

## Grower for hydro / aquaponics (H/F)

Actiris International is the international mobility service of Actiris and has implemented the Incoming service. This aims to meet recruitment needs of Brussels employers facing shortages thanks to international recruitment.

We are currently managing a vacancy for a company active in the urban agriculture production

### DATOS DEL PUESTO

**Ocupación:** Grower for hydro / aquaponics

**nº puestos:** 1

### Descripción completa del puesto:

A start-up active in the urban agricultural production in hydro and aquaponics environment is currently looking for a **grower for hydro/aquaponics** (m/f).

The start-up finances, develops and operates rooftop urban farms in cities as an implementation tool for circular economy, to ultimately increase real estate value and enhance quality of life in the city. The first site which was built atop the old slaughterhouse in Brussels will be operating at the end of 2017.

### Team & mentality

The start-up is based on sustainable development. Each team-member wants to run the farms in an innovative way, and is therefore open to exchanging new ideas, insights and collaborations.

The team is open-source oriented and want to make an impact on circular economy in cities, as well as create jobs in urban farming. Moreover, it encourages out-of-the-box thinking to improve food quality.

As a member of the team the new collaborator can work in this unconventional and dynamic environment. He must also be comfortable with collaborating within a multidisciplinary team and a non-hierarchical organization. The start-up has big plans for Brussels and the rest of Europe, so there are possibilities to build a career and develop skills.

### Working site

The rooftop farm (4000 m<sup>2</sup>) is composed of different innovative farming systems: the 7m-high greenhouse with footprint of approx. 1800 m<sup>2</sup> which includes the aquaculture and 2 climate zones for crops, hydroponic tunnels (650 m<sup>2</sup>), an outdoor garden in SPIN farming (1200 m<sup>2</sup>) and a welcome garden in permaculture (300 m<sup>2</sup>). The whole site works by aquaponics system, meaning that the aquaculture delivers the nitrates that are needed for the irrigation of the different crop cultures.

The farm is equipped with the newest technology of steering systems (PRIVA), irrigation with vialux disinfection and drain collection, LED lighting, CO<sup>2</sup> enrichment, etc.

### Job description

The chief crops grower will be responsible for managing the hydroponics production and its team along with the technical aquaculture expert and his team. He will provide technical support and will be the contact person for the clients on daily/weekly basis.

For this first project, he will be in charge of the production plan for the hydroponic cultures, technical design approval and the elaboration of production procedures.

In the future, this role will be enlarged to the site management, production and technical support of regional farms. He will be also assisting the team and will be involved in the future farm development and more responsible for production definition. The grower will be cost conscious to support the farm's economic sustainability.

#### **The daily responsibilities include:**

- Making the hydroponics systems functioning & doing the greenhouse management
- Operating and managing horticulture production:
  - detailed production plan & launching production;
  - establish procedures of maintenance, cleaning, processing;
  - negotiating with suppliers, daily/weekly contact with clients,
  - planning & organization of deliveries and sales,
  - quality control & labellization
  - ...
- Training farm interns & managing 1 junior worker;
- Working closely with the commercial team to achieve commercial objectives;
- Working closely together with the aquaculture team in order to achieve a production while keeping the integrated aquaponics system.

#### **Profile:**

- Educational background from an applied agricultural professional program or equivalent;
- Experience as a hydroponics production manager with responsibility for achievement of a certain production level (between 3 and 5 years) OR experience in assisting such a production manager for at least 3 years;
- Experience in culture of fruit plants (tomatoes, strawberries) as well as leafy plants (herbs, salads) in hydroponic culture;
- Operational experienced with the PRIVA computer systems, fertirrigation, phytopathology application, climate control, and all other relevant GH techniques ;

#### **Competences:**

- Team player who will have to collaborate with the team from the outdoor garden, aquaculture department and sales;
- Leadership abilities in order to manage the GH operations team;
- Capacity to question the elsewhere acquired concepts (conventional hydroponics);
- Conscious about environmental issues of agriculture and horticulture and open-minded to deal with new/more sustainable technical systems;
- Ability to discuss and negotiate with suppliers and clients;
- Meticulous, clean and organized person; problem solving person;
- Ability to work some weekends and nights in shift (in case of emergency or backload in production)

**Experiencia:** between 2 and 5 years

**Formación:** Any certification or diploma relevant to the function

**Idiomas:** English speaking – Dutch and French are an asset

**Salario:** is negotiable

**Localidad del puesto:** Brussels

**Tipo de contrato:** full time

**Horas por semana:** 38h/week

**Turnos:** occasional

**La empresa facilita o ayuda:** no, but subject to Your First Eures Job or Reactivate Project for financial incentives.

#### **MODO DE SOLICITUD:**

Interested candidates please send Cv + cover letter to:

- **incoming@actiris.be**
- with copy to: **serfloju@jcyl.es**

**Asunto:** Grower for hydro/aquiaponics (Spain)

**Language of documents:** French, Dutch or English

Reference on the EURES portal: 4905135

**FECHA LIMITE DE SOLICITUD: 15 junio 2017**