



Call for applications for PhD scholarship in the area of Crop Sciences (PhD by research in Agriculture) at the University of Rwanda

I. Background

The University of Rwanda in partnership with the University of Gothenburg has obtained a funding to conduct a research on bean water economy and drought tolerance (project title: “Better beans: using cultivated biodiversity in breeding for improved water economy and drought tolerance of common bean cultivars in Rwanda”). The project has been developed between the University of Gothenburg, University of Rwanda, and Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB).

II. Role and description

The project has three specific aims:

1. to identify phenotypic differences among high-yielding and traditional Rwandan varieties of common bean regarding traits related to water economy and drought tolerance.
2. To create mapping populations using parents with contrasting phenotypes and identify genetic loci associated with water economy and drought tolerance in common bean.
3. To initiate a molecular marker-assisted breeding program for improved water economy and drought tolerance in Rwandan bean varieties.

The project will use background research developed by RAB on bean varieties, the experiments will be developed in the field in Rwanda and complemented with the growth under controlled conditions in climate chambers at the University of Gothenburg. The PhD program is in the form of a double degree with University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The latter includes six months of stay in Gothenburg for research tasks and skills development.

III. Call for application

Under project management by Single Project Implementation Unit of the University of Rwanda (SPIU-UR), we call for applicants for one fully funded PhD scholarship. After successful recruitment, the selected applicant will register for PhD by research in Agriculture, College of Agriculture, Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM), Crop Science Department. A double degree contract will be negotiated with the University of Gothenburg. Main supervisor will be Associate Prof. Mats Andersson (University of Gothenburg), and co-supervisors will be Prof. Donat Nsabimana (UR) and Dr. Karin Johansson (GU).



IV. Funding

The successful candidate will be funded for tuition fee, monthly living allowances, field allowances (mission fee), and any other research expenses with UR standards. In addition, the successful candidate will be supported during research visits in Sweden with a scholarship from the University of Gothenburg. This scholarship will be paid in addition to the Rwandan income, resulting in a total amount corresponding to the net monthly salary of Swedish PhD students (currently approximately 2700 USD per month).

V. Application requirements

Applicant must have obtained a MSc in areas related to crop science with outstanding results, with the following conditions:

- (1) Be employed by Rwanda Agriculture and Animal resources Development Board (RAB), or University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM); Candidates from Institutions having MoUs with either UR or RAB are also accepted to apply.
- (2) Have experience in plant breeding; and/ or plant biotechnology; (and having attained a minimum score of B+ or above in relevant crop science course units at the MSC graduate study);
- (3) Have an experience in conducting research on bean or plant breeding, as indicated by MSc research project, publications, or reports, will be an important criteria for selection;

VI. Application file

- (1) Application letter addressed to the Director of the Centre Postgraduate Studies at UR with a copy to the scholarship officer and to the Project PI.
- (2) Motivation letter addressing commitment, statement of goals, and reasons for undertaking PhD;
- (3) Curriculum vitae;
- (4) Copy of national identification card;
- (5) One recommendation letter from your employer.
- (6) A PhD research proposal written by following above-mentioned research objectives (5 pages maximum).

VII. How to apply and key dates

- (1) Applicants are requested to send documents as listed above by email to the scholarship officer (ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw) at UR-CPGS, to Dean of SFBC-CAVM (donatus_1999@yahoo.fr); and a copy to mats.andersson@bioenv.gu.se (Project PI).



(2) Deadline for application: 29th April 2022 at Midnight

VIII. Selection criteria

1. The selection process will follow the **UR policy and Procedures for Scholarship Award**, downloadable at UR website under key documents and policy.
2. The highest interview scored will be nominated for the scholarship;
3. With all conditions equal, female candidate will be given priority.

For more information, contact:

- (1) The Dean of the School of Forestry, Biodiversity and Conservation (SFBC)/CAVM, Prof NSABIMANA Donat at nsabimanadnt@gmail.com, Phone: 0788741 619

Done at Kigali, 30/03/2022



Prof. Nosa O. EGIEBOR
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research