



IYIP INTERNSHIP 2024-2029

Project manager for organic market gardening and climate change in Benin

Internship location: Porto-Novo, Benin

Host organization: Réseau d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales - RAIL NGO

RAIL is a Beninese non-governmental organization officially created in 2014, but which has been working in Porto-Novo since 2003. Its mission is to improve the living conditions of families in difficulty in Porto-Novo. The organization develops projects focused on empowering the population, developing technical and organizational skills geared towards entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity, particularly for the benefit of women and young people. RAIL supports and implements initiatives on equality between women and men for a more prosperous, equitable and just world.

Position title: Project manager for organic market gardening and climate change

Mandate: From 2003 to 2015, RAIL supported hundreds of groups of women producers and processors. The pandemic had an impact on family incomes. RAIL obtained a 600m² street from the town hall, which it transformed into a market garden. The NGO has become a specialist in organic market gardening, and is accredited by the Beninese government as an agricultural and management consultancy. Tomato growing is one of its specialties. It has obtained funding from the Quebec government to train women's cooperatives in organic market gardening. RAIL's vision is to develop an urban agriculture policy in Porto-Novo.

RAIL is therefore looking for a trainee specialized in organic market gardening in relation to climate change and environmental protection.

As we all know, Africa is undergoing climate change, particularly in terms of rainfall, drought and so on. In Benin, during the rainy season, rainfall is more abundant in a very short space of time, leading to flooding. What's more, drought seasons are accompanied by rising temperatures, and irrigation has to be carried out differently. Women and young market gardeners therefore need to adopt new ways of cultivating, which means taking into account the type of seed, fertilizers, crop rotation, climate-resistant vegetables, new irrigation methods, etc.

RAIL has trained hundreds of young people and women to grow organic vegetables. The organization employs a full-time gardener and has just secured funding to train 60 people a year for three years. This project is financed by RAIL's patron, Mr. René Dupéré, composer with Cirque du Soleil.

Among other things, the trainee will have the opportunity to focus on the following areas:

- Improving training in organic market gardening by adding a "resilience to climate change" component, in collaboration with Mr. Adjafon and the RAIL gardener.
- Develop educational workbooks for trainers on the theme of "agriculture and climate change".
- Produce "les cahiers des apprenant·es" with the new "climate change" component.
- Support Mr. Adjafon and the gardener who teach the learners in organic market gardening and adapted to climate change.
- Research other African cities that could be models, in order to eventually develop a real urban agriculture policy within the city of Porto Novo,

During the 3-month internship in Benin, the intern will benefit from adequate accommodation and a safe and secure workplace in Porto-Novo.

Required skills: The candidate must have a strong interest in international development, organic farming, the environment, education and gender equality, as well as in communication, research and advocacy. They must speak French and have good communication skills.

Training before departure and upon return from the internship

Before leaving, participants have the chance to participate in a **2-weeks (10 business days in total)** professional training course (**in French and English with accomations**) led by instructors **recognized in their field**, during which they will address diverse themes as per the following program.

The IYIP also aims to help participants integrate the job market when they return. In this context, participation in the program includes **workshops** designed to **improve interview skills and strengthen job search tools** .

In addition, participation in the IYIP covers:

- Travel and medical insurance costs;
- Plane tickets;
- Mandatory vaccinations*;
- The cost of the visa, if necessary;
- The organization of accommodation ;
- Daily living expenses ;
- Personalized follow-up during your international stay.

Duration of international stay: 3 months

To be eligible for the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP), the candidate must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- Be facing barriers to employment by belonging to or identifying with a group of people who face discrimination such as people living with disabilities, Indigenous people, racialized youth and members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.
- Be between the ages of 18 to 30 years old at the time of final selection (i.e. at the time of

- signing the contract by the intern and Alternatives);
- Have never participated in the IYIP (with some exceptions: see our FAQ section)

Language: good knowledge of written and spoken French required.

Interested? To register, please access the form below by clicking on apply.

Only those who send their CV and covering letter (via the registration form) will be considered in the selection process.

Information: psij@alternatives.ca

Take your chance!