

CERSA Internship Program Brief 2025

Time of Program: mid-May 2025- mid-August 2025

Submitted by: Minor Use Foundation

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Location: Online / Virtual

Travel: Not required

Brief Description of Company/Agency:

The Minor Use Foundation, Inc. (MUF) is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of New Jersey. MUF conducts research and policy projects to facilitate the safe registration of pesticides for minor use crops (fruits, vegetables, nuts, and spices) globally. The Foundation is committed to promoting economic growth, environmental sustainability, and facilitating the trade of nutritious crops. The mission of the Foundation includes the following:

- Facilitate global priority setting for pesticide research for minor uses
- Coordinate residue studies and existing data in order to obtain CODEX MRLs and maximize the impact of resources
- Enhance regulatory and research capacity in developing countries and ensure pesticides are used safely around the world
- Support regional regulatory expert working groups and collaborate to address issues of regional importance

Internship Program Description:

This internship is an excellent opportunity to learn about how agricultural development projects are implemented on the ground in an international development context. The key role of the intern would be engaged in communication and outreach strategies of the Foundation including identifying relevant partners across the globe and networking. The intern will learn the CODEX Alimentarius process in pesticide residue MRL setting, logistical, and human resources complexities of conducting international agricultural research projects. It is also an excellent opportunity to learn about how international

institutions and organizations collaborate to achieve the best outcomes for specialty crop growers in developing countries.

Duties of this position include, but are not limited to:

Operational support to MUF (60%)

Participate in international team meetings where we will develop project plans, resolve barriers to implementation, and brainstorm solutions. Assemble data and project plans, track follow-ups and deliverables, and conduct outreach to stakeholders on behalf of the MUF. Support international consultants in the execution of their training and capacity-building programs. Support social media manager in providing scientific contents for developing infographics, designs and posts.

Support Foundation staff in data collection (40%)

Providing secondary data information from authorized sources such as scientific journals, FAO websites, and official government websites to the MUF staff as and when needed for the project activities and reports.

Outcomes from this Opportunity will include:

This internship offers an opportunity to gain practical experience in international agricultural development, with a focus on supporting specialty crop growers in developing countries. Intern will learn how to design and implement agricultural projects, navigate regulatory frameworks such as the Codex Alimentarius process for pesticide residue MRL setting, and manage diverse project activities to meet timelines effectively. Through active participation in project planning, team meetings, and stakeholder outreach, intern will develop essential project management skills, including tracking deliverables, resolving barriers, and coordinating with global partners.

Working with international teams, intern will gain valuable experience in cross-cultural collaboration, learning to communicate and work effectively with individuals from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds. They will enhance their abilities in data collection, analysis, and outreach, contributing to global strategies and capacity-building programs. This hands-on experience equips student with the skills and knowledge needed for impactful careers in agricultural research, policy-making, and international development.