



RM Curtis & Co Ltd : **Product Development Manager**

Role: **Product Development Manager (NPD)**
Salary Range: **Competitive**
Location: **UK Based (Halstead, Essex)**

RM Curtis & Co Ltd is a major UK producer and importer of dried fruits, nuts and seeds. Our in-house brands include **Snacking Essentials**, **Funtime Fruits** and **Curtis Catering**.

The Role

We are looking for a “foodie” product development manager of graduate calibre who has experience managing teams as well as working autonomously to manage the development of food product projects from concept to launch

Core focus

You will oversee the delivery of development projects from concept to launch and manage the development process. As you do this you will be coaching & developing the team to maximise their potential whilst delivering projects to agreed timelines and commercial aspirations.

You will be responsible for ensuring that all products developed have clear reasons to believe, are delicious and take on board any relevant trends to ensure that they exceed expectations of our customers.

Key Responsibilities

Your responsibilities will be to...

- Decide priorities and supports the NPD team throughout the development critical path to ensure plans and performance is aligned to business strategy and delivers the required results, on time, right first time, and to budget.
- Continuously develop your and your team’s knowledge of fruit, nut and seed markets including product knowledge on eating quality, specifications, price, countries of origin, varieties and sustainability etc...
- Develop and maintain benchmarking data of comparative / competitor products from all major retailers/customers. Keeping internal and customer teams up to date with new launches of competitor products.
- Understand the factory kit, process and limitations to ensure that they are considered within all new products and packaging. Highlighting any risks to ensure they are managed or mitigated.
- Ensure all specifications and costing information are checked routinely and are factually correct prior to launch





- Support the packaging agenda to ensure we have the right formats for the right products and that team have relevant knowledge on cutters, printing processes, substrates and design files
- Provide direction to ensure that across the team people are kept safe, engaged, focused, developed and delivering their potential.
- Maintain the standards for product safety, legality, traceability, quality, hygiene and housekeeping requirements.
- Builds strong relationships with all departments in business.
- Deliver presentations internally and externally; communicating knowledge and inputting into customer presentations and discussions
- Assist the Marketing team during brand development

About you

You will be of Graduate calibre, having a food-relevant degree or equivalent. With an NPD background, you will be creative have an eye for innovation and a real passion for food. Your previous experience will be in a development role with knowledge and understanding of all stages of product development and dealing with at least one of the major retailers

and your essential skills ...

- Able to work effectively **autonomously** and within a **team** within strict cost/time parameters.
- Industry experience of **managing teams**.
- Proven track record of **presenting** at senior levels and to retailer groups
- Be able to influence, make decisions and manage ambiguity where necessary
- Ability to deal with a **complexity** of products, projects and customers
- Computer literate (Excel, Word & PowerPoint) with excellent oral and written communication skills.
- **Customer facing** - to display a confident and knowledgeable manner in order to engage with customers

Food

- Understand health/nutritional/dietary benefits of products to be suggested or presented to the customer.
- Loves food and has great culinary knowledge. Can demonstrate an understanding of flavours, cuisines, ingredients, and how to make delicious products.
- Experience of working within a foodservice environment
- A 'foodie' with a commercial focus who is able to combine creativity with a complete understanding of full scale production practicalities
- Excellent working knowledge of food combinations, some classical food training would be an advantage





The role is office based at our offices in Halstead, Essex (CO9 2SU) and you will have the flexibility to travel and attend launches outside normal office hours

A full UK driving licence is essential

Please send us your current CV along with a covering letter outlining your existing package details to hr@rmcurtis.co.uk

***** STRICTLY - NO AGENCIES PLEASE *****

Please note that if you have not heard back from us within three weeks of submitting your application, you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

