

Call for Expressions of Interest

Join the Australian Volunteers Program

Volunteer Entomology and IPM Advisor – Champasak Province, Lao PDR
November 2018 to November 2019

The Crawford Fund in association with the Australian Volunteers Program are calling for expressions of interest for an **Entomology and IPM Advisor** as part of the Crawford Fund Capacity Building Program in Lao PDR. The Crawford Fund has been working in partnership with the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry since 2009.

The [Australian Volunteers Program](#) is an Australian Government initiative that supports Australians to contribute to sustainable development across our region. Volunteers are supported with return airfares, visas, living allowances, training and more. The program has partnered with the Crawford Fund to support its work in Lao PDR.

The volunteer will be assigned to the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) in Pakse, Champasak Province in southern Lao PDR. The Crawford program engages mainly with provincial governments to deliver training in integrated pest, disease and weed management, biosecurity and food safety. The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of crop pests, diseases and weeds by local agricultural staff and trainees, and further develop their capacity to undertake diagnostics and advise local farmers on management practices through in-field contact and village workshops.

Currently we are seeking an entomologist to work on IPM and pest diagnostics in vegetables, and to monitor citrus pests and beneficials with an emphasis on the distribution of the vector of Huanglongbing (HLB) disease (citrus greening) with altitude. HLB has devastated citrus plantings across Lao PDR. You will also be involved in diagnostic tasks (pests and beneficials) as requested by the Head of the Agriculture Section of PAFO. As part of this role you will also be involved in facilitating several village workshops for small-holder farmers. These workshops cover insect pests and beneficials, key diseases, pesticide use and safety. The PAFO has a basic entomology and pathology laboratory.

The volunteer Entomology and IPM Advisor will be supported by the Australian Volunteers Program in-country team and Crawford mentors. The Crawford Fund will provide technical and scientific support both through in-country visits and online forums. The Crawford Fund also provides some financial support for laboratory and field work, and extension activities, as appropriate. Since 2013 a series of Australian volunteer entomologists and plant pathologists have been based at the Champasak PAFO working with vegetable, fruit and field crops.

This is a challenging assignment for an individual wishing to enhance their professional development while contributing to rural development in a LDC. If you are interested in this assignment please send an Expression of Interest (up to one page) and a CV to Dr Madaline Healey – m.healey@usc.edu.au by August 2018. Phone enquiries to 0407801060.

Minimum Qualification: Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Australia, U/G Degree with majors in Entomology and/or Crop Protection. Some experience as a graduate preferred but not essential.

