Outreach Agronomist
Full-time, Tucson

Native Seeds/SEARCH is seeking an Outreach Agronomist to join our team in Tucson. This role serves as an important link between the Native Seeds/SEARCH seed bank and traditional small-scale farmers across the Southwest.

Native Seeds/SEARCH is a Tucson-based nonprofit that conserves and promotes the food and farming traditions of the desert Southwest. Our collection of dryland open-pollinated seeds has cultural roots in over 50 indigenous and other communities. The focus of this position is to develop an effective outreach program to assist in solving agronomic challenges unique to the cropping systems of Arizona and the greater Southwest, with an emphasis on support of Native growers. This program will integrate cross-cultural problem-solving research and educational activities that support seed-banking capacity and food security in Native communities.

The ideal candidate should be highly skilled with both plants and people, with training in plant genetics, botany, agronomy, horticulture or related field, as well as teaching experience. This is an exempt, full-time position based at our Tucson Conservation Center (telework eligible), with up to 50% extended regional travel required. Compensation includes competitive salary, health benefits, and generous paid time off. The position reports to the Conservation Manager and shares occasional supervision of farm interns and volunteers.

**Essential Duties**

- Produce and deliver learning materials targeted to diverse audiences, including meetings/workshops, short courses, field days, tours, on-farm research, conference presentations, demonstrations, and other appropriate teaching methods.
- Provide consultation and technical assistance to farmers regarding plant nutrition and disease, soil health, variety differences and seed saving.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing, networking, and capacity building among farmers.
- Assist in establishment and support of in situ storage and curation capacities in indigenous communities.
- Support the Conservation team in providing vocational training and internship opportunities at NS/S in seed production and seed banking.
- Work closely with farmers and community leaders to identify and prioritize needs, address problems and seek opportunities for seed conservation.
- Identify and work with new farmers to build capacity and accomplish their goals.
- Promote participation of farmers and gardeners in NS/S Bulk Seed, Native American Free seed, Community Seed Grant, and educational programs.
- Coordinate external / bulk seed production with conservation and distribution staff.
• Assist in development of seed bank protocols to promote the continued biodiversity, seed stock supply, and quality of the NS/S collection.
• Collaborate with farmers to design and implement on-farm research.
• Partner and build relationships with other regional tribal agencies, Extension agents, and food security organizations to accomplish shared goals.
• Provide learning opportunities for NS/S staff, board, volunteers, and members as needed.
• Participate in NS/S Board of Director meetings and staff committees as appropriate.
• Support Conservation Center operations via input on staff evaluations, budget, county extension council, and other office-wide responsibilities and serve as a lead in operational areas as needed.
• Research funding opportunities for programs, write and manage grant proposals.
• Prepare status reports and actively participate in management meetings.
• Other duties as assigned.

**Required Qualifications**

• Minimum Masters degree + 3 years field experience in crop science, agroecology, horticulture, and/or dryland farming practices
• Self-motivated learner who values both indigenous and western farming knowledge
• Self-directed and able to work with a minimum of supervision, balancing multiple projects.
• Skilled communicator and educator with experience in groups of adults and youth from various ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
• Ability to design, promote, implement and evaluate educational programming
• Familiarity with goals and challenges of Native American farmers and with tribal governance
• 2 years experience seeking and administering grant funding, and maintaining program budgets
• 5 years experience in the safe operation and maintenance of tractors, implements, and other field equipment as needed
• Access to a personal vehicle and the ability to obtain/maintain a valid driver’s license and automobile insurance.
• Able to lift 50 lbs

**To Apply**

Salary range: $45,000-50,000. Native Seeds/SEARCH is an equal opportunity employer. Non-local candidates are encouraged to apply; however, we have only limited ability to cover relocation expenses. Please submit cover letter, CV and three professional references to: employment@nativeseeds.org. Application deadline: open until filled.