



Director of Research

General Description

This senior position leads interesting and innovative research on the sustainability of food and agriculture systems in developing countries. The work features a balanced approach to impact assessment that combines economic, social, and environmental dimensions. This approach is designed as practical applied science that is accessible to companies, policymakers, and producers in order to facilitate smarter sustainability choices. A key focus is to further evolve efficient (semi-standardized) methods that facilitate collaboration with our growing number of institutional research partners. This is more than an academic desk job, it will reward a person who enjoys a worthwhile challenge and is dedicated to making a difference.

COSA is a non-profit consortium that collaborates with world-class partners, both public and private.

Job responsibilities and required skills

The Director of Research will set a collaborative tone for learning with COSA staff and global partners and will be specifically responsible for:

1. Creating and coordinating the research work plans in consultation with the management team
2. Keeping abreast of impact evaluation methodologies and having sufficient knowledge, both qualitative and quantitative, to further develop and systematize measurement methods. Capacities include:
 - a) PhD degree in relevant fields e.g. development or agricultural economics. Econometric and statistical skills should be adequate for basic University teaching.
 - b) Flexibility to adapt mixed-method approaches in order to design and manage for the practical compromises of often challenging field conditions. (see "COSA Methods")
 - c) Substantive experience managing field work
3. Good communication and the collaborative character to coordinate working relationships with operational partners and key stakeholders.
 - a) Ability to coach and manage multiple researchers in diverse developing country institutions to ensure quality research and analysis for timely delivery of work products.
 - b) Teaching experience, sense of humor, and demonstrated writing skills are all positive assets as is the ability to present scientific findings and methods so that they are understandable to diverse (including non-expert) audiences
4. Being very disciplined organizationally and with time management skills to ensure timely delivery of research outputs, publications with partners, and policy briefs.
5. Fluency in English and optimally at least one other language with professional-level functionality.

Motivation and Remuneration

A passion for the issues of sustainable development is critical. We are non-profit, offer health and retirement benefits, and remuneration is flexible and fair according to skills and experience.

Location

Flexible in US, Europe, or select countries. Requires some overseas travel ca. 6-8 times/year.

Interested in applying for this position?

Send inquiries, CVs, and cover letter to:

Louise Salinas, Operations Director

email: info@thecosa.org

COSA is not able to respond to all inquiries and only candidates of interest will be contacted.