

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE

For further information on IPGRI, consult the Web page at <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org>

The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) undertakes, encourages and supports research and other activities on the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, especially genetic resources, to create more productive, resilient and sustainable harvests. Our aim is to promote the greater well-being of people, particularly poor people in developing countries, by helping them to achieve food security, to improve their health and nutrition, to boost their incomes and to conserve the natural resources on which they depend. The organization is active in over 100 countries worldwide, with more than 300 staff working from some 20 country offices. It is one of the 15 Future Harvest Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). IPGRI's headquarters are located just outside Rome, Italy in Maccarese. IPGRI is now looking for a well-qualified candidate, to be based at its Sub-regional Office for West and Central Africa (WCA) in Cotonou, Benin, for the position of:

Regional Coordinator – West and Central Africa

Under the supervision of the Regional Director for Sub Saharan Africa, the Regional Coordinator will be responsible for providing facilitation and management on all aspects of IPGRI's operations in the sub-region and managing a team of highly skilled scientists and other staff at the IPGRI WCA office in Cotonou, Benin. The Regional Coordinator will also be required to link with relevant IPGRI Programmes in relation to IPGRI activities within the sub-region. Specific responsibilities will include:

1. Management of Sub-Regional Office

- Provide overall representation for IPGRI in the sub-region as a representative of the Regional Director including:
 - Act as an advocate for IPGRI operations and activities within the sub-region
 - Liaise with IITA Management on issues related to the effective management of the IPGRI Cotonou office
 - Liaise with Future Harvest centres and programmes in WCA on issues related to CGIAR and the Alliance
- Contribute to ensuring the coherence of IPGRI activities across programmes in the sub-region
- Contribute to the mobilization of financial resources for the sub-region, and for IPGRI, as possible
- Manage and provide leadership of the WCA office and group

2. Technical Responsibilities

- Provide coordination and technical direction for the Genetic Resources Network for West and Central Africa (GRENEWCA)
- Provide facilitation and Focal Point responsibilities for IPGRI research activities in WCA
- Active technical engagement in Programme research activity of interest, with the agreement of the Regional Director and the appropriate Programme Director.
- Champion the course of agricultural biodiversity in all relevant domains in WCA and ensure that agrobiodiversity issues are properly addressed as appropriate for WCA.

Minimum qualifications and competencies:

- Advanced university degree (Ph.D. or Master's) in biological or social sciences, in a relevant field such as agriculture, environment, or ecology;
- Five to ten years of relevant, progressively responsible experience in research and/or research management;
- Familiarity with operations and procedures within international agriculture and biodiversity circles;
- Familiarity with plant genetic resources policy issues, at both global and national levels, is a considerable advantage.
- Superior interpersonal and communications skills including demonstrated competency in working effectively with other national and cultural backgrounds, high level officials, and partners using courtesy and tact.
- High level of initiative, strategic judgment and adaptability.
- Motivated and resourceful person with a sustained record of achievement and innovation.
- Demonstrated competency in facilitating meetings or discussions;
- Demonstrated competency in project management, including budgetary and financial aspects;
- Fluency in written and spoken English and working knowledge of French.
- Must be willing to travel extensively.

Terms and conditions: This is an internationally recruited professional position at Scientist/Senior Scientist level (depending on qualifications and experience of the selected candidate) to be located at IPGRI's Sub-regional Office for West and Central Africa in Cotonou, Benin. All benefits are denominated and paid in US Dollars. IPGRI offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, non-contributory pension plan, medical insurance and generous leave provisions. Initial contract will be for a period of three years, renewable.

Applications: Letter of application and *curriculum vitae* in English, including date of birth, gender and nationality, with names and full contact details of at least three referees, including telephone, fax and email address, should be sent to Ingrid Lambert, Human Resources Manager, IPGRI, Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 00057 Maccarese, Rome, fax (39) 06 6118341 or preferably online at IPGRI-VACANCY@CGIAR.ORG **not later than 13 October 2006**. Please quote source of advertisement.

IPGRI is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.