Applications are invited from interested and suitably qualified nationals of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean Community to fill the above-mentioned position at the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) with assigned duty station in Suriname.

2. **FUNCTIONS OF THE POST**

Under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer of CAHFSA, the Plant Health Specialist will lead the coordination with Member States and developmental partners, of the updating and enacting of a modernised and harmonised plant health legislation and regulatory framework to meet the requirements of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, and other trade regimes.

3. **QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

Candidates must possess at least a post graduate degree in Plant Protection and a minimum of five (5) years’ experience in a senior position related to plant health.

In addition, candidates should have specialised training in, working knowledge of or experience in the following:

- Role, function and standard setting mechanisms of the International Plant Protection Convention
- World Trade Organisation’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement
- Project management
- Microsoft Office Suite (MS Word, Excel, Project)
- Adobe Acrobat
- Internet search engines
- Fluency in written and spoken English

Candidates should also possess a working knowledge and/or understanding in at least three of the following:

(i) Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas
(ii) The Agreement establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
(iii) Operating mechanisms of the Community
(iv) Regional policies and priorities of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
(v) Public sector administrative and institutional framework of CARICOM Countries
(vi) Role, function and standard setting mechanisms of the OIE and CODEX
Knowledge of international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, trade agreements and conventions, quality assurance schemes such as Good Agricultural Practices, Good Hygiene Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP).

4. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Plant Health Specialist will be required to:

(a) **FORGE** linkages with regional bodies and institutions (such as CPHD, CGPC, CPDN, CARDI, OECS, IICA, CCS, UWI etc.) to coordinate regional efforts for optimal use of resources;

(b) **COORDINATE** and **ESTABLISH** database of pest risk analyses in Member States and **HARMONISE** pest management practices to facilitate regional and international trade and protect regional biodiversity;

(c) **REVIEW** status and operations of existing plant health laboratories in the region and **MAKE** recommendations for rationalising laboratory services across the region to:
   - Meet requirements of agricultural trade and public health initiatives.
   - Provide an infrastructure that can deliver the desired level of testing, analytical, and diagnostic services.
   - Address issues related to testing for pesticide residue limits.
   - Achieve accreditation (where possible) of plant health laboratories to promote trade through the international recognition of test results.

(d) **REVIEW**, **UPDATE** and **HARMONISE** pesticide application methodologies and operating practices in accordance with international best practice to ensure operator and consumer safety;

(e) **COORDINATE** training programmes in pest management for plants including pest identification, survey and surveillance in the region;

(f) **STRENGTHEN** protocols and processes of quarantine facilities in Member States and **ADVOCATE** for improved plant inspection facilities at ports in Member States;

(g) **ENCOURAGE** more diligent, harmonised surveillance and emergency response mechanisms in Member States;

(h) **NETWORK** with related agencies to develop reliable traceability systems to determine origins of pests and identify pathways of entry;

(i) **CO-ORDINATE** pre-meetings for establishing regional positions on plant health issues before attending international meetings;
(j) **STRENGTHEN** the functioning of national SPS enquiry points of Member States;

(k) **DEVELOP and MAINTAIN** a database of experts in various plant health related disciplines who can serve as a repository for information and skills across the region;

(l) **WORK** with Member States to develop plant pest emergency preparedness plans aimed at allowing the countries to reach a level of preparedness for effective response and recovery from pest incidents and from natural disasters;

(m) **MAKE** recommendations for sustaining a cadre of well qualified and trained plant health experts to deliver an efficient and effective regime for plant health in the Region.

5. **EMOLUMENTS AND BENEFITS**

An attractive remuneration package will be offered. In addition a group health, life health and accident insurance will be offered. The Plant Health Specialist will be granted transportation and settlement allowances to facilitate his/her settlement in Suriname.

6. **LEAVE**

The Plant Health Specialist shall be eligible for the grant of vacation leave at the rate of twenty (20) working days per year.

7. **PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

The officer will be granted the privileges and immunities extended to officials of CAHSFA in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Suriname and the CARICOM Community establishing the headquarters of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency.

8. **APPLICATIONS**

Applications in English Language with full curriculum vitae details, including nationality, date of birth, work experience, educational qualifications, summary of professional skills and/or expertise, language proficiency, list of professional publications, coordinates (including email addresses) of three referees (at least two of whom must be familiar with the applicant’s work), and other relevant information, should be addressed to:

**The Executive Director, Human Resource Management,**

**Caribbean Community Secretariat,**

**Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana**

and sent by email to applnhrm@caricom.org

9. Applicants must complete the Profile Summary Form included with the website

10. The deadline for the submission of applications is 22 February 2015.