



Postdoctoral Fellow Agri-Food Systems Scientist (Ref: DDG-R4D/PDF/AFSS/12/18)

Background:

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Postdoctoral Fellow, Agri-Food Systems Scientist** to play a leading role in implementing the project “The rural-urban nexus: Establishing a nutrient loop to improve city region food system resilience (RUNRES)” in Rwanda and eastern DR Congo.

RUNRES is led by ETH Zurich, Switzerland and focuses on developing rural to urban food value chain and waste recycling solutions to generate improved resource flows from the rural to the urban and back to the rural areas to improve the resilience of rural-urban food systems. The Postdoctoral Fellow will lead project science activities in Rwanda (focusing on cassava value chains) and DR Congo (focusing on coffee value chains), and closely collaborate with project partners and scientists in the other project locations in Ethiopia and South Africa, and with ETH scientists and management in Switzerland.

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.

The position reports to the IITA focal point for Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the Project Leader and IITA Rwanda Country Representative.

Position Responsibilities:

The Postdoctoral Fellow will undertake the following activities:

- Design and implement scientific research for (i) mapping, (ii) analysing, and (iii) optimizing agri-food value chains, nutrient flows, and waste streams to build resilience of rural-urban food systems.
- Collect and analyse existing and new experimental and survey-based agronomic, socio-economic and food systems data.
- Conduct integrated or cross-disciplinary analyses to support stakeholder decision-making processes (e.g. cost saving projections related to different food processing, nutrient flow and waste stream optimisation scenarios).
- Publish scientific research in peer reviewed ISI Clarivate international journals.
- Conduct action-research together with public and private stakeholders in the cassava value chain in Rwanda and the coffee value chain in DR Congo.
- Ensure stakeholder engagement and buy-in in the design, implementation and interpretation of scientific research in close collaboration with Project Coordinators in Rwanda and DR Congo.
- Translate and avail scientific research through effective tools and processes that actively support stakeholder decision-making on how to optimise agri-food processing, nutrient flows, waste streams to build resilience of rural-urban food systems.
- Ensure visibility of the project activities and results in scientific, development and policy arenas, as well as among local stakeholders in the regions where project activities take place.
- Lead effective project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and documentation with project partners and donors.
- Supervise research assistants, junior scientist and/ or students.
- Design, test and validate prediction models for alternative agri-food nutrient flows, waste streams and rural-urban food system interactions.

- Co-lead project technical, administrative and financial reporting with project leaders, project coordinators, project partners and donor.
- On-demand support to ongoing research for development projects executed by IITA in the Central Africa Hub.
- Align, report and share project activities within the framework of the CGIAR Research Programs.

Educational Qualifications:

The candidate should have a completed PhD in agricultural or bio-sciences sciences, with specialisation in farming systems research, soil science, soil sciences, natural resource management, value chain research or food sciences.

Core Competencies:

- Thorough knowledge and demonstrated expertise in (i) mapping, (ii) analysing, and (iii) optimizing agri-food value chains, nutrient flows, waste streams and rural-urban food systems.
- Capacity to guide innovative circular economy science within the project and within IITA.
- Affinity with multi-stakeholder approaches and experience in conducting action-research with different groups of societal stakeholders.
- Proven experiences with ICT-based data collection tools (ODK based).
- Strong quantitative programming and analytical skills in R.
- Applied knowledge, and experience in food and agricultural sciences.
- Proven capacity in publishing scientific research in peer reviewed journals, and as popular communication products (flyers, blogs, etc.).
- Working experience in an international agricultural research for development organisation (CGIAR or other) is an advantage
- Proven project management skills.
- Experience with monitoring and evaluation of research for development interventions is considered an advantage.
- Ability and willingness to supervise research assistants, junior scientist and/ or students.
- Excellent communication skills, able to interact with a multi-cultural and interdisciplinary team of scientists and development partners in layman language.
- Proactive and independent problem solver, and excellent team player.

Duty station:

Kigali, Rwanda

General information:

The contract will be for a period of two years. IITA offers an internationally competitive remuneration package paid in US Dollars. Expected starting date for the position is 1st May 2019.

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:

31st January 2019

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

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.