

Seeking Potential Candidates for Nomination

We are seeking a German National with a PhD degree for nominating under BMZ BEAF Post Doctoral Program 2010 on the topic *'Unlocking the genetic diversity of poty- and badnaviruses infecting Dioscorea yams in West Africa, and development of robust diagnostics for safe conservation of yam (Dioscorea spp.) germplasm and production of virus-free planting material'*.

The aim of the BEAF Post-Doctoral Program is to facilitating access of young German researchers to International Agricultural Research Centres and improving knowledge transfer and personnel exchange between those centres and the German "agricultural research community".

The research work will involve sequencing of a large number of yam infecting poty- and badnaviruses, to develop broad-based diagnostic tools for virus detection and establish protocols for reliable testing of yam germplasm for conservation and production of virus-free planting material. The project has implications for management of yam virus diseases and also for understanding the evolution of yam infecting viruses. Post-Doc will work within a team of virologists, germplasm health specialists, gene bank curators and breeders.

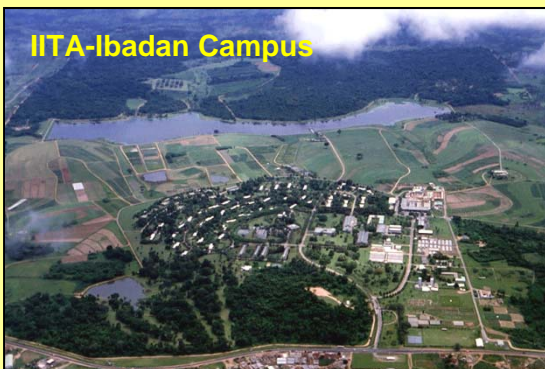
If successful, the candidate will be employed to work in the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for 3-years with a salary (~25.000 Euro/year), allowance package (~40,000 Euro/year) that includes education fees for children, support for housing, health insurance; and fully sponsored home leave every year for 24-days. Candidate will also receive cooperation from Julius-Kühn-Institut (JKI) in Germany (www.jki.bund.de). The position also has significant international travel within and outside Africa. The position is available in beginning a program in March or April of 2010.

Requirements

PhD in plant virology / pathology / molecular biology / plant sciences or relevant disciplines obtained no more than 3-years ago. Familiarity with characterization of viruses or plant pathogens; sound knowledge in principles and application of molecular biological procedures and application of bioinformatics; high level of competence; ability to work independently and assume responsibility for own work as well as being able to work as part of a team; good communication and computer-based skills; and provide guidance to students/staff and prepare technical reports; willingness to join within 4 weeks from the time of notification.

Interested candidates should send a current CV and brief statement of interest to Dr. Jörg Schubert, JKI, Quedlinburg, Germany (Joerg.schubert@jki.bund.de; Betreff: Stellenausschreibung; Tel. +49-3946 47-560) and Dr. Lava Kumar, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria (L.kumar@cgiar.org).

About IITA



IITA-Ibadan Campus

IITA (www.iita.org) is a research institute with a mandate to develop sustainable food production systems in tropical Africa. It is part of the worldwide network of agricultural research centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR; www.cgiar.org). IITA operates throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and has more than 100 internationally recruited scientific staff, including from Germany. The Post-Doc will be based in IITA headquarters, situated on a 1000-hectare campus in Ibadan, Nigeria. The campus has excellent research facilities, laboratories equipped with modern scientific and communication facilities, experimental field plots, a library, residential complex, recreational facilities (restaurant & bar, a swimming pool, tennis courts, a squash court, a golf course, lakes, trekking tracks and

more), primary school, and a medical clinic with resident doctors, are all located in this pleasant and secure campus in a beautiful environment. Ibadan is about 2 hrs drive from Lagos city, the commercial capital of Nigeria. IITA Campus is mentioned as one of the best places to stay in the 'Lonely Planet'.