



Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Soybean Breeding (Ref: DDG-R4D/PRF/SB/10/18)

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Soybean Breeding**.

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 Postdoc Soybean breeder will contribute to delivering the IITA/USAID funded Soybean Project milestones under direct supervision of the Project Leader. More specifically, he/she will:

- Oversee breeding activities in West Africa and ensure that outputs are delivered according to the agreed work plan.
- Participate in both conventional and molecular breeding and genetic analyses studies, in line with the Excellence in Breeding approaches.
- Identify key variations for traits of interest in collaboration with other relevant scientists (e.g. agronomists, physiologists, pathologists).
- Implement the development of populations and improved soybean cultivars as per Product Concept to deliver value varieties based on partner/custom demands using adapted and introduced germplasm, and in collaboration with national partners and other scientists.
- Conduct quality research on the genetics of key traits including resistance/tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.
- Develop creative approaches for the exploitation of genomics and genomic data in germplasm enhancement and improvement of soybean.
- Validate methodologies/technologies to improve the efficiency of soybean breeding programs.
- Assist the Project Leader in implementing key activities in the project's target countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and other participating countries as determined by IITA).
- Contribute to the identification of new opportunities for soybean production through liaison with national governments, the private sector and other potential industrial users.
- Contribute to strengthening of NARS partners' capacity in soybean breeding.
- Mentor and supervise research associates, field technicians, and postgraduate students (through degree and non-degree related training).
- Publish articles in high impact journals.

Educational Qualifications

The candidate should have a PhD degree in plant genetics, molecular genetics, plant breeding, or related field.

Core Competencies

- Experience in conducting molecular and field breeding activities (preferably on self-pollinated crops).

- Good knowledge of molecular and conventional breeding.
- Good publishing skills in quality scientific journals.
- Ability to work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in a cross-cultural environment.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Information management skills and competence in computer software used to manage breeding programs, establish trials and analyze results.
- Excellent spoken and written English; French added advantage.

Duty station: Ibadan, Nigeria

General information: The contract will be for an initial period of two years. IITA offers an internationally competitive remuneration package paid in US 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 of Human Resources. Please complete our online application form using this link: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

Closing Date: The position will remain open until a suitable candidate can be found

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

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.