



Position announcement

CASSAVA MOLECULAR GENETICIST (POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW) Ref: PD/CMG/2/06

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), with headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria, is seeking applicants for the position of Cassava Molecular Geneticist to assist in the development of marker-assisted selection methodologies for cassava with emphasis on resistance traits, in particular resistance against the Cassava Mosaic Disease. The Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) is a viral disease that has devastated cassava production in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through its breeding program, IITA has successfully developed CMD resistant cassava varieties which have been distributed throughout sub-Saharan Africa. As part of its ongoing effort to combat CMD, IITA and its partners wish to identify molecular markers to new sources of resistance and use marker-assisted selection for pyramiding these genes. State-of-the-art research facilities include in vitro cell and tissue culture and automated capillary sequencers for genotyping. Genomics tools including a cassava BAC and cassava EST libraries are available for marker development.

IITA is a non-profit organization with over 130 internationally recruited scientists. The Institute has programs in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa. IITA scientists from about 35 countries work in partnership with national agricultural agencies to increase food production in tropical Africa, and ultimately to raise the productivity and income of small-scale farmers in an ecologically sustainable way.

Responsibilities: The appointee will be required to:

- Work primarily on developing molecular tags for CMD resistance traits and on the use of marker-assisted selection to integrate resistance traits derived by conventional breeding into popular African cassava varieties.
- Other responsibilities include phenotyping and evaluating inheritance of the traits and contributing to team decisions on the most successful approaches to pursue marker assisted selection in cassava.

Duty Station: IITA Headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria

Qualifications and experience: Candidates should have a recent PhD in molecular genetics with hands-on experience in the use of molecular markers for genetic mapping and bulked-segregant analysis. A background in SNP haplotyping, association mapping or microarray technology will be considered a plus. Ability to work in multidisciplinary and multicultural environment and fluency in written and spoken English is required.

General information: Initial appointment is for two years. IITA offers a competitive remuneration package paid in US dollars.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, lists of publications, and names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Human Resources Manager at IITA, c/o Lambourn (UK) Ltd., Carolyn House, 26 Dingwall Road, Croydon CR9 3EE, UK or by email to: IITA-HR@cgiar.org

Application deadline: Applications will be received until 14 March, 2006.

IITA is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.