



**World Vegetable Center**

**Job Announcement**

**Specialist – Virology**

Headquarters, Shanhua, Tainan, Taiwan

The **World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg)** is a non-profit, autonomous, international agricultural research center headquartered in Taiwan, with five regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development focused on breeding improved vegetable lines, promoting good production practices, reducing postharvest losses, and enhancing the nutritional value of vegetables. The Center also raises awareness of the critical role vegetables play in improving health and alleviating global poverty.

For more information, please visit: [worldveg.org](http://worldveg.org)

WorldVeg is seeking a **Specialist – Virology** with a focus on plant virus research. The role will support surveillance, diagnostics, and resistance screening for plant viruses. The successful candidate should be familiar with molecular biology techniques relevant to plant virology research and diagnostics.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and characterize plant viruses using molecular techniques such as PCR, RT-PCR, qPCR, and sequencing.
- Develop and optimize diagnostic protocols for accurate virus detection in plant samples.
- Develop and validate field-deployable virus detection techniques, including LAMP, portable PCR assays, CRISPR-based diagnostics, and recombinase polymerase amplification (RPA).
- Design primers, probes, and molecular markers for virus detection.
- Use next-generation sequencing (NGS) and metagenomic approaches to detect known and novel viruses.
- Conduct sequence and phylogenetic analyses using bioinformatics tools to understand virus diversity and evolution.
- Isolate and maintain plant virus from infected plant materials and maintain accurate experimental records.
- Support screening programs for plant virus resistance.
- Train students, technicians, and researchers in molecular diagnostics and virology techniques.
- Prepare written reports and present research findings clearly in English, both orally and in writing.
- Coordinate and assign tasks to laboratory and field assistants.
- Conduct the disease survey and workshop trips abroad.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor and as required by the Center.

### **Required Qualifications and Competencies**

A. Technical: (specialized knowledge and expertise required to perform specific tasks).

- At least a Master's degree in Virology, Plant Pathology, Plant Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, or a related field.
- Experience in plant viral disease diagnostics and resistance screening.
- Hands-on experience with molecular biology protocols, including PCR/RT-PCR and gene cloning.
- Knowledge of next-generation sequencing (NGS), Oxford Nanopore sequencing, and metagenomics.
- Familiarity with bioinformatics tools for primer design, sequence assembly, sequence analysis, and phylogenetic analysis.
- A valid driving license is considered an advantage.

B. Behavioral: (traits, abilities, and motivations needed to deliver effective performance).

- Strong work ethic, initiative, and the ability to work independently.
- Keen motivation and interest in scientific research.
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, collaborate, and work with team members.
- Willingness to conduct fieldwork and work outdoors when required.

Note: **This is a Nationally Recruited Staff (NRS) position with competitive compensation and benefits package.**

The candidate we hire will embody WorldVeg's Five Core Values:

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| 1. <i>Dedication to Innovation and Knowledge Sharing</i> | Supports the conduct of world-class science, respects ethical standards, and is committed to transparently sharing results. |
| 2. <i>Commitment to Impact</i>                           | Aspires to achieve positive, tangible, and lasting impact contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.                    |
| 3. <i>Commitment to Partnerships</i>                     | Believes in the value of partnerships to advance research for development.  |
| 4. <i>Respect for People</i>                             | Respect the diversity of gender, culture, ethnic origin, religion, age, beliefs, and views.                                 |
| 5. <i>Respect for the Environment</i>                    | Strives to minimize its environmental impact and to introduce greener technology and practices.                             |

**How to Apply:** Applicants should submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a curriculum vitae in English, a recent passport-size photograph, names and addresses (including telephone and e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability to [jobapply@worldveg.org](mailto:jobapply@worldveg.org) or the job bank site before 31 March 2026. Please mention the position title in the subject line.