



Associate Professional Officer-Economics
(Supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands)

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), with headquarters at Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh, India, invites applications for **Associate Professional Officer-Economics**.

General Information:

Title of the posting: Economist
Location: ICRISAT, Niamey, Niger
Duration of the assignment: Initially one year, with the possibility of extension to 3 years.
Grade: P1 step I or P2 step I the first year, depending on the level of education and experience

Eligibility:

Candidates from eligible developing countries: Nationals of the duty station (Niger) are not eligible; nor candidates having worked earlier as JPO/JE/APO/AE. Please check the minimum qualification requirements and the list of eligible countries on the website of the Dutch Ministry:

http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key_Topics/Development_Cooperation/Associate_Experts_Programme

ICRISAT is one of the CGIAR international agricultural research centers. It operates throughout sub-Saharan Africa with facilities and staff in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Nairobi, Malawi and Zimbabwe, as well as its headquarters in India. Bamako, Mali is the regional headquarters for West and Central Africa (WCA). ICRISAT staff collaborate closely with NARES, sister IARCs, ARIs, NGOs and private sector organizations from a further 20 sub-Saharan countries through sub-regional networks. In Bamako ICRISAT hosts ILRI, ICRAF and AVDRC on its research station at Samanko, as well as having a GIS laboratory with the Institute for Economie Rurale (IER) in Bamako. ICRISAT has a station in Niger with more than 10 scientists from various disciplines. It is a country where access to innovations is very limited. Please visit our website: www.ICRISAT.ORG.

Supervision

Direct supervision by: Dr. Jupiter Ndjeunga, ICRISAT, Niamey, Niger
Title of the supervisor: Principal Economist and Assistant Program Director, West & Central Africa

Content and methodology of the supervision:

Dr Jupiter Ndjeunga will design the research program with the input from Dr. Cynthia Bantilan, Director of ICRISAT's Markets, Institutions and Policies Research Program. Dr Ndjeunga will also provide day-to-day supervision of experiments, data analysis and publication of the results. An agreed training/mentoring program that will set targets for research outputs and for building the skills of the APO, with quarterly reviews, will be designed and implemented. ICRISAT has a six-month interim and annual review process for all staff that includes the direct supervisor, regional director and research program director.

Position Overview:

The APO will be based in ICRISAT's Research Program on Markets, Institutions and Policies and will conduct interdisciplinary research to investigate the interactions between social, economic, knowledge and technological factors that are important in value chains. In collaboration with the impact assessment office, he/ she will be involved in adoption studies and impact assessments of dryland technologies and identify the most important drivers for Inclusive Market-Oriented Development.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The APO will study social and institutional issues at households, village and macro-level that affect the development and implementation of relevant agricultural innovations in sub-Saharan Africa. The APO will be part of the West and Central Africa's (WCA) multi-disciplinary research team and receive scientific direction and support from the Research Program Director - Markets, Institutions and Policies, where the work will be reported. She/He will carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

- Characterize endogenous/local innovations and constraints limiting their efficiency
- Develop and pilot test institutional innovations to improve farmers' access to input and output markets, business services which will help answer the following questions:
 - What are the enabling conditions and biophysical and socioeconomic factors for technology development and uptake for different crops, varieties and natural resource management innovations?
 - What lessons emerge from a synthesis of key findings across crop and resource management technologies and what are the implications for research organization, planning and priority setting to achieve impact in the semi-arid areas?
- Collect information through interactions with biophysical scientists and partners in different countries to identify policy relevant factors and map institutional architectures that condition technology development, testing, adaptation and adoption.
- Prepare research reports, journal articles, seminar papers and other scientific manuscripts for the dissemination of research results and take initiative in developing project proposals.
- Contribute to ICRISAT's capacity building efforts in the area of policy analysis and institution building.

Training and Learning Opportunities to the APO:

At the beginning of the program, the APO will undergo an induction period and interact with both socio-economic and biophysical scientists to gain a deep understanding of the agricultural research and development process. The APO will also benefit from the many training opportunities/courses/meetings held by ICRISAT and its partners in the region. The APO will also learn the following professional abilities:

- development of data form using CsPRO and high level data analysis using STATA
- Impact assessment of agricultural technologies and innovations
- value chain analyses
- become familiar with research planning processes
- become familiar with key African institutions and researchers in the field.
- learn how to work within a multidisciplinary research team
- gain experience in presenting results at different fora
- gain experience in publication in peer-reviewed journals and other suitable dissemination outlets and proposal development

Skills and Competencies required:

- Ability to review literature and gather information using different tools (qualitative and quantitative/unstructured and semi-structured) and skills for analysis of data using standard econometric methods and software (e.g. STATA) is essential.
- Good analytical skills and ability to write in English, including skills to present and communicate more complex concepts using concise and accurate styles that will help draw key lessons and conclusions.
- Demonstrated skills in analysis of agricultural innovation systems would be an advantage.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to operate effectively across cultural boundaries and maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds with respect for diversity is essential.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- Ability to gather and analyze data using qualitative and quantitative analytical tools
- Ability to work independently
- Proficiency in written and spoken English, including ability to write scientific papers/articles. A good working knowledge of French would be an added advantage.

Minimum Qualifications:

M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics or related social sciences OR B.Sc followed by a minimum of three years of working experience. Candidates with PhD qualification may also apply.

Experience:

Preferably 2 years relevant professional experience in institutional analysis/economics is expected with a maximum experience of 4 years.

General information:

The living conditions in Niger are good compared to other countries in West Africa. Housing, food and other services are relatively affordable compared to other countries in the region. Mail and email services in Niger are also relatively

good compared with that in other African countries. There are few social attractions however and also the need to be cautious with health care. The research facilities at ICRISAT are good with a number of other institutions co-located at the research station.

How to apply: Applications including curriculum vitae (giving contact address with email Id, date of birth, nationality, marital status – if married with spouse and children details), list of publications, and names and addresses of three referees should be sent to Human Resources, ICRISAT, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh 502 324, India, or by email to: icrisatjobs@cgiar.org, clearly indicating the position applied in the subject column.

Application deadline: The position will remain open until **31May 2011**. **Applicants will receive acknowledgement of receipt of their submission.**

ICRISAT is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.