



JOB DESCRIPTION
LABORATORY TECHNICIAN (PLANT HEALTH LABORATORY)

Job Purpose

The Laboratory Technician in the Plant Pathology Laboratory is responsible for managing and coordinating laboratory work related to plant disease diagnosis, research, and analysis. They play a crucial role in accurately identifying plant pathogens and supporting the Plant Pathology Team in various plant disease-related activities.

Reporting to: Senior Plant Protection Officer

Principal Accountabilities

- Provide technical and operational support to ensure the smooth functioning of the Plant Pathology Laboratory for disease diagnosis, research, and analysis.
- Assist the Plant Pathology Team in conducting plant disease-related activities in accordance with organizational objectives.
- Collaborate with the Plant Pathology Section Team to develop research strategies, projects, and milestones.
- Manage the laboratory, identify challenges, and communicate them to the Plant Pathology Team for consideration and decision-making.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with partners, stakeholders, and external laboratories.

Main Activities

- Conduct laboratory procedures for plant disease diagnosis, including sample processing, isolation, culture, and microscopic examination.
- Assist in collecting plant samples and ensuring proper documentation, labelling, and preservation.
- Perform diagnostic tests, such as ELISA, PCR, serological, and biochemical assays, for plant pathogen identification and characterization.
- Operate and maintain laboratory equipment, such as microscopes, centrifuges, PCR machines, and incubators.
- Document and record laboratory procedures, observations, and results accurately and in compliance with established protocols.
- Assist in data analysis and interpretation, preparing reports, charts, and graphs related to plant disease research.
- Maintain an inventory of laboratory supplies, reagents, and culture collections, ordering new materials as needed.

- Follow laboratory safety protocols and ensure adherence to Occupational Health & Safety Regulations.
- Assist in training and supervising laboratory assistants or junior technicians.
- Collaborate with external laboratories or research institutions for collaborative projects or sample analysis.
- Stay updated with current developments in plant pathology, diagnostic methods, and laboratory techniques.

Qualification & Knowledge

- A Bachelor's degree in Plant Pathology, Plant Science, Biology, Agriculture, or a related field with at least one (1) year of working experience in a laboratory or plant health-related sector will be advantageous.
- Previous experience working in a laboratory setting, preferably in plant pathology or plant disease research.

Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of plant pathology principles, plant diseases, and laboratory techniques used in disease diagnosis.
- Familiarity with diagnostic methods, such as ELISA, PCR, microscopy, and biochemical assays.
- Proficiency in aseptic techniques, culture media preparation, and pathogen isolation.
- Understanding of experimental design, data analysis, and statistical methods.
- Experience with molecular techniques, DNA extraction, and PCR amplification is desirable.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Excellent problem-solving and analytical abilities.
- Good communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively in a team.
- Knowledge of laboratory safety protocols and procedures.
- Proficiency in using scientific software and data analysis tools.
- Flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and work under tight deadlines.
- Proficiency in scientific software and data analysis tools.
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively in a team.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR APPLICATION

1. Visit our website www.baf.com.fj to access the Job Description and click on the link to apply.
2. Applicants are required to submit cover letter, curriculum vitae and at least 3 referees, academic certificates and transcripts while applying through the online recruitment portal.
3. Applications close on Friday 18th July 2025 at 05:00pm.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. If you have not been contacted by BAF, then your application has not been successful and we thank you for your interest in applying.

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