



Vacancy Announcement

MwAPATA Institute is an independent policy think tank in Malawi established to inform and guide national policy issues related to agriculture, natural resources and rural transformation. The mission of MwAPATA is to conduct independent, objective, empirical research aimed at providing innovative and practical recommendations to inform agricultural sector policies in Malawi. The aim of the Institute is to accelerate the adoption of effective Malawian-led policies and programs to drive broad-based agricultural transformation, diversification and improved smallholder incomes and nutrition in Malawi. The Institute plays a leading role in identifying strategies that will improve investment climate, promote agricultural productivity, diversification, and commercialization. The Institute is affiliated to the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and is currently receiving technical and institutional development support from the Michigan State University.

MwAPATA Institute wishes to recruit a highly motivated, proactive service-oriented and energetic individual to fill the following position based in Lilongwe:

Research Director

The successful candidate will play the leading role in planning, coordinating and implementing research programs in accordance with Institute's strategy, policies, and procedures. He/she will coordinate creation of research teams and collaborations that understand the Institute's research direction; and he/she will communicate the direction of research to inspire team members to reach goals. The Research Director will closely work with the Institute's leadership to assist in developing the MwAPATA Institute's visibility and support the continued establishment of MwAPATA's capacity to conduct research that meets the highest international standards and ensure MwAPATA is a valued partner to Government, the NGO community, and the private sector in agriculture.

Key tasks shall include:

1. Coordinating the preparation of the research component of the Institute's agenda, work plan and budgets.
2. Organizing teams of research supervisors, research fellows and research assistants to carry out specific tasks on the research agenda.
3. Providing regular reports to the staff and Executive Director on the status of research activities.

4. Providing leadership to teams conducting research and policy analysis on agricultural, natural resources management, and rural development policy issues.
5. Ensuring research activities are implemented as planned and within budget.
6. Ensuring that MwAPATA's research products meet the highest international standards of quality and rigor.
7. Reviewing and provide final approval for research concept notes, working papers, policy briefs, and policy perspectives.
8. Supporting research staff in the preparation of manuscripts for submissions to peer-reviewed journals.
9. Identifying capacity building needs of the research staff and organizing capacity building seminars.
10. Supporting the translation of research into concrete policy guidance and implementation.
11. Coordinating with the Communications Team in organizing and participating in brown bags, workshops, seminars, and conferences for dissemination of research outputs and outcomes.
12. Performing other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Director.

Qualifications and skills

1. A Doctorate degree in Development Economics, Agricultural Economics, Economics, Policy Management, or related field with a minimum of 7 years post-graduate experience.
2. A strong record of publication in high-impact refereed journals.
3. Proficiency in qualitative and quantitative research methods, the analysis of household survey data, and the use of statistical analysis software packages, such as Stata.
4. Demonstrated ability to effectively design and implement survey data collection activities.
5. Experience in relating to government and private sector as key stakeholders.
6. Strong interpersonal skills, ability and experience in managing internal and external relationships with project teams and collaborators.
7. Experience working in multi-cultural teams.
8. Excellent written and spoken English and at least one Malawian local language.

Please email detailed curriculum vitae and cover letter to recruitment@mwapata.mw stating the position being applied for in the subject line. Positions are open until filled.