



## **JOB DESCRIPTION:**

### **Regional Manager, Agri-Food Innovation**

*Viet Nam or Singapore*

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Established by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat in 2015, [Grow Asia](#) is a multi-stakeholder platform that builds regional and country partnerships to broker market driven solutions for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems in Southeast Asia. We do this by convening global and regional stakeholders from public, private, civil society and farmer organizations around macro-level issues (e.g., agritech innovation, women's economic empowerment, responsible investing, and climate change resilience) and by facilitating the development of more inclusive and sustainable value chains through partnership brokerage, developing and sharing best practice, and creating an ecosystem that supports pre-competitive collaboration.

The Grow Asia network comprises our regional office in Singapore and six national chapters - which we refer to as our Country Partnerships - in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The network collectively engages 580+ partner organizations and supports 44 Working Groups that are reaching over 2 million smallholders across Southeast Asia.

As of 2020, Grow Asia has been accredited as an Entity Associated with ASEAN. The accreditation recognizes the important role Grow Asia plays in the region, particularly in facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships for more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems in our region.

#### **THE ROLE:**

Grow Asia and the [World Economic Forum](#) are supporting the Government of Viet Nam to establish a Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam that will accelerate innovation around and adoption of climate-smart solutions and farmer-centric digital technologies, and lead to:

- increased investments in inclusive and scalable technology solutions
- equitable access to innovations for farmers to consumers
- supporting the enabling environment through policy incentives, capacity building and knowledge
- mitigating unintended consequences of technology innovations and improving the resiliency of food systems
- unlocking institutional bottlenecks to scale impact for systemic change

The World Economic Forum has already catalyzed the development of Food Innovation Hubs in Africa, Latin America, India, and Europe to strengthen local innovation ecosystems. As we prepare to expand this program to Southeast Asia, Grow Asia and the World Economic Forum are looking for a dynamic and self-motivated individual to support the design and development of the Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam in 2022. There may also be further opportunities to work on the development of other Hubs in Southeast Asia in the next 2-3 years, as part of Grow Asia's Agri-Food Innovation program.

The Regional Manager will support the development of the Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam, in close collaboration with local and global stakeholders, particularly in bringing knowledge and experience of Viet Nam's agri-food sector. The Regional Manager will report to Grow Asia's Innovation Lead (based in Singapore) and work closely with the Global Coordinating Secretariat of the Food Innovation Hubs (based in the Netherlands and Geneva) and Grow Asia's public and private sector partners involved in the development of the Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam. The incumbent will be based out of either the office of one of our partners in Viet Nam (preferred) or Grow Asia's regional office in Singapore.

We would welcome a Secondee from one of Grow Asia or the World Economic Forum's key partners, particularly if the candidate is already based in Viet Nam. In the case of a secondment, the role and responsibilities can be tailored accordingly.

**RESPONSIBILITIES include but are not limited to:**

**1. Project Strategy and Management**

- Support the Government of Viet Nam in developing a strategic and operational plan for initiating the Food Innovation Hub.
- Develop the foundational group of private sector and research partners who will support the Agri-Food Innovation Hub in the next 3 years.
- On-board local stakeholders and partners as well as manage any in-country consultants who may support the development of the work.
- Project management of programs such as innovation challenges in Viet Nam, as required.

**2. Community Engagement and Management**

- Build relationships and strong stakeholder engagement with senior leaders from government, private sector, multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, farmer organizations and research institutes in Viet Nam.
- Support the development of governance and/or advisory bodies that will provide strategic guidance to the Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam.

**3. Support Regional Learnings and Capacity-Building**

- Support convenings and knowledge exchange across geographies through regular workshops and meetings.
- Lead on developing insight reports, toolkits and M&E frameworks to document learnings for Grow Asia as well as the World Economic Forum's network of Food Innovation Hubs.

**THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT:**

- Bachelor's degree required, Master's degree preferable, in a discipline related to the position (international development, agriculture, environment, economics, business, or equivalent)
- 10 years of work experience in food, agriculture, and innovation fields in Southeast Asia, preferably with private sector and international experience
- Knowledge of the food and agriculture sector in Southeast Asia, Viet Nam in particular
- Dynamic systems leader with a clear and proven record of delivering results-oriented programs, preferably with experience in delivering multistakeholder partnerships
- Experience working with diverse teams across geographies
- Experience in multistakeholder project management
- Strong written and oral communications skills, with fluency in spoken and written English and Vietnamese
- High level of integrity and commitment to socio-economic development and food systems transformation
- Excellent interpersonal skills including verbal and written communication, negotiation, cross-team project management and consensus-building
- Highly resourceful team-player, with the ability to be effective independently

- Emotional maturity, patience, curiosity, empathy and a sustained willingness to broaden your horizons

**Location:** Viet Nam (strongly preferred) or Singapore

**Travel requirement:** 15%, mainly within Southeast Asia (subject to COVID-19 restrictions and depending on base location)

**Salary:** Competitive

**Start date:** Immediate

#### **WHAT'S ON OFFER:**

In addition to a competitive salary, this role provides a unique opportunity to (1) develop your capabilities and broaden your skill set in an organization that supports continuous growth, (2) work with a highly motivated, collaborative, efficient and compassionate team that also values autonomy, (3) be part of a dynamic, well-respected and credible entity in Southeast Asia, (4) connect with the World Economic Forum and its Food Action Alliance and Food Innovation Hubs, and participate in the global agenda on food security and agricultural development, and (4) contribute to social, economic and environmental progress in Southeast Asia and beyond.

#### **HOW TO APPLY:**

Qualified applicants are invited to send your resume and cover letter to [careers@growasia.org](mailto:careers@growasia.org) by **Friday 18 March 2022**. We ask that you kindly include your name and the position you are applying for in the subject line (e.g., "Application: Regional Manager, Agri-Food Innovation – Your Name").

Due to the volume of applications expected, only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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*As a multi-stakeholder platform we believe all voices matter, and we actively seek to bring them to the table. Aligned with this ethos, Grow Asia is committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability or gender identity.*