

## Associate Expert Kampala, Uganda

ASSOCIATE EXPERT SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Position:** Associate Expert, Socio-economist – Improving field response to disease outbreaks in small holder banana in East Africa
- Sector:** Socioeconomics
- Location:** Kampala, Uganda
- Duration:** Three years 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. *Note:* 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:

The Associate Expert will be a member of the Commodities for Livelihoods Programme. The main role of the Associate Expert position will be primarily, the provision of socioeconomics support to Bioversity research on Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW), within the framework of the ASARECA-funded project. ASARECA (The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) is a non-political organization of the National Agricultural Research Institutes of ten countries whose aim is to increase the efficiency of agricultural research in the region so as to facilitate economic growth, food security and export competitiveness through productive and sustainable agriculture.

The purpose of the project ‘Enhanced management of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt for sustainable banana productivity in East and Central Africa’ is increased utilization of innovations for sustainable management of BXW in East & Central Africa with an overall goal to enhance sustainable productivity, value added and competitiveness of the banana sub-sector in Eastern and Central Africa.

The project's objectives include the following:

1. To generate novel and efficient BXW management strategies
2. To refine, validate and scale out BXW management innovations with value chain actors
3. To mobilize and strengthen capacity of value-chain actors to manage BXW
4. To develop new markets to accommodate increased post-BXW banana production to reduce poverty among the disadvantaged
5. To facilitate development and harmonization of cross-border supportive BXW management policies

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:

Within the ASARECA-funded project: *Enhanced management of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt for sustainable banana productivity in East and Central Africa*, the AE will take responsibility for:

1. **Establish baseline of BXW distribution and disease typologies in Eastern and Central Africa**
  - In collaboration with the National University of Rwanda to initiate GIS-led mapping of BXW distribution (to be led by the university) and the characterization of households affected by the disease.

- Develop data collection tools and organize the training of NARS scientists in the use of the tools
- Develop a data collection and analysis timeframe and get NARS scientists' buy-in;
- Facilitate data collection and analysis and draft reports for discussion

**2. Establish and facilitate tools and partners for regional market surveillance, the characterization of trans-boundary market chains and for the assessment of ex-ante production/consumption patterns.**

- Identify and mobilize trans-boundary chain actors to facilitate in baseline market surveys.
- Discuss Ex-Ante data collection/analysis strategies and associated econometrics.
- Develop tools to conduct cross-boundary market surveys (in BXW and non BXW target sites), train teams in their use, organize the surveys and analyze the results.

**Qualifications, skills and experience:**

**Qualifications:** ▪ **Required:** M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics or Natural Sciences with demonstrated experience with socioeconomic data collection and analysis

**Experience:** ▪ Relevant working experience, preferably in multicultural teams  
 ▪ International experience, preferably including residence abroad in a developing country  
 ▪ Field experience in rural Africa is desirable  
 ▪ Experience with carrying out socioeconomic field surveys, data collection and analyses, economics and the use of GIS tools

**Knowledge** ▪ Knowledge of small holder agriculture in the tropics

**Skills:** ▪ Excellent analytical and writing skills  
 ▪ Ability to set up and maintain effective databases

**Competencies:** ▪ Achievement: self-motivated, with the ability to overcome obstacles to achieve objectives  
 ▪ Interpersonal skills: the ability to work effectively in a team  
 ▪ Creativity and Initiative: the ability to address unexpected issues or problems as they arise and to be innovative in planning and organizing research and other activities.

**Languages:**

**Required:** English language fluency (verbal and written); working knowledge of French and Swahili are added advantages.

**Duty Station:**

The Associate Expert will be located at Bioversity's East and Southern Africa Office located in Kampala, Uganda. He or she will be part of a small team of 9 scientists and support staff. Kampala itself is a busy city in developing Africa and the largest city and capital of Uganda. Most modern facilities are available, but transport can be challenging and occasional cuts in the supply of electricity do occur.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*