



Bioversity International Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships 2009

Bioversity International established the Fellowship Fund in 1989, to commemorate the unique contributions to plant science of Academician Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov and Sir Otto Frankel. To date, 31 scientists from 21 developing countries have received awards to carry out innovative research related to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources, outside of their home countries for a period of three months to one year.

Two Fellowship opportunities, for up to US\$ 20 000 each, will be available for 2009 to carry out research from 3-12 months thanks to support from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., United States and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Australia. One fellowship may be carried out in any country outside of the applicant's home country. The second fellowship must be carried out in Australia. This call covers a wide range of biophysical, economic and social issues related to the conservation and use of genetic resources in developing countries. Multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral research is particularly encouraged.

Research themes

We outline specific areas in which Bioversity believes it is important to carry out more research or gather more evidence. All applications must address one of these themes. Details of the themes may be found below.

The GRDC Fellowship

Proposals for the Fellowship supported by GRDC should in addition be carried out at an Australian research institute and meet at least one of the following four additional criteria:

- Target a species that is a priority for both Australia and the home country
- Target an alternative, neglected or underutilized species with either environmental or economic potential for Australia
- Work on any of the following specific crops: wheat, barley, oats, sorghum, cereal rye, triticale, maize, canary seed, millets/panicum, canola, linseed, safflower, soybeans, sunflowers, chickpeas, cowpeas, fababeans, field peas, lentils, lupins, mung beans, navy beans, peanuts, pigeon peas and vetch
- Use biotechnology in support of efficient use of plant genetic resources

Who should apply?

Applicants eligible for this call should:

- Be nationals of developing countries (The list of eligible countries is available on the World Bank web site <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/CLASS.XLS> (Income group: low-income and lower-middle income only).
- Be no more than 35 years old
- Hold at least a Masters degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area.

How to apply?

Application forms and Guidelines for preparation of research proposals (in English, French and Spanish) can be downloaded from the Bioversity International web site: http://www.bioversityinternational.org/About_Us/Fellowships/Vavilov-Frankel_Fellowship/index.asp#2008_Call_for_Application or send a request to: Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships, Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 00057 Maccarese, Rome, Italy; Fax: +(39)0661979661; Email e.rossetti@cgiar.org. Applications may be submitted in English, French or Spanish and must include:

- Covering letter
- Completed application form
- Full curriculum vitae (with a list of publications)
- Research proposal (should follow the Guidelines provided)
- Letter of acceptance from the proposed host institute (should follow the Guidelines)
- Letter of support from an institute in a developing country (preferably the home institute) which should specify why the research is important to the institute and/or country and should also identify the support that will be provided to the applicant upon return.

Submission of applications

Applications should be sent by mail, fax or email to Bioversity International by 9 November 2008. The selection will be finalized by 31 March 2009. The successful applicants will be informed by 30 April 2009 and are required to take up their Fellowships before 31 December 2009. The maximum award per Fellow will be US\$20 000 which is intended to cover travel, stipend for living expenses, bench fees, equipment, conference participation, publications and so on. Awards can be held concurrently with other sources of support.

Deadline for application: 9 November 2008

Applications should be sent to:

Vavilov-Frankel
Fellowships
Bioversity International
Via dei Tre Denari 472/A
00057 Maccarese,
Rome, ITALY
Fax: +(39) 0661979661
e.rossetti@cgiar.org



Applications are invited on the following research themes

Gene discovery in crop wild relatives

Crop wild relatives (CWR) are a valuable source of genetic variability that has been the basis for crop evolution and will be increasingly important in adapting agriculture to changing growing conditions. CWR held in collections can be mined for genes of interest to breeders. Identifying these genes would not only accelerate breeding efforts, but also provide incentives for the conservation of these CWR in genebanks and in their natural habitats.

Using climate and environmental data to add value to genebank accessions

Many genebanks hold crop accessions that are not adequately characterized or evaluated, thus reducing their potential for use in breeding programmes or directly in farmers' fields. Available information often consists only of passport data recorded at the collection site. The climatic conditions at the collection site can be used as a proxy for absent characterization data, which would enhance the use of these poorly documented materials.

Facilitating better use of genebank materials

Genebanks worldwide hold millions of crop accessions, but the number of accessions used in breeding programmes is still very limited. The reasons why so little genetic material is put to use are not fully understood yet. A more complete picture of the extent to which genebank materials are being used, as well as constraints to use and strategies for enhancing their use in breeding and in farmers fields will help to facilitate better use of genebank materials.

Researching neglected and underutilized species for food and nutrition security

The world relies on very few species and varieties for food and nutritional security today. That creates a situation of high vulnerability for humanity. Hundreds of underutilized species, currently at the margins of R&D have high nutritional content but cannot compete with commodity crops due to their lack of improved germplasm, inefficient agronomic practices, ineffective processing, limited value addition technologies, poor marketing and a lack of supportive policies.

Policy research in support of a commons for genetic resources for food and agriculture

International policy for dealing with genetic resources conservation and use have recently recognized the need to look at the characteristics of each typology of genetic resource (plant, animal, microbial) and users (agriculture, pharmacy, energy) with the purpose of establishing coherent access and benefit-sharing regimes. This requires a deep sectoral analysis including, for each category of genetic resources, the patterns of use, the level of interdependency of countries, the importance for food security and for human well-being and the typology of actors involved in the community of users.

Policy research in support of implementation of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture entered into force in 2004. Today, 115 countries are parties to the Treaty, committed to sharing their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture of some key species and to adopting measures to conserve and use these genetic resources. The effective implementation of the Treaty at the national level requires a comprehensive collection and assessment of baseline information about plant genetic resources conservation and use in each country.

“Bioversity International strives for diversity in gender and nationality in its training and capacity development programmes.”

Bioversity International, Bioversity for short, is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and the International Network for Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP). With our partners, we undertake research aimed at improving people's lives through the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

Este anuncio está disponible en español. Cette annonce est disponible en français