



Background:

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) (www.iita.org) under the African Cassava Agronomy Initiatives (ACAI), in collaboration with the International Potash Institute (IPI) and Ben Gurion University, Israel, is seeking applicants for a PhD position in Fertigation Utilization Efficiency in Cassava. The candidate will be registered as a PhD student at Ben Gurion University and conduct his/her research in Tanzania, Eastern Africa.

Cassava is a major food crop in sub-Sahara Africa and one of the most important sources for carbohydrates. It is a major source of income for the farmers and a raw material for local industries. In the past years, cassava production and processing have been facing a lot of challenges such as no supply chain structures for the commercialization of cassava products, high cost of the production versus low yields as well as production orientation towards subsistence and not commercialization. IITA and IPI will be working together to increase the research knowledge and develop new technologies and innovations to meet cassava crop nutrition requirements to improve on food security and contribute to poverty reduction of target countries in East Africa.

Requirements:

The PhD candidate will participate in a research project with the aim to increase sustainable, resource effective and profitable production of cassava under fertigation in the field and controlled environments. More specifically, he/she will work with group of Scientist to increase the efficient use of fertilization and irrigation for high cassava productivity.

Eligibility:

Applicants Nationality must be any one of the Eastern African countries, such as Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Main duties and responsibilities

The PhD candidate will contribute to developing optimized sustainable irrigation and fertilizer techniques in greenhouse and field to increase nutrient uptake and root production and productivity. The candidate will also be responsible for publishing findings in high-ranking international journals, meetings, symposia etc.

Qualifications

Applicants must have a strong academic background with at least two-year master degree within Agronomy, Crop science, Soil science, or related field. Both the grade for the master's thesis and the weight average grade of the master's degree must individually be equivalent to or better than a B grade. Candidates must be able to work effectively in fluent English.

We are looking for a highly motivated, team-oriented PhD student to work on cassava and nutrition mechanism under fertigation. Specifically, we are looking for a candidate with some or all of the following skills and experiences:

- Knowledge in cassava and fertigation.

- Good command with statistical analysis
- Good verbal and written communication skills, with a demonstrated ability for writing concisely and clearly.
- Affinity for field work.
- Independence
- Willing and able to work at different environments

Personal qualifications

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, preferably in an international environment
- Proactive, with good analytical and problem-solving skills
- Innovative
- Dedication and enthusiasm to work as part of an ambitious interdisciplinary research team
- Ability to collaborate with both internal and external experts with diverse backgrounds and skills

Contact persons

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Please send:

- **Application illustrating your suitability for this position, with detailed CV, including your certificates electronically via the link on this page.**
- **Names and addresses of three referees knowledgeable about candidate's qualification**

Application deadline:

26th September 2016 or Until position is filled