



Africa Rice Center (WARDA)
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST (2 positions)
IRS 01-02/RS/PL2/07

Africa Rice Center is seeking 2 (two) Agricultural Economists, one to be based at its current Headquarters – Cotonou, Benin Republic – and the other at Saint-Louis, Senegal.

ABOUT THE AFRICA RICE CENTER: The Africa Rice Center is an autonomous intergovernmental research association of African member states and one of the 15 international centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Africa Rice Center's mission is to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa through research, development and partnership activities aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice sector in ways that ensure the sustainability of the farming environment.

The Africa Rice Center hosts the African Rice Initiative (ARI), the Regional Rice Research and Development Network for West and Central Africa (ROCARIZ) and the Inland Valley Consortium (IVC).

The Africa Rice Center has its headquarters in Côte d'Ivoire and regional research stations near Saint-Louis, Senegal, and at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria. The headquarters is temporarily relocated to Cotonou, Benin.

JOB SUMMARY: The successful candidates will undertake research on production and resource economics for rice-based production systems within a multidisciplinary context. Both positions require working closely with biological scientists and other social scientists to evaluate the economic profitability of technologies targeted to poor farmers. The successful candidates must have demonstrable skills in econometrics and microeconomic modelling and must be willing to spend a reasonable amount of time traveling and conducting surveys in rural areas of Africa.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Reporting to the Assistant Director of Research and Program Two Leader, the successful applicants will:

- Develop profiles of rice-based production systems in key ecologies along the upland-lowland continuum in Africa, including the assessment of opportunities and constraints to improving performance of the systems.
- Develop crop budgets and farm models to assess and identify optimal production and resource-allocation decisions in rice-based systems along the upland-lowland continuum.
- Undertake socio-economic assessment of improved technologies for rice-based production systems along the upland-lowland continuum, paying particular attention to gender issues.
- Enhance capacity development and knowledge exchange with NARES and other researchers.
- Publish research results in refereed journals; contribute to resource mobilization and other tasks as defined.
- Any other duties as assigned from time to time.

REQUIREMENTS: The preferred candidate shall have a PhD degree in agricultural economics, with at least five years postgraduate research experience; knowledge of African farming system, demonstrated ability to work in a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural research environment;

and strong written and verbal skills in English or French, with working knowledge of the other. Proven ability in securing external funds would be an advantage. The successful candidates shall have analytical and conceptual skills in farm level research, econometrics and microeconomic modeling skills, sound knowledge of statistical and econometric software, and spreadsheets. Good writing, communication and presentation skills are essential.

BENEFITS AND TENURE: This is an internationally-recruited staff position at the Principal Staff level. An internationally-competitive salary and benefits package at the appropriate level will be provided. The contract is for an initial period of two years, renewable.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Applicants are invited to submit an application letter indicating location preference (Cotonou or Saint-Louis) and with a comprehensive CV, including names and addresses of three professional referees to:

HRO-Africa Rice Center (WARDA)
WARDA/ADRAO
01 B.P. 2031 Cotonou
Fax: +229-21350556
E-mail: WARDA-HR@CGIAR.ORG

Please quote the position announcement number in your letter of application. Applications will be considered until 28 February 2007, or until the position is filled.

The Africa Rice Center believes that diversity in its staff promotes excellence in its operations, and encourages applications from women and nationals of developing countries.