



American Samoa Community College
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Community and Natural Resources (Land Grant)

Position Title: Researcher (Plant Pathologist)

Employment Status: Full-Time, 12 months (Two Year Contract)

General Description: The successful candidate will work for the American Samoa Community College's Division of Community and Natural Resources at Malaeimi, American Samoa, under the supervision of the Research Coordinator. S/he will plan, conduct, analyze, and publish plant pathology research, approved by a merit review panel, that focuses on an integrated approach to protect sustainable production of taro, banana, and other tropical crops. S/he will purchase, operate, and maintain pertinent laboratory and field equipment and supplies. S/he will develop and teach college-level courses in plant protection and plant sciences, serve as a resource person for the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), and possibly train and supervise assistants and students. S/he will oversee the plant tissue culture laboratory, the research greenhouse, and supervise their staff. Approximate Research: Extension: Teaching is 70:25:5.

Essential Functions and Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with research staff and extension agents to plan a research project that addresses sustainable tropical plant production in order to secure the food supply of American Samoa.
- Operate/maintain a plant pathology laboratory and supervise assistants or students.
- Isolate/identify causal agents of plant diseases or refer unknowns for outside diagnosis.
- Perform applied and/or basic research on pathogens/diseases that pose a threat to tropical agriculture.
- Report research results in peer-reviewed publications and technical reports.
- Develop/maintain collections of reference cultures, specimens, literature, and images.
- Maintain databases to record and cross-reference all plant collections.
- Function as Co-Cooperator to the Pacific Islands Distance Diagnostic and Recommendation System and the National Plant Diagnostic Network (Western Region).
- Perform surveys to establish baseline information on plant diseases and collect new or unusual finds.
- Develop and teach plant pathology/plant science classes as required.

Knowledge and Skills:

Required – graduate degree in plant pathology or related field; excellent written and oral English language skills; strength and stamina to conduct fieldwork in the humid tropics; ability to work without supervision, either individually or on a team; possess a valid driver's license; able to drive a vehicle with manual transmission; and have no serious moving traffic violations during the past 3 years. The individual must possess these skills and abilities or explain and demonstrate that s/he can perform the essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, using some combination of skills and abilities.

Preferred – knowledge and experience with greenhouse and tissue culture laboratory operations, serological and molecular diagnostic techniques, and proficiency in the Samoan language.

Minimum Qualifications: MS degree in plant pathology with 2 years of experience, or a PhD degree from an accredited school.

Preferred Qualifications: Research experience with diseases of tropical crops.

Maximum Salary: Based on degree and experience.

Application Deadline: Open until filled.

Applications are available from American Samoa Community College, Human Resources Office. 684-699-9155 Ext. 403/335/436. Email: s.saofaigaalii@amsamoa.edu or j.toilolo@amsamoa.edu. For more information contact Dr. Donald Vargo, donvargo@rocketmail.com.

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