

# Bioversity International



ASSOCIATE EXPERT SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Position:** Associate Expert, Supporting Agrobiodiversity Research Development and Communications  
**Sector:** Agriculture / Biodiversity  
**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya  
**Duration:** Three years duration, contract renewed annually  
**Eligibility:** The post is **open to Developing Country nationals under 32 years of age on the date of application. Note: Nationals of the post location are not eligible. See the section on "Further Information" for details on eligible countries**

## General information:

Bioversity International is the world's largest international research organization dedicated to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity. It is non-profit and independently operated. Bioversity's work is motivated by a vision in which people enjoy greater well-being through increased incomes, sustainable improved food security and nutrition, and greater environmental health, made possible by conservation and the deployment of agricultural biodiversity on farms and in forests. Bioversity International has its headquarters in Rome, Italy and offices in more than 20 countries worldwide, including 5 regional offices for Sub-Saharan Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), the Americas (Cali, Colombia), Asia, Pacific and Oceania (Seremban, Malaysia), Central and West Asia and North Africa (Aleppo, Syria) and Europe (Rome, Italy). Bioversity is supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is funded by over 60 national and international donor agencies. The research is implemented through four Programmes (Diversity for Livelihoods, Understanding and Managing Biodiversity, Improving Livelihoods in Commodity Based Systems, and Global Partnerships) and three Research and Support Units (Policy and Law, Capacity Development and Public Awareness).

## Position Overview:

The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, hosted by Bioversity International seeks to:

- Collate, synthesize and make available information on the maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity
- Identify ways in which the use of agrobiodiversity can contribute to addressing major global challenges
- Identify and facilitate relevant new and innovative research partnerships that strengthen cross component, multidisciplinary and participatory research.

In pursuing these objectives the Platform seeks to support agrobiodiversity research development, globally as well as regionally, and encourages agrobiodiversity information dissemination through its website and publications. The Platform is made up of partners who include individuals and organizations involved in or interested in agrobiodiversity research. Over the last year it has identified a number of priority tasks and has initiated a project on climate change and agrobiodiversity maintenance and use with a particular focus on indigenous peoples. It collaborates in organizing workshops and other events at international meetings and works to encourage scientists, policy makers as well as civil society to share their ideas on how people can make sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. The secretariat of the Platform is hosted by Bioversity International and has two locations, Rome and Nairobi.

[www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org](http://www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org)

The Associate Expert will be part of the small secretariat of the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research and will be based in Nairobi. He/she will play a key role in coordinating and supporting the work of the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research regionally as well as globally.

Associate Expert positions are considered full fledged staff members of the organization and as such Bioversity is seeking candidates who are prepared to make a full three year commitment. *Anticipated start of the position: by 1 October 2008.*

## Specific duties and responsibilities:

- Play a leading role in the development and implementation of a communication strategy and plan to guide the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research
- Actively participate in activities to communicate the Platform's work to stakeholders and partners including keeping the Platform website up to date and supporting its further development and supporting the preparation of Platform documents and publications
- Organize and participate in meetings, workshops and electronic discussions and synthesise their outcomes, and supporting the development of research proposals
- Assist stakeholders and partners in developing agrobiodiversity research activities and work with partners on the identification of key research issues in selected areas which can be used to develop research proposals by Platform partners
- Undertake a specific research project in an area related to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity by small-scale farmers relevant to the expertise of the AE which will identify key knowledge gaps and provide the Platform with the information needed to develop its own research agenda. It is envisaged that this would be linked to existing work undertaken by Bioversity from its SSA Regional Office.
- Work with colleagues and partners to develop links and build partnerships with relevant African networks, research groups and educational institutions.

- Support the work of the Platform Secretariat, contributing to the implementation of its work plans and its work with the Platform Steering Committee.

The work will include assisting with the development of Platform work plans, budgets and reports to donors and providing relevant support to meetings of the Platform Steering Committee.

### **Qualifications, skills and experience:**

- Qualifications:**
- **Required:** M.Sc. degree or equivalent in biological or social science relevant to natural resource management or agriculture with a communication component, or experience in the field of communication in research **Desirable:** Further study, research and/or working experience in a related field.
- Experience:**
- Experience with innovative communications strategies to support communication of research findings to civil society
  - International experience, preferably including field experience in a developing country
  - Experience in data capture, collation and compilation, preferably through web interface is desirable
- Skills:**
- Excellent written skills
  - Ability to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint software
- Knowledge:**
- Knowledge of and/or strong interest in the regional educational system
- Competencies:**
- Ability to collate, analyze and synthesize information
  - Interpersonal skills: the ability to work effectively in a team
  - Ability to work independently and creatively towards project goals
  - Strong networking skills
  - Communication skills: ability to communicate effectively with individuals and groups of people; ability to present ideas in a clear and persuasive manner

### **Languages:**

**Required:** English language fluency (verbal and written); **Desirable:** Working knowledge of French and Kiswahili are advantageous.

### **Duty Station:**

The Associate Expert will be located at Bioversity's Sub-Saharan Africa office which is located at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Campus in Gigiri at the northern outskirts of Nairobi, next to the UNEP HQ and the US Embassy. Nairobi is located at 1660 m altitude, with a pleasant climate throughout the year. Nairobi offers a good choice of restaurants, entertainment, sports facilities and more. There are many great places to go during weekends and holidays. A range of housing options are available. Furnished houses are rare but furnished service apartments are available. *General Security:* Like many other growing cities/countries in the world, security of persons and property should not be taken for granted. When viewing houses for rent, staff members need to obtain information on security in any area. The services of a watchman and alarm systems in homes is highly recommended. Having a car will be necessary. Regular security advice to staff is provided by ICRAF Security Officer.

**Terms and conditions:** Bioversity International offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, non-contributory retirement plan, housing allowance, medical insurance and leave provisions. All benefits are denominated and paid in US Dollars.

**Further information:** on Bioversity can be found at: <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/> or about the vacancy by request to [bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org](mailto:bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org)

For further information on *eligibility criteria* see:

<http://www.minbuza.nl/en/developmentcooperation/ExpertProgramme>

**Applications:** Letter of application and *curriculum vitae* in English should be sent to Human Resources, Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino) Rome, Italy. Fax (+39) 06 066118341, E-mail: [bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org](mailto:bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org) indicating the position applied for in the subject line.

The *curriculum vitae* should include applicant's date of birth, nationality, marital status (if married with spouse and children details); contact details; summary of secondary education; detailed description of higher education including degree courses undertaken and special assignments/projects; consultant contracts; work experience; recreational interests; language capabilities; details of three referees including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address.

### **Deadline for applications: 6 July 2008**

*All received applications will be acknowledged, but only short listed applicants will be further contacted.*