

PhD opportunity: Evaluation of bananas in east Africa for resistance to Fusarium wilt

Background

- The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in collaboration with Stellenbosch University, invites applications for a PhD Fellowship under the project, ‘**Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes Region of Africa**’.
 - This call is for citizens of South Africa and EAC countries, with preference given to Tanzanians
- . The research is about evaluating banana breeding materials for resistance to Fusarium wilt.

The PhD candidate will be expected to:

- 1) Prepare a full proposal on resistance to Fusarium wilt in banana
- 2) Set up and run disease assessment experiments
- 3) Collect, process and interpret data related to banana Fusarium wilt resistance
- 4) Develop and use molecular markers for rapid and quantitative fungal detection
- 5) Run statistical analysis on data
- 6) Write and publish papers in peer-reviewed journals
- 7) Complete the academic requirements defined by the University of Stellenbosch for the award of a PhD degree

Qualifications

The candidate should fulfill the following conditions:

- Hold an MSc degree in Plant Pathology, Plant Protection or related discipline from a renowned university
- Be able to design experiments, conduct field and greenhouse tests, analyze data and report findings
- Have a knowledge of molecular biology, developing and using molecular markers
- Ability to take initiative and work under minimum supervision
- Excellent computer literacy, including at least one statistical package
- Capable of writing and publishing in peer-reviewed journals
- Native from South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda or one of the East Africa Community countries
- Fluent in English
- Previous research on banana would be an advantage

General information



The position is for a maximum of four years. The person will be paid a monthly stipend and applicable allowances as per IITA policy. The **candidate will be enrolled at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa and conduct his/her research in both South Africa and Tanzania.** The selected candidate should be able to start the program by early April 2015.

Application Procedures

Completed application should be forward to IITA-TrainingUnit@cgiar.org. All applicants are required to include:

- 1) Completed application form
- 2) Curriculum vitae;
- 3) Letter of interest
- 4) University official transcripts;
- 5) Three reference letters including names and contact information of the referees.

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Closing Date

The deadline for application to IITA is 28 February 2015 (close of business).

IITA is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates. All applications will be acknowledged, but only short listed candidates will be contacted.

For more information about IITA, visit: www.iita.org