



## Associate Expert Cali, Colombia

ASSOCIATE EXPERT SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Position:** Associate Expert, Underutilized crop species and the effects of the developing global system for plant genetic resources
- Sector:** Agricultural biodiversity and policies
- Location:** Cali, Colombia
- Duration:** Three years duration, contract renewed annually
- Eligibility:** The post is open to **Candidates from eligible developing countries**. *Note:* Nationals of the duty station are not eligible, nor are candidates who have previously worked as a JPO/JE/APO/AE. See the section "Further Information" for other eligibility criteria and 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 4 regional offices for Sub-Saharan Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), the Americas (Cali, Colombia), Asia, Pacific and Oceania (Serdang, Malaysia) 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, Commodities for Livelihoods, and Global Partnerships) and three Research and Support Units (Policy and Law, Capacity Development and Public Awareness).

### Position Overview:

The central question to be addressed by the research proposed is whether the newly developing elements of the global system of conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (global system), in particular the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty) and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, will result in further marginalization of underutilized crops. The significance of the proposed research is that effective conservation and use of these crops are essential to improving their contribution to the income, health and nutrition of the poor, especially small-scale farmers and the rural poor in marginal areas. Developments which increase their marginalization will limit the contribution that these species can make to sustainable development. The research will involve analysis of the patterns of conservation, exchange and use of a selected set of underutilized crops and a meta-analysis of trends and patterns, using available global data. Crops will be selected for analysis to take account of differences in types, (e.g. grain, legume, vegetable, fruit) use, breeding system, distribution (from local to international) and inclusion or not in Annex 1 of the Treaty (and therefore subject to a facilitated genetic resources access-system and prioritized by the funding strategies of the Global Crop Diversity Trust). Data for the analysis will be obtained through conservation and user surveys and through analyses of other sources of available data (literature, past surveys etc.).

Associate Expert positions are considered fully 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: before 31 December 2009.*

### Specific duties and responsibilities:

An important element of the research will be to explore to what extent the patterns identified can be directly attributed to policy decisions. Partly this will be achieved through selection of species (Annex 1 and non-Annex 1, multi-country and local etc.) and partly through appropriate counter-factual analyses. The Associate Expert will be expected to critically address this issue and suggest ways in which this might be further investigated. Therefore, research will be framed in such a way as to allow identification of possible ways of reducing marginalization considering for example:

- Possible implications of excluding or including these species from the global system and its various different elements;
- Possible legal frameworks and policy initiatives that might improve the status and use of these species at national, regional and international levels.

More specifically, the Associate Expert will:

- Analyse the status and trends in conservation, exchange and use of plant genetic resources of selected underutilized crops with supporting analysis of global patterns for such crops and specific studies of developments in selected countries.

- Complete an analysis which explores the extent to which patterns and trends can be related to developments in the global system generally and, specifically to the implementation of the Treaty and the operation of the Global Crop Diversity Trust.
- Describe and analyse available proposals on policy and other (economic, conservation etc) options for limiting future marginalization of underutilized crops within context of the developing global system.
- Prepare proposals on policies and procedures to monitor and evaluate the impact of the global system on the conservation and use of underutilized and other plant genetic resources.

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

- Qualifications:** ▪ **Required:** M.Sc.or PhD in a relevant area of biological or social science pertinent to the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity
- Experience:** ▪ Relevant working experience, preferably in multicultural teams  
 ▪ International experience, preferably including residence abroad in a developing country  
 ▪ Field experience in rural Africa is desirable  
 ▪ Experience with carrying out socioeconomic field surveys, data collection and analyses, economics and the use of GIS tools
- Knowledge** ▪ Familiarity with international legal frameworks and initiatives related to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources; demonstrated interest in the conservation and use of crop plant genetic resources  
 ▪ Data analysis skills
- Skills:** ▪ Ability to design and implement research, using multidisciplinary approaches with take into account biological and social perspectives  
 ▪ Ability to work independently and in a multi-cultural environment
- Competencies:** ▪ Achievement: self-motivated, with the ability to overcome obstacles to achieve objectives  
 ▪ Interpersonal skills: the ability to work effectively in a team  
 ▪ Creativity and Initiative: the ability to address unexpected issues or problems as they arise and to be innovative in planning and organizing research and other activities.

### **Languages:**

**Required:** English language fluency (verbal and written); working knowledge of French or Spanish are added advantages.

### **Duty Station:**

The Associate Expert will be located at Bioversity's Office in Cali, Colombia, where office space and all necessary work facilities will be provided. Bioversity's office is situated on the CIAT campus about 20 km outside the city. Medical, educational, transport and communications services in Cali are good. Housing is not provided by Bioversity but the benefits package includes a housing allowance and assistance is provided in locating suitable accommodation. In Cali, staff benefit from the infrastructure, security arrangements, advice, and social provisions of the CIAT location.

**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*, click here: [Associate Expert Programme](#)

**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: 31 August 2009**

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