



Postdoctoral Fellow, Systems Agronomist (Ref. No: DDG-R4D/PDF/SA/M/03/20)

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Postdoctoral Fellow (Systems Agronomist)** under the DeSIRA project on *Climate-smart innovations to improve productivity, profitability and sustainability of agriculture and food systems in Malawi through multidisciplinary research.*

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is one of the world's leading research partners in finding solutions to hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Its award-winning research-for-development (R4D) approach addresses the development needs of tropical countries. IITA works with partners to enhance crop quality and productivity, reduce producer and consumer risks, and generate wealth from agriculture. IITA is a non-profit organization founded in 1967 in Nigeria and governed by a Board of Trustees. IITA works on the following crops: cowpea, soybean, banana/plantain, yam, cassava, and maize. It 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

- Lead/Coordinate IITA's component of the DeSIRA project involving a consortium of CGIAR centers (i.e. CIAT, CIP, CIMMYT, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IFPRI, IITA, and WorldFish).
- Evaluate crop and soil fertility management options for sustainable intensification of cassava-maize, and maize-legume cropping systems.
- Evaluate maize-legume relay and strip intercropping options on insect-pest severity and grain yield of nutrient dense legume and maize varieties.
- Deploy and evaluate integrated approaches to banana bunchy top virus disease management.
- Evaluate different drying and storage methods to reduce aflatoxin contamination in maize and groundnuts.
- Evaluate different post-harvest handling and storage methods on the quality parameters of soybean and cowpea seed varieties.
- Develop and promote the adoption of technological innovations through on-farm and on-station participatory trials and demonstrations in partnership with farmers associations, private sector, CGIAR Centers, National Agricultural Research Service and other partners.
- Prepare training manuals and conduct training on sustainable intensification technologies, improved crop management practices and post-harvest technologies tailored to the needs of partners.
- Prepare quarterly and annual technical reports.
- Publish research results in peer reviewed high impact journals and present at conferences.
- Contribute to resource mobilization.
- Any other task assigned by supervisors.

Educational Qualifications

The candidate should have a PhD in Agronomy, Soil Science or any related field.

Core Competencies

- Knowledge and skills in crop production, management and cropping systems.
- Knowledge in soil-plant relationship.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision in a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-cultural environment.
- Demonstrated ability to write and publish journal articles.
- Good team worker and initiative towards results-driven outputs.

Duty Station: IITA-Malawi, Chitedze Research Station, Lilongwe.

General information: The contract will be for an initial period of two years with possibility of renewal for a year based on performance and continued availability of funding. 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, Human Resources Service. Please complete our online application form using this link: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

Closing Date: 8th April 2020

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

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.