



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

For further information on Bioversity International, consult the Web page at <http://www.bioversityinternational.org>

Bioversity International undertakes, encourages and supports research and other activities aimed at improving the well being of present and future generations of people by enhancing conservation and the deployment of agricultural biodiversity on farms and in forests, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries. The organization is active in over 100 countries worldwide, and has more than 300 staff working from some 20 country offices. It is one of 15 centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Bioversity's headquarters are located in Maccarese, near Rome, Italy. Bioversity is now seeking a well qualified candidate for the position of:

Senior Scientist, Genetic Diversity

To feed a rapidly increasing population it is crucial to tap into the full range of traits in the diversity of crop varieties and their wild relatives that have been selected over thousands of years for a multiplicity of conditions and qualities.

Under the supervision of the Director, Understanding and Managing Biodiversity Programme, and based at the Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, the incumbent will:

- Provide scientific leadership, coordination and facilitation of research to overcome constraints to the enhanced use of plant genetic resources. More specifically, having in-depth expertise in at least one of the areas listed below, the Senior Scientist will build the necessary links to develop a cohesive programme of work encompassing all four areas:
 1. Identifying and understanding the extent and distribution of genetic diversity in agricultural biodiversity, particularly of crop plant genetic resources and wild populations of useful plants;
 2. Developing ways of sampling and monitoring genetic diversity applicable to evaluating the status and trends of important gene pools;
 3. The application of molecular genetics and genomics tools to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of both conservation and use of genetic resources;
 4. Promoting the use and deployment of genetic diversity through activities such as pre-breeding and base broadening of cultivars under production and promoting links to more general plant breeding, including breeding by farmers.

He/she will be expected to further develop such a research agenda, to be implemented in collaboration with national partners and other institutions;

- The Senior Scientist will play a key role in the development of fundraising proposals to support collaborative research in this area, as well in development the capacity of partners;
- As a member of the Sub-Saharan Regional Office, he/she is expected to be an excellent team player and to contribute to the delivery of outputs at regional level.

Qualifications and Competencies:

Essential qualifications and competencies:

- A PhD in genetics or conservation genetics with an emphasis on plant populations, or in plant breeding.
- At least ten years of experience working with research partners on topics related to agrobiodiversity and plant genetic resources; preferably research experience on the subject of biodiversity and the use of genetic resources; applied field experience in developing countries.
- Broad knowledge about modern genetics/genomics technologies and their potentials to contribute to research themes related to the use of plant genetic resources.
- Knowledge about population genetic structure and dynamics and their relevance to use (breeding) and conservation/monitoring.
- Knowledge of research methods, including methods for genetic diversity assessment, germplasm enhancement, crop improvement and population genetics and their application in use- related programmes.
- Demonstrated competency in communication and interpersonal skills complemented by a commitment to and demonstrated track record of working within multi-disciplinary teams and in multi-cultural environments.
- Excellent English language skills, both verbal and written.
- Demonstrated ability to write proposals and generate funds for research.
- A substantial and sustained record of achievement and innovation through project development, implementation and delivery of results and demonstrated publication record.

Desirable qualifications and competencies

- Knowledge of CGIAR system will be an advantage.
- Working knowledge of Spanish, French, Arabic or Russian.
- Experience and networks in Africa will be an advantage.

Terms and conditions: This is a Senior Scientist, internationally recruited, position for which Bioversity International offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, non-contributory retirement plan, medical insurance and leave provisions. All benefits are denominated and paid in US Dollars. The initial contract will be for a period of three years subject to a probationary period of one year.

Applications: Please apply online through the following link: [Bioversity Employment Opportunities Webpage](#) by clicking the "Apply" button. Alternatively, via e-mail to: bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org including a letter of application, curriculum vitae in English (that includes date of birth, gender and nationality) and the names and full contact details of at least three referees (telephone, fax and e-mail address); or via mail to: Human Resources Office, Bioversity International, Via de Tre Denari, 472/a, 00057 Maccarese, Rome, Italy; or via Fax to (39) 06 6118 341 no later than **29 November 2009**. Please quote the source of advertisement.

Bioversity is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

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

*With effect from 1 December 2006, IPGRI and INIBAP operate under the name "**Bioversity International**", Bioversity for short. This new name echoes our new strategy, which focuses on improving people's lives through biodiversity research.*