



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

UNU-INRA

Institute for Natural Resources in Africa

Visiting Scholars

*Climate Change, Agricultural Trade and Food Security*¹

- Organizational Unit** : United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)
- Reference Number** : 2015/UNU/INRA/CTC/(CC)/01
- Applications to** : **By Hand Delivery:**
The Finance and Administrative Officer, UNU-INRA, 2nd Floor.
International House, University of Ghana Campus, Legon-Accra
By Email: recruit-inra@unu.edu
- Closing Date** : 30th April 2015

United Nations University Objectives:

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, its member states and people. It serves as a think-tank for the United Nations System, contributes to capacity building particularly in developing countries, and serves as a platform for new and creative ideas and dialogue. For more information please visit www.unu.edu.

The Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA):

UNU-INRA is one of the fifteen Research and Training Institutes and Programmes established by UNU worldwide. The mission of UNU-INRA is to strengthen the capacity of African universities and research institutions to conduct research and produce well-trained, well-equipped and motivated individuals, capable of developing, adapting and disseminating technologies that advance food security and promote conservation and efficient use of the continent's natural resources for sustainable development. For more information please visit www.inra.unu.edu

Background:

UNU-INRA in collaboration with the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is implementing a 2 year research project aimed at assessing whether agricultural production systems and trade policies in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) can be adjusted to alleviate the impact of climate change on food security, and promote sustainable development in the region. The research questions the project aims to address are:

1. What do we know about climate change, agricultural trade, and food security in ECOWAS?
2. What are the spatial effects of climate change on agricultural production in ECOWAS?
3. What are the potential effects of climate change on agricultural trade flows and food security in ECOWAS?

¹ In this call, agriculture refers to both crop and livestock
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4. What are the climate change implications on regional agricultural policy across political boundaries, within and across national boundaries?
5. How do we integrate policies to address climate change, agricultural trade and food security, and promote sustainable development and regional integration in ECOWAS?

UNU-INRA has developed a set of methodologies to address each of the research questions. These methodologies are being implemented through four phases. The first phase analyses the feasibility of the study through country assessments, stakeholders' consultations and the conceptualization of the analytical methodologies. The second phase is related to data collection and construction of empirical models. The third phase looks at model simulations and policy assessments. The final phase involves the transfer and dissemination of technologies to alleviate the impact of climate change on food security in ECOWAS.

After a successful implementation of phases 1 and 2, UNU-INRA is currently offering three fellowship positions to support the implementation of the third phase of the project.

Main Responsibilities:

The selected fellows will participate in data analysis to determine how agricultural production systems and trade policies in ECOWAS can be adjusted to alleviate the impact of climate change on food security in region.

More specifically, he/she will:

- Assist in calibrating empirical models to understand the nexus between climate change, agricultural trade and food security in ECOWAS;
- Run the empirical models to determine the impact of climate change on agricultural production systems and food security in ECOWAS;
- Develop and assess adaptation scenarios to reduce the impact of climate change and agricultural production, agricultural trade and food security in ECOWAS;

Description of Deliverables:

The scope of these fellowship positions will include but not necessary be limited to:

- Working with UNU-INRA Research Fellows on all aspects of the data analysis exercise to ensure UNU-INRA ownership of the knowledge product generated;
- Submit a working paper and a policy brief on a well specified issue related to climate change, agricultural trade and food security in ECOWAS;

Candidate Profile:

Academic Background

- Advanced university degree (Master's or equivalent) in economics, trade, agriculture, climate change, environmental science or related field. PhD is preferred.

Professional Background

- Relevant professional experience of at least 2 years in research, previous experience in Integrated Assessment Modeling for climate change assessment is highly desirable;
- Practical experience in policy analysis, climate change, crop yield simulations, land use and land allocation, hydrological systems, or/and trade will be an asset.

Languages

- Excellent command of one of the two official languages of UNU-INRA (English or French) and excellent report writing and communication skills.

Key Competencies:

- Self-management to effectively direct own activities toward the achievement of objectives/results;
- Good knowledge of the General Algebra Modeling System (GAMS);
- Good understanding of economic and biophysical systems of agriculture;
- Good organizational skills, ability to work effectively on the basis of general instructions with the capacity to prioritize tasks to meet tight deadlines.

Contract Terms:

Remuneration

A *monthly stipend* of around USD 1,500.00 will be provided to a successful applicant. It is a contribution towards accommodation, subsistence, medical and other expenses. For all successful applicants, the Institute will provide a round trip ticket to and from the location of the programme.

Duration of contract

The successful candidate shall work at UNU-INRA Headquarters in Accra, Ghana or at one of its Operating Units based in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, Senegal and Zambia, for a fixed period of four (4) months for the above-mentioned programme.

Starting date

15th May, 2015 or as soon as possible.

Application Procedure:

Interested applicants should submit their applications, preferably by e-mail and must include the following:

- A cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position. Please indicate clearly your availability in your letter;
- A relevant scientific paper;
- A curriculum vitae;
- Full contact information of two referees.

Notice:

Due to the large number of expected applications, only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Unsuccessful applications can neither be acknowledged nor returned.

The successful candidate will not hold international civil servant status nor be a "staff member" as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations. **UNU-INRA does not sponsor a working visa for this position.**

Applications from suitably qualified women candidates especially from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply.