



Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (Ref No: DDG-R4D/PDF/MB/B/06/17)

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology**.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <http://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

Position Responsibilities:

The tasks will include:

- Manage Confined Field Trials for CASS project
- Supervise sampling and sample processing for the CASS project.
- Manage all activities related to the CASS confined field trials.
- Investigate the molecular basis of resistance to viral diseases (CMD and CBSV) in cassava.
- Study genes and pathways involved in the mechanism of storage root initiation in cassava.
- Study the differential expression profile of mRNA and smallRNA in different cassava genotypes before and after storage root initiation
- Study the differential RNA expression profiles in banana genotypes selected within the MUSA project.
- Produce and analyse RNA and smallRNA sequencing data in collaboration with the bioinformatics unit.
- Implement capacity for NGS RNA libraries preparation at Bioscience unit.
- Implement capacity for assessment of gene function and gene modification including: agrobacterium-mediated transient gene expression and virus induced gene silencing (VIGS) technologies.
- Publish work in peer-reviewed journals.
- Supervise and train PhD and master students supported by the CASS and MUSA projects in advanced molecular biology and virology.

Educational Qualifications

The candidate should have earned a PhD in Plant molecular biology or Plant biotechnology or Plant protection or associated discipline from a recognized university.

Core Competencies

- Excellent skills in advanced molecular biology.
- Experience in agrobacteria and plant transformation.
- Experience in Virus-induced gene silencing technology.
- Experience in Next Generation Sequencing library preparation.
- Experience in molecular virology.
- Work experience in a biosafety level 2 facility.
- Demonstrated ability to write and publish articles in peer reviewed international journals.
- Ability to work independently in a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, and multi-cultural environment.
- Experience in NGS data analysis is an asset
- At least 5-years postdoc work experience in an advanced plant molecular laboratory would be an

advantage

Duty station: Ibadan, Nigeria

General information: The contract will be for an initial period of two years. IITA offers internationally competitive remuneration package paid in U.S. Dollars.

Applications: Applications must include covering letter which should address how the candidate's background/experience relates to the specific duties of the position applied for, curriculum vitae, names and addresses of three professional referees (which **must** include either the Head of the applicant's current or previous organization or applicant's direct Supervisor/Superior at his/her present or former place of work). The application should be addressed to the Head, Human Resources Service. Please complete our online application form using this link: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

Closing Date: 30th June 2017

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

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.