



The International Centre for
Underutilised Crops

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ICUC-News #62

5 February 2008

Dear colleagues,

Apologies for this slightly delayed issue.

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With best wishes,
Hannah

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1. Funding & Job opportunities

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1.1 KIT, Amsterdam: Advisor on Rural Innovation

The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) is an independent centre of knowledge and expertise in the areas of international and intercultural cooperation.

KIT Development Policy and Practice is KIT's department for international development, specializing in health, education, social development and gender equity, and sustainable economic development. It is a multidisciplinary department conducting research, post-graduate education and advisory work..

The Sustainable Economic Development team aims to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable producers in developing countries. The primary focus is on stimulating pro-poor growth through action research, policy advice and training on good governance, value chain development and rural innovation, while supporting social equity and environmental sustainability.

Main responsibilities:

The team works mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa at the national and sub-national level on issues related to strengthening agricultural research and advisory services and creating an enabling environment for rural innovation, with a particular focus on institutional change.

The advisor on rural innovation will work on the institutional dimension of innovation. Responsibilities include facilitating multi-stakeholder processes, strengthening the role of farmer organizations, analysing the role of the private sector, carrying out capacity building, and doing research on stakeholder-driven funding mechanisms for innovation. In these areas, the candidate is expected to:

- Conduct action-research and supervise case studies with local partners; review and edit available material and prepare it for publication
- Develop methodologies, tools and training material and conduct short-term training workshops to strengthen capacity in rural innovation
- Design and facilitate learning and coaching trajectories to strengthen the capacity of actors in rural innovation
- Facilitate institutional change for innovation, enhance rural livelihood systems, and improve research and advisory services
- Contribute to writing project proposals; liaise with financiers and partners to support project acquisition
- Conduct short-term advisory missions

Additional Information

The initial appointment is for one year, but is subject to renewal. We are keen to further internationalize our team and particularly encourage international candidates to apply.

We ask

- MSc degree in social sciences or a related field. A PhD is an advantage.
- Experience facilitating multi-stakeholder processes and agricultural innovation systems
- Minimal six years of professional experience in developing countries in general and Africa in particular
- Excellent skills in facilitation, training, advisory work and intercultural communication
- Excellent writing and editing skills
- Excellent communication skills in both verbal and written English. Knowledge of French or Spanish is an advantage.
- Ability to work independently and in multicultural teams. Willingness to travel.

We offer

KIT is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and offers a stimulating work environment in a renowned institute. The salary, based on age, qualifications and experience, is between EUR 3,138 and EUR 4,902 gross per month for a 38-hour working week. In addition, there is an 8% holiday allowance and admission to the KIT pension fund (ABP). Average working hours per week can be negotiated. For applicants from abroad, there is the possibility of a 30% tax reduction, a temporary housing allowance and a moving allowance. The document International Staff at KIT is on request available.

Information

For further information about this position, please contact Dr B. de Steenhuijsen Piters, Head of Sustainable Economic Development, tel. 0031 (0)20 5688 285, or by e-mail: b.d.steenhuijsen.piters@kit.nl.

General information about KIT and its departments can be found on: www.kit.nl <<http://www.kit.nl/>> .

Applications

Written applications specifying abilities and interest for this position, including a curriculum vitae and references, should be submitted – before 15 February, 2008- to KIT, Personnel, Organization & Information, attn.: Mrs. E.L. Wilmer, PO Box 95001, 1090 HA Amsterdam, the Netherlands or by e-mail: jobvacancies@kit.nl <<mailto:jobvacancies@kit.nl>>

Acquisition based on this announcement is not appreciated.

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1.2 Jobs in New Scientist

The New Scientist has a very good job search facility through its website www.newscientistjobs.com.

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1.3 Job sought: Biodiversity Specialist

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a Scientist (with more than 30 years of professional standing) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of India, in its subordinate institution ZSI, located at Chennai, India, involved in research and teaching, program management related to Biodiversity assessment & Environmental Sciences; Coastal ecology, sustainable development of coastal and marine areas; conservation strategies, Environmental Law enforcement, natural living resource management; observation of selected ecosystems, national parks and sanctuaries; economic viabilities; teaching the postgraduate classes on Environmental development of environmental alternatives for human welfare; coastal aquaculture systems and Toxicology, resource utilization, pharmacological perspectives; environmental economics; extension education and emergency preparedness during environmental disasters like tsunamis; natural resource potential assessment; environmental impact assessment for industrial purposes; environmental auditing during pre-commissioning period of industry; development of environmental protocols; educating the stake holders about environmental inputs; encouraging NGOs on environmental campaigns; educating the next generation about their environmental demands, food security, protein requirements at the community level etc. Have 40 research papers and 4 books to my credit.

A team player, innovative & positive thinker and have the driving force to co-ordinate people of different backgrounds for optimizing Scientific output. Experienced in reporting to the policy makers, parliamentarians, politicians and educated public about the program initiatives, results and future requirements. Experienced in budgeting, inventory control, logistics and time management. With 30 years of experience in teaching, (initial teaching at undergraduate –B.Sc.-level for 4 years), research (independent work and guiding Ph.D students), interaction with the public, youth in particular capable of delivering required goods on time. Trained by 1)the Indian Institute of Public Administration in Natural Resource Management, 2) Det Norske Veritas as Certified Environmental Management Systems Auditor for granting ISO14001, 3)by the Environmental Training Institute of Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board as Trainer of trainers 4) by the prestigious National Law School of India in Environmental Law Enforcement and 5) in Science and Technology Communication by Anna University. Hold a diploma in Labour Laws and Administrative Law. Have the unique experience of working in – Two National Parks, Two Wildlife sanctuaries and two Ramsar Sites (Point Calimere and Chilka).

Attended two UN Sponsored conferences in 2007- a) GEO Capacity Building Meeting at Seville, Spain b) Asia-Pacific Forum for Popularization of Science in the knowledge based society by UNESCO and Korea Science Foundation at Seoul, Korea. Will be attending the COHAB (Conference on Health and Biodiversity) of UNESCO in Galway, Ireland as a Distinguished Invitee from 24th Feb to 29th Feb, 2008. I require placement at the earliest as I propose to leave the current position.

I would request you to kindly evaluate the CV for placement. Will you kindly pass my CV on to your friend's circle and help me? I am available for the next 4 years for teaching/research/policy planning/biodiversity assessment and all environment related jobs, at any level anywhere in the world. Thank you and Season's greetings.

Prof S.Krishnan from Chennai, India (envirokrish@yahoo.com)

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1.4 Research Associate, ZALF

The Leibniz- Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) e.V. calls for short-term applications within the European Integrated Research Project SENSOR "Sustainability impact assessment: tools for environmental, social and economic effects of multifunctional land use in European regions". The applicant will support the scientific project coordination as a:

Research Associate (Master degree - University) [Kennziffer 03/2008]

Task description:

The EU project SENSOR is an interdisciplinary project and integrates 39 partner organisations in Europe, China and Latin America. SENSOR elaborates methods and tools for regional sustainability assessments of land use changes, evoked by economic and political developments. Resulting methods are tailored for the implementation at European level. Additionally, the conceptual transferability to regions in China, and Latin America is tested.

The post holder will support the overall scientific and administrative coordination of the project. Therefore, comprehension of the scientific project contents, strong organising skills as well as the ability to think through concepts is essential. Main tasks include the scientific elaboration, documentation and publication of project results.

Requirements:

- Master degree (university) in the field of environmental sciences or agricultural economics
- Profound knowledge in land use sciences
- Experiences in conceptualising, positioning and publishing of scientific articles, press releases and popular science publications
- Experiences in coordination and accounting for international research projects - experience in EU FP6 projects an asset
- Very good communication skills in an international context, strategic thinking, ability to work in a team and openness to international developments
- Proficiency in English (written and spoken)

You will receive a salary based on your qualifications and work experience which can be up to salary scale TV-L 13, with 75% of the regular weekly working time. The position is limited to 12 months max.

Further information may be obtained from Dr. Katharina Helming Tel.: 0049 (0)33432 82155 (khelming@zalf.de)

Women are explicitly asked to apply. In case of equal abilities, applications of disabled people are considered first.

Please send your documents, including your list of publications under code 03/2008 until 20 February 2008 to the address below.

Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF) e.V.
Leiter Personalwesen, Herrn Bolick
Eberswalder Str. 84, D-15374 Müncheberg, Germany

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1.5 Senior Researcher “Innovation and participatory research in Khorezm, Uzbekistan”

“Innovation and participatory research in Khorezm, Uzbekistan” (salary scale TVL-13)

ZEF (Center for Development Research), Bonn, Germany Department of Political and Cultural Change

Applications before 15 February 2008

Description:

The senior researcher will train, facilitate and supervise interdisciplinary research teams working on the development, introduction and trial of social and technical innovations for sustainable agricultural practices in the Khorezm region, Uzbekistan, using participatory research methods and with strong user and interest group involvement. The senior researcher will conduct research on the innovation process, for academic publication, and facilitate the overall learning process in the project for employing such methods and processes in the Uzbekistan/Central Asian context. The work is part of ZEF’s long-term interdisciplinary research project on sustainable land and water use in the Khorezm province, Aral sea region (full project title Economic and Ecological Restructuring of Land and Water Use in the Khorezm Region (Uzbekistan): A Pilot Project in Development Research) <http://www.khorezm.uni-bonn.de/>).

Tasks:

- Train, facilitate and supervise interdisciplinary research teams in the project organised around certain innovations
- Conduct research on the process and methods of innovation (oriented research).
- Provide input to the project for and guide the learning process on the use of participatory research and innovation methods in the Uzbekistan/Central Asian context
- Provide guidance and supervision to PhD and MSc students in the project doing fieldwork on innovation related topics
- Actively participate in project activities.

Start and duration:

From 1 April 2008, for three years (subject to final approval of project funding)

Duty station:
Uzbekistan (Urgench) for 8-9 months per year (partly negotiable) and Bonn, Germany

Requirements:

- Postgraduate University Degree (PhD preferred)
- a publication record of former work in Central Asia or on relevant topics such as communication and innovation studies, participatory technology development, social learning approaches is an advantage
- Research/Work experience in Uzbekistan and the Central Asian region preferred
- Work experience in and knowledge of interdisciplinary research settings (natural-social science interdisciplinarity)
- Experience with participatory approaches in development, as well as with setting up and conducting training programmes are a recommendation
- Excellent writing skills in English
- Uzbek and/or Russian language skills are a recommendation
- Good team member and network builder

In case of equal suitability female candidates will be preferred.

More information:

Background information available on request is the executive summary of the third phase of the project, of which this research is a component, and the text of the relevant work package.

Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge, ZEFa, Bonn

hornidge@uni-bonn.de

Phone: 00-49-228-731731

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1.6 Short term consultant, Tropenbos International

For the development of a new TBI programme in Cameroon and activities in the Congo Basin, TBI invites qualified candidates for the position of short term consultant Cameroon.

For more information, please visit: www.tropenbos.org

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2. Workshops & Training Courses

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2.1 First Asian Horticultural Congress

We are happy to announce that the first Asian Horticultural Congress (AHC 2008) will be held in Jeju Island, Korea from December 11 to 13, 2008. The Korean Society for Horticultural Science had successfully hosted the IHC 2006 last year in Seoul. During the congress there was a consensus for the importance of Asian horticulture and the need for a meeting. After discussion among the three parties, all parties agreed to hold periodical meetings of the Asian horticultural community. Now the Korean Society for Horticultural Science (KSHS) in conjunction with the Chinese Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS) and the Japanese Society for Horticultural Science (JSHS) cordially invites all horticulturists to attend the first Asian Horticultural Congress. You may find the first announcement of AHC 2008 at <http://www.ahc2008.org>

Respectfully yours,

Seung Koo Lee, Ph.D.

Chair, Organizing Committee of AHC 2008

President, KSHS

Contact Us:

AHC 2008 Chair / Dr. Seung Koo Lee

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475 Imok-dong, Suwon 440-706, Korea
Phone: +82-31-241-6885 Fax: +82-31-242-9280
E-mail: info@horticulture.or.kr

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2.2 2008 INBAR Bamboo Study Tour in Zhejiang and Sichuan Province, China

In cooperation with the International Center for Research on Agro-Forestry (ICRAF), INBAR organized a Bamboo Study Tour in Zhejiang province of China during 10th-16th May, 2005. 20 participants from 7 countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, U.S.A, Vietnam and Thailand) joined the study tour and witnessed the achievements of Chinese bamboo development over the last 25 years.

As request of UNIDO, INBAR organized 2007 bamboo study tour 15-24 April in Zhejiang and Sichuan provinces of China. There were 18 participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Australia, Malaysia, India and Netherlands, including Mr. Ahmed Nasser, the State Minister of Ethiopian Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture and Permanent Sectary of Kenya Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource and Dr. Coosje Hoogendoorn, Director General of INBAR.

3-7 Nov,2007 INBAR organized also a bamboo tour in Zhejiang province for 4 ministers of INBAR member countries, CFC official and diplomats.

The bamboo study tours have attracted many attentions, hence we may organize 2008 bamboo study tour in end March/early April, the best time to see bamboo shooting and enjoy fresh bamboo shoots.

If you are interest in the tour, please contact Dr. FU Jinhe (jfu@inbar.int) soon. The cost in China is 1300\$/person covering accommodation, food, transportation, domestic flight etc. Participants should cover their international flight.

FU Jinhe, Ph.D
Senior Programme Officer
Environmental Sustainability Programme
Coordinator of IUFRO 5.11.05 Bamboo and Rattan International Director of Board of Directors,
American Bamboo Society

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) 8, Futong Dong Da Jie, Wangjing, Chaoyang District P. O. Box 100102-86, Beijing 100102, P. R. China
Tel: +86-10-64706161 ext. 208 Fax: +86-10-64702166

Email: jfu@inbar.int
Website: www.inbar.int; From <http://www.inbar.int/news/2008bambootour.htm>

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3. Publications & Information

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3.1 Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been assessing national plant breeding and associated biotechnology capacity worldwide to determine the needs and opportunities for defining development policies and strategies to strengthen national plant breeding capacity in developing countries, thus complementing and adding value to efforts related to conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).

With the implementation of the FAO facilitated International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, there is an important and timely opportunity to improve the balance between the

support to conservation of PGRFA and that directed to its effective use to meet producer and consumer needs, to address food security and livelihood concerns and to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals.

In light of the above and taking into account several international declarations and national and international efforts, a Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB) was launched at a stakeholder meeting in Madrid, in June 2006, at the time of the First Governing Body Meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Essentially, GIPB is a multi-party Initiative of knowledge institutions around the world that have a track record in supporting agricultural research and development, working in partnership with country programmes committed to developing stronger and effective plant breeding capacity. As a partnership of stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors, the Initiative is aimed at catalyzing and supporting national, regional and global action among relevant international organizations, foundations, universities and research institutes, corporate and business sector, civil society associations, and national and regional bodies. FAO's role is that of a host convener to facilitate concrete partnership action at national and international levels.

A stakeholder consultation process was initiated in July 2007 to help define the longer-term strategy and 5-year (2009-2013) operational plan of GIPB. The Task Force 1 consultation was carried out between July and September 2007 and defined the longer-term strategies, outputs, outcomes and priority activities to be pursued by GIPB. A Task Force 2 is being initiated now to build upon the results of Task Force 1 and define the parameters and content of the operational plan of GIPB for the period 2009-2013.

We invite you to join this strategy formulation process, which will involve stakeholder interaction, through a Web-based application, to allow individuals to share ideas and information to help define the organization and implementation framework for GIPB.

For more information and registration documents, please contact:

Eric A. Kueneman
FAO Crop and Grassland Service
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
E-mail: gipb@fao.org

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4. ICUC-related information

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4.1 International Symposium for Underutilized Plants

A quick reminder that ICUC, together with a range of co-conveners and under the auspices of ISHS is organising the International Symposium for Underutilized Plants for Food, Nutrition, Income and Sustainable Development, 2-7 March 2008 in Arusha Tanzania. As of today, we have more than 150 registered delegates from over 50 countries. We have received generous support from AVRDC, CIDA, CTA, FARA, GlobalHort, GFU, the Kirkhouse Trust, SDC and Sida.

The Symposium will be opened by the Tanzanian Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hon. Professor Jumanne Maghembe, known to some members of this network as an ardent champion for indigenous plants.

I will keep you informed of the progress and outcomes of this event.

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5. ICUC network

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In this section we introduce new and old subscribers to ICUC-News to encourage greater interaction and benefit from the great diversity of readers. If you haven't done so, please send a brief introduction of yourself and your interest in underutilised crops to h.jaenicke@cgiar.org.

We will not publish your email or phone contacts and if anyone is interested to establish direct contact, please write an email to me.

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Amos Yoder, member of the Sarasota Rare Fruit Society and have an interest in fruits that would grow in my area that are underutilized, I am about 50 miles inland from Sarasota, Florida, USA.

I am Anuj Singh Katiyar working in Seva Mandir (it's a NGO which is working in Udaipur (India) district). I am working in NRD which deals with all afforestation activities at surrounding areas. We are trying to focus on basically those productive crops, which are being utilized by villagers but they are not getting any income from the same and I am keen to find out it's production and the most important thing is the marketing linkage. As I'm working in the tribal prone area so that I felt, gradually with the time villagers are forgetting those plants which are playing vital role as they might not be knowing. However, when I came to know about this site I was very keen to find out these crops which are being underutilized till now.

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Championing underutilised plant species for food, nutrition and sustainable development