



## IRISH SEED SAVERS ASSOCIATION

Preserving Ireland's Biodiversity for over twenty years

### Regional Co-ordinator (Seed Outreach) - Ireland

Title:	Regional Co-ordinator (Seed Outreach)
Reporting to:	General Manager and Gaia Foundation Programme Manager
Contract Term:	30 months commencing January 2018 for completion June 2020
Hours:	2 Days average per week (dependent on events and travel – evening and weekend work likely)
Pay:	€25,000 per annum pro rata. Travel expenses will be paid as part of the programme budget

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#### 1.0 Role Summary

This role is for a Regional Coordinator to assist in the development/establishment and smooth running of seed hubs throughout the Republic of Ireland. This role will include supporting the members of the regional hub and engaging with other groups and individuals through events, workshops and talks.

The Regional Coordinator will also help establish further hubs in the region if required and to promote the hub(s) and the issue of seeds and seed production to interested parties and farmers/growers in the region.

#### 2.0 Main Responsibilities

- Investigate and research the baseline of seed growers in Ireland
- Develop further outreach to grow the Irish Seed Savers Association Seed Guardians Network
- Coordinate activities, resources and equipment, if required. These activities will include training, variety trials, seed production and information
- Develop sub-hubs throughout Ireland
- Monitor & track progress for the regional hub as a whole as well as for funders
- Investigate research opportunities on plant breeding and seed variety quality as well as climactic change adaptability and disease resistance
- Oversee research and seed trials
- Act as the main point of contact for enquiries and interested parties.

*IRISH SEED SAVERS ASSOCIATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE*

Capparoo, Scariff, Co. Clare V94 V6WO • T: 061 921866/856 • E: [info@irishseedsavers.ie](mailto:info@irishseedsavers.ie) • [www.irishseedsavers.ie](http://www.irishseedsavers.ie)

Reg. Charity No: CHY 13989 • Reg. Company No.: 268004 • Certified Organic No.: IE-ORG-02 • Iofga Licence No.5629 •

Directors: Chairman Ted Brooks • Tony Kay • Patrick Killeen • Jason Horner (*English*) • Carmen Cronin (*German*) • Co. Secretary: Patrick Killeen



- Maintain any records as required
- Manage seed grower's specific events, workshops, training and conferences.
- Reports directly to Irish Seed Savers Association General Manager with reporting requirement to the Gaia Foundation Programme Manager

### **3.0 Qualities of a Regional Co-ordinator**

#### **Essential**

- Seed growing and production expertise is a must
- Strong administrative and IT skills (Microsoft office, CRM, addressing queries, documenting procedures, preparing and submitting reports as and when required)
- Knowledge of agro-ecological production
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong presentation skills
- Effective time management
- Engaging team player
- Works on own initiative

#### **Desirable**

- Agricultural farming experience
- Representation at a national level addressing organic/horticulture/seed matters

### **4.0 Time commitment**

- This is a part-time post (average 2 days per week but this will fluctuate depending on travel, events and seasonal requirements)
- As an employee of Irish Seed Savers Association, this role is primarily home based
- Travel required throughout the island of Ireland.
- Training and visits to the UK will be part of this role.
- Monthly meeting with Irish Seed Saver's General Manager along with Educational Co-ordinator and Seed Co-ordinator
- Bi-Annual Report to the Board of Directors

### **Seed Sovereignty of Ireland Programme**

The programme will co-ordinate and facilitate the development of a biodiverse and resilient seed system as part of the UK and Ireland programme run by the Gaia Foundation, in collaboration in Ireland with Irish Seed Savers Association, through increasing the availability and production of agro-ecological (organic) seed and strengthening collaboration across the seed sovereignty movement.

There will be five regional seed hubs (Ireland, Scotland, East UK, West UK, South UK) where training, networking and opportunities for collaboration will be made available and facilitated by regional coordinators.

This programme will support strategic collaboration across the UK, Ireland and European seed movement plus the delivery of specific activities, training and resources aimed at up-skilling farmers and growers. In the second half of the programme there will be on farm variety trials in diverse conditions across the British Isles, and participatory plant breeding. A database of varieties and an online platform for growers will also be developed to support the programme's activities and participants.

The programme has identified three overarching objectives within which all of the activities have been organised:

1. To support and cultivate regional and national connections and collaboration to provide coherence across the food and seed sector.
2. To support farmers and growers with further skills, resources and information.
3. To foster a more supportive environment for a biodiverse and ecologically sustainable seed system to thrive.

Applications to be made to [manager@irishseedsavers.ie](mailto:manager@irishseedsavers.ie) before 5pm November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

## **About Us**

**Irish Seed Savers Association CLG** purpose is to carry on the preservation and saving of open pollinated heritage vegetable seed and fruit tree varieties; to cultivate and research food varieties of plant material; to provide training programmes on horticulture and bio-diversity; to produce seed and fruit trees and make them available to the Irish and international community; To save as wide a spectrum [as possible] of food plant genetic resources for future generations. We are a registered charity since 1997.

Our aim is to:

- Protect, conserve, research, and utilize seed, grain, vegetable and fruit varieties
- To increase awareness, provide education, and promote the benefits of:
  - agricultural genetic resources
  - biodiversity
  - open pollinated seed saving
- Be a working example of successful agricultural conservation by growing and distributing Irish grown seed and fruit varieties.

We are based just outside Scarriff, in East Clare. This role will help us progress our desire to extend our presence throughout Ireland as well as create greater awareness and importance on open pollinated seeds and encourage greater engagement with professional organic growers.

**The Gaia Foundation** have over 30 years' experience accompanying partners, indigenous communities and Earth defenders in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe. Together we work to revive bio-cultural diversity, regenerate healthy ecosystems and strengthen community self-governance for climate change resilience.

Through a holistic and long-term approach working with local and indigenous communities, civil society groups and social movements, we focus on four key areas:

- **Seed, food & Climate Change Resilience** - Building seed, food and climate change resilience, enabling small farmers and growers to enhance their knowledge and seed diversity.
- **Sacred Lands & Wilderness** - Protecting sacred lands through legislation and policy change, and the assertion of custodial rights, helping communities to gain legal recognition that is rooted in their traditions.
- **Earth Jurisprudence** - Promoting Gaian governance through the Rights of Nature - recognising nature as the primary source of law and ethics, and challenging the current capitalist system.
- **Beyond Extractivism** - Moving beyond extractivism, backing those at the front line of mining struggles to defend their ecological and cultural heritage and to build alternative pathways whilst affirming their right to say 'no'.