



Postdoctoral Fellow, Soil Health (Nematology) (Ref No: DDG-R4D/PDF/SHN/07/15)

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) invites applications for the internationally recruited position of **Postdoctoral Fellow, Soil Health (Nematology)**.

IITA is one of the world's leading research partners in finding solutions for hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. Its award-winning research-for-development (R4D) approach addresses the development needs of tropical countries. IITA works with partners to enhance crop quality and productivity, reduce producer and consumer risks, and generate wealth from agriculture. IITA is a non-profit organization founded in 1967 in Nigeria and governed by a Board of Trustees. IITA works on the following crops: cowpea, soybean, banana/plantain, yam, cassava, and maize. It is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <http://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

An exciting new opportunity has arisen for a postdoctoral fellow position in the area of soil health and nematology. The postdoctoral fellow will work in close collaboration with a Senior Soil Health Scientist, in addition to IITA colleagues, national and international partners, to efficiently undertake a range of research activities, primarily on (though not restricted to) root, tuber and banana crops in sub-Saharan Africa. A key area of activity for this position will concern plant and soil nematology, within the broader setting of soil health. The postdoctoral fellow will take functional guidance from, and report to, the Senior Scientist.

Position Responsibilities:

The incumbent will focus on activities in East Africa, but with operations extending to other areas of sub-Saharan Africa. The incumbent will provide oversight and management of staff and activities within the soil health and nematology remit at IITA, while opportunities exist to participate in interdisciplinary research teams studying plant pathology, horticulture, agronomy, biological control, cropping systems and soil science, among others. The position will entail regional and international travel to oversee activities and connect with partners. The incumbent will also be expected to actively engage in resource mobilisation for development and support of new activities. The incumbent will work interactively as a member of a team and in particular with national staff and local partners. The position will also provide opportunities for post-graduate student supervision in line with IITA's emphasis on capacity building.

The tasks will include:

- developing and conducting research activities, both at the strategic and at the adaptive level, from the laboratory through to the farm level;
- monitoring of laboratory and field experiments/activities;
- co-ordinating data collection and analysis;
- supervising and managing research staff;
- supervising and mentoring of postgraduate students;
- regular reporting and presentation of research accomplishments through appropriate fora and internationally respected journals;
- frequent regional travel.

Educational Qualifications

The incumbent will have recently graduated from PhD study in the field of nematology, plant pathology, soil microbiology and /or plant health or closely related field

Modern molecular skills will be advantageous, as would prior experience in a sub-Saharan African research setting. The successful candidate will be able to work independently under challenging field conditions, and integrate with a multicultural team with strong interpersonal skills. S/he will be an excellent communicator, be accomplished in ICT skills, have excellent organisational and time management skills and be able to work as part of an interdisciplinary and diverse team. Excellent verbal and written English is required, with competence in French an advantage.

Duty station: Nairobi, Kenya

General information: The contract will be for an initial period of **two years** with possibility of renewal based on performance and continued availability of funding. IITA offers internationally competitive remuneration package paid in U.S. Dollars.

Applications: Applications must include covering letter which should address how the candidate's background/experience relates to the specific duties of the position applied for, curriculum vitae, names and addresses of three professional referees (which **must** include either the Head of the applicant's current or previous organization or applicant's direct Supervisor/Superior at his/her present or former place of work). The application should be addressed to the Head, Human Resources Service. Please complete our online application form using this link: <http://www.iita.org/careers>

Closing Date: 15th September 2015

IITA is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.