



Kokonas Industri Koporesen Position Description

Position Title	:	Senior Research Officer – Pathology
Position Number	:	KIKRD. 21
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 Pathology– is to manage and control all existing and emerging diseases of coconut and other plant diseases including other cash crops, spices, fruits, vegetables, field and forage crops throughout the plantations of MBRS Punipuni, Alotau, Milne Bay Province. The Incumbent is also responsible for designing and implementing all pathology research trials and activities on the Research Station.

2. ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- (a) Conducts research in establishing the nature, cause, and designing control measures of all coconut palm diseases and coconut products.
- (b) Inoculates healthy plants with culture of suspected causal agents taken from diseased plants and studies effects to determine agents responsible for disease.
- (c) Isolates disease-causing agent, studies habits and life cycle, and devises control measures to destroy or control the causal agent.
- (d) Studies rates of spread and intensity of disease under different soil conditions, climate, and geography, and predicts outbreaks of plant diseases.
- (e) Determines kinds of plants and insects that harbor or transmit disease.
- (f) Studies losses from deterioration of perishable coconut products in transit or storage and develops practices to prevent or reduce losses.
- (g) Determines presence of disease causing agents in seed stocks to reduce losses from seed borne diseases.
- (h) Conduct periodical surveillance and monitoring of major coconut diseases including other crop species grown and cultivated on station and also in the farmers field
- (i) Other duties as assigned by the respective supervisor or Manager in charge.

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 Pathology section.

4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science from a recognized university; or relevant specialize training on plant pathology.
- Relevant agricultural/field trials and plant pathology work experience of five years or more is particularly beneficial.
- Experience at the management level is desirous.

5. KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

A. Knowledge of:

- The major coconut diseases of the industry and other general plant diseases in PNG
- The major Coconut Research, development and extension issues confronting the coconut industry in PNG.
- The fundamentals of plant pathology, with at least a sound knowledge of botany, plant physiology, ecology and environment, plant nutrition, chemistry and statistics and also knowledge of horticulture, agronomy and general agriculture.
- Awareness of industry trends, technology, and developments;
- Practices, policies and procedures necessary to supervise staff.

B. Skills/ Abilities to:

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

- Demonstrate and maintain a high degree of maturity, integrity, accountability and good judgment.