm management approaches, with particular emphasis on agronomic best management practices. Knowledge of rice farming and research methods is an additional advantage.
- A demonstrated ability for conducting business planning and managing assets and operations associated with field and greenhouse research on a cost-efficient basis.
- A demonstrated record of leadership and productivity in the context of a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Current driver's license and ability to operate farm machinery
- High level interpersonal skills

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