



Kokonas Industri Koporesen Position Description

Position Title	:	Senior Research Officer – Entomology
Position Number	:	KIKRD. 40
Division	:	Research and Development
Reports To	:	Team Leader – Milne Bay Research Station (MBRS)
Status	:	Permanent
Location	:	MBRS, Punipuni, Alotau, Milne Bay Province
Approved By	:	KIK Board

1. PURPOSE

The Senior Research Officer Entomology – He/she is to ensure that the coconut industry is protected from harmful or deleterious effect of major coconut pests in PNG and from abroad. The Incumbent is responsible for all entomology research trials and activities on the Research Station and the farmers field.

2. ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- (a) Conducts research in establishing the identity and nature of major coconut pests, and designing control measures to minimize losses to the coconut industry.
- (b) Conduct periodical surveillance and monitoring of major coconut pests including other crop species grown and cultivated on station and also in the farmers field.
- (c) Supervises and oversees insect detection trapping programs.
- (d) Performs field and laboratory investigations, surveys and analyses to identify and classify insects and related invertebrates.
- (e) Collects or supervises the collection of insect specimens on the research station and from farmers' fields, or other agricultural areas.
- (f) Provides information and assistance to staff, other agencies, and the public regarding insect pest control, insect taxonomy, present and potential damage to coconut industry and other crops, and related issues.
- (g) Supervises and evaluates special insect pest eradication programs or distribution of beneficial insects.
- (h) Assists and advises staff in the inspection of plants, orchards, field crops and nurseries for the presence of destructive pests.
- (i) Identifies larvae/pupae found during phytosanitary inspections of coconut products and other agricultural commodities; provides training and conducts testing pertaining to larval identification.

- (j) Prepares microscopic slide mounts using various mounting media and stains.
- (k) Prepares reports and correspondence; maintains records and files.
- (l) Prepares and maintains insect collections and an entomology reference library; participates in in-service education programs.
- (L) Other duties as assigned by the Manager Productivity Improvement or General Manager R&D.

3. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Manages three (3) subordinate officers, a Research Officer (RO), an Assistant Research Officer (ARO) and a Technical Officer who then supervise field casuals in the Coconut Entomology Section.

4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Science or Higher Degree from a recognized university or other relevant specialized training in entomology work and four years of related experience.
- Relevant agricultural and field trial work experience of five years or more is desirable.
- Experience at the management level is desirable.

5. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

A. Knowledge of:

- The major coconut pests of the industry and other general pest issues in the farmers' fields in PNG;
- The major coconut research, development and extension issues confronting the coconut industry in PNG;
- Awareness of industry trends, technology, and developments;
- Practices, policies and procedures necessary to supervise staff;
- Insect taxonomy and insects controlled by state and regulations;
- Characteristics, life cycles, range of hosts plants and distribution of insect pests and their control; and
- Principles of integrated pest management and biological control.

B. Skills /Abilities to:

- Supervise, train, organize and review the work of staff;
- Understand, interpret and apply policies, rules, regulations and procedures;

- Readily recognize, collect and preserve insect pests during collecting missions in the field for identification purposes;
- Evaluate crop losses due to pest damage;
- Manage a laboratory and work independently;
- Proficiency with computers, especially MS Office and diagnostic scientific software;
- Exceptional verbal and written communication skills;
- Strong research, decision making, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills;
- Effectively manage multiple work assignments, set priorities and meet established deadlines;
- Prepare clear and concise correspondence and reports; and
- Demonstrate and maintain a high degree of maturity, integrity, accountability and good judgment.