

Lead Technical and Engineering Fellow for Agriworks Uganda Ltd.

About Agriworks Uganda Ltd.

Agriworks Uganda Ltd. is a small agricultural technology company operating in Uganda, with aims of expanding throughout East Africa. Agriworks develops, produces, and sells an innovative product line of small-scale irrigation technologies to our target customers of commercial smallholder farmers, with ancillary business in agricultural consulting, project support, and tailored installations of irrigation systems. Currently, Agriworks employs two founders, one volunteer associate, and four short-term contract staff members.

About the Job

In the upcoming two years, Agriworks is embarking on a USAID-funded project designed to streamline our marketing and sales model to suit our clients' cash flows and credit needs. In this project, we hope to develop enough sales capacity to make Agriworks fully self-sustainable.

Agriworks is looking for a Lead Technical and Engineering Fellow to lead in ensuring that all technical aspects of the technologies work properly both before and during operations in farmers' fields. This includes quality control of the fabrication and assembly process, in addition to customer support and backstopping in the field. The Lead Technical and Engineering Fellow will also be responsible for refining and further developing our draft user manuals and product specifications. Finally, the position will build capacity of staff members, interns, and trainees to take over after the position expires.

The position will be based in a small office in Mbale, Eastern Uganda. Local travel will be required using either a company motorcycle or public transportation. Normal working hours are 9 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday, though special working hours will be required at various times which will be determined by the applicant or communicated in advance by the board. Some travel to other countries in the East African Community Region may be required on a case-by-case basis. Foreign applicants may wish to consult the appendix on living conditions in Uganda.

Qualifications

The candidate will have skills in the following areas:

- a) **Engineering and Fabrication:** Specific skills to this position require basic to advanced knowledge of hydraulics, metal fabrication practical experience, and knowledge of engines and motorized pumping systems, in addition to a background in general engineering.
- b) **Communication:** The successful applicant will communicate effectively both within and outside the company. This includes good judgment about when and how to communicate relevant information to the various stakeholders interacting with the operations manager. This

includes skill in accurate, concise, and comprehensive communication in verbal & written formats.

- c) **Ability to Learn Quickly:** There will be a number of skills, which must be learned on the job. We expect the applicant to be able to focus on training and self-learning to rapidly gain expertise in various skills required to complete the roles of the position.
- d) **Resilience:** The candidate should be able to adapt to hard environments and difficult working conditions at times. Fieldwork in Africa can be more demanding and taxing than in other parts of the world, and the applicant should be able to cope.

How to Apply

Please send a CV and cover letter to Abraham Solomon at agsalomon@ucdavis.edu and idin-opportunities@mit.edu. The start date for the position is flexible between January to June 2016.

This is a full-time voluntary position, but we would be happy to work together with the candidate to apply for whatever other finances could be obtained to support them during the period.