Principal Advisor

Surveillance and Incursion Investigation - Plants and Environment
Christchurch or Auckland based
Looking for a challenge? Keen to make a real difference?
We are seeking a committed and enthusiastic scientist to join the Surveillance and Incursion Investigation Group - assisting the Ministry for Primary Industries to grow and protect New Zealand.
The Principal Advisor - Surveillance and Incursion Investigation (Plants and Environment) will provide intellectual and technical leadership and liaison for surveillance and the incursion investigation of high priority pests and diseases in the plants and environment sectors in New Zealand. This role is one of our most senior technical positions and has significant responsibility to provide thought leadership and mentoring and coaching for other members of the group.
Responsibilities:
*Contribute to the achievement of MPI's strategic outcomes by ensuring that the team is supported to deliver surveillance and priority investigation, response and preparedness programmes via provision of sound advice, strategic and technical leadership, analysis and recommendations
*Enhance MPI's surveillance and investigation ability to high priority risks in the Plant and Environment sectors by increasing MPI's knowledge of new science, technologies and innovations through developing and maintaining relationships with key science and technology providers
*Work effectively in the role assigned in Response Management Framework to support the efficient management of high priority risks in New Zealand
*In conjunction with the leadership team and others with subject matter expertise, the Principal Advisor will support the delivery of programmes that promote knowledge transfer and information sharing across MPI
*Credibly represent MPI in appropriate international fora as required
*Provide coaching, mentoring and advice to colleagues to ensure their success
*Receive and manage reports of pests and diseases, plan and conduct investigations including risk assessment, options analysis, field activities and urgent measures for containment and control in accordance with procedures.
Requirements:
*Relevant tertiary qualification (Masters or PhD, or equivalent) in the plant and environment disciplines
*Ideally a minimum of 10 years of relevant experience as a scientist or in a strongly similar working environment with a focus on pests and diseases of the plant and environment sectors
*Previous experience in the design and implementation of surveillance programmes
*Previous experience in establishing and effectively maintaining collaborative relationships with industry, science stakeholders, Maori and Government (central and regional) agencies
*Specialist knowledge and experience in the plant and environment sectors, both science and industry
*Experience in delivery of cross agency collaborative projects.
To apply please visit the careers section at www.mpi.govt.nz to view a Job Description and to apply online, quoting reference number 12-399.
For further information please contact careers@mpi.govt.nz
Applications close 5pm, Friday 15 February 2013.