



Associate Expert Cotonou, Benin

ASSOCIATE EXPERT SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Position: Associate Expert, Nutrition
Sector: Agriculture / Biodiversity
Location: Cotonou, Benin
Duration: Three year duration, contract renewed annually
Eligibility: The post is open to **candidates who have Dutch nationality or a permanent residence status in the Netherlands; or candidates who have the nationality of another EU Member State.** 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:

Nutritionists recognize food-based approaches, culminating in dietary diversity, as crucial for increasing food availability and food choices, as well as the intakes of macro, and micronutrients while offering a reasonable likelihood of sustainability in the approach. Mobilizing biodiversity for food and nutrition goes further to ensure that locally available foods (cultivated and uncultivated/gathered) are employed as vital front-line resources in strategies and programmes developed to ensure food security at all times, and to promote dietary diversity for improved nutrition and health.

Bioversity International with its mandate to advance the conservation and use of genetic diversity for the well being of the present and future generations, has a global responsibility to address global diet related nutrition and health concerns, particularly those of developing countries. Bioversity's nutrition strategy elaborates research directions that comprise the identification, analysis and documentation of the nutritional and bioactive components of traditional and indigenous foods; the establishment of a comprehensive database on indigenous and traditional plant species; on-farm and community-based activities aimed at applying the strategy at grass-root levels; nutrition and health related research, as well as policy and economic development activities. The focal point of this nutrition strategy is the mobilization of local biodiversity to ensure food security, improved nutrition and health. While the research disciplines are diverse, their outcomes impinge on the nutritional status, health and well being of populations.

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:

The Associate Expert will provide expertise in Nutritional Science in support of Bioversity's nutrition-related projects and activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. More specifically:

- Work with a multi-disciplinary team to implement the proposed strategy in West and Central Africa and, if required, incorporate additional inputs in order to refine and strengthen it.
- Assess and develop research methodologies and approaches to determine nutritional values of foods consumed by target communities.
- Identify organizations and institutions working on biodiversity, food security issues, nutrition and health. Network to build partnerships and linkages between Bioversity and these organizations and institutions in order to implement relevant components of Bioversity's nutrition strategy.

- Organize collaborative activities with regional organizations and institutions, in order to proactively address issues raised in the strategy in order to jump start its implementation

Qualifications, skills and experience:

- Qualifications:**
- **Required:** M.Sc. degree in one of the following nutritional science areas: Community Nutrition, International Nutrition, Nutritional Sciences, Nutritional Epidemiology, Food Science and Nutrition or Human Nutrition & Dietetics
- Experience:**
- Research experience in the areas of nutrition and food sciences, and agrobiodiversity
 - International experience, preferably including field experience in a developing country
 - Experience within Africa is desirable
- Skills:**
- **Skills in proposal writing and project development is desirable**
 - Working knowledge the Microsoft Word Office software programmes (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Competencies:**
- Ability to plan, organize and carry out nutrition related public awareness is desirable
 - Interpersonal skills: the ability to work effectively in a team
 - Communication skills: ability to communicate effectively with individuals and groups of people; ability to present ideas in a clear and persuasive manner

Languages:

Required: English language fluency (verbal and written); a very good working knowledge of French.

Duty Station:

The Associate Expert will be located at Bioversity's Sub-Saharan Africa sub-Office which is located at the Rice Center for Africa, (WARDA) Campus in Abomey-Calavi, 10 minutes from Cotonou. The campus is next to the HQ of the National Agricultural Research Institute of Benin (INRAB) and to the University of Abomey-Calavi. Cotonou, the largest city of Benin is located on the coastal strip between Lake Nokoue and the Atlantic Ocean. The climate is equatorial, alternating with two rainy seasons (April-July and September-October) and two dry seasons. It is a warm and pleasant climate throughout the year. Cotonou offers a good choice of restaurants, entertainments, sport facilities and more. There are many places to visit during week-ends and holidays. A range of housing options are available. *General Security:* Like many other growing cities/countries in the world, security of persons and property should not be taken for granted. When viewing houses for rent, staff members need to obtain information on security in any area. The services of a watchman and alarm systems in homes are highly recommended. Having a car will be necessary. Regular security advice to staff is provided by WARDA's Security Officer.

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

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 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.