

Biometrician for African Maize Improvement

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is looking for an innovative, results-oriented agricultural scientist with excellent skills in experimental design and statistics to support its cutting-edge maize improvement programs in Africa. CIMMYT's high-impact maize breeding effort in eastern and southern Africa, strongly supported by leading development donors, serves smallholder farmers in some of the world's most difficult and stress-prone environments. By joining our international team of plant breeders, geneticists, agronomists, and social scientists, you will have the opportunity to work on problems as diverse as estimating the performance of new varieties and management systems in farmers' fields, controlling for soil variability in low-fertility fields to improve breeding precision, and understanding the fertilizer use and variety adoption patterns of smallholders in maize-legume farming system. A key task will be to use cutting-edge experimental design and statistical methods to increase the rate of genetic gain in African maize breeding. As an Africa-based member of the CIMMYT Crop Research Informatics Laboratory (CRIL), you will work closely with CIMMYT's elite research teams, as well as with partners in advanced laboratories, seed companies, and national research programs world-wide, to improve the lives of African farmers and consumers who depend on maize for livelihoods and food security.

Primary research objectives include:

- Analysis of participatory experiments evaluating new varieties and technologies in farmers' fields.
- Measurement of genetic gains in CIMMYT's African breeding programs.
- Use of environmental data from test sites to improve cultivar targeting and characterization.
- Application of novel experimental design and analysis approaches to improving the precision and repeatability of field experiments.
- Development of selection methods that efficiently combine information on yield potential, abiotic stress tolerance, and disease and pest resistance

Your job will entail that you:

- Support the implementation of state-of-the-art experimental designs, error control methods, and mixed-model analyses in CIMMYT's African breeding, agronomic, and social science research programs, including the development of user-friendly software.
- Lead the analysis, interpretation, and reporting of CIMMYT-coordinated regional cultivar trials
- Collaborate with breeders, agronomists, and social scientists, in the design, implementation, and analysis of experiments to identify new varieties and technologies that can help farmers improve productivity and food security in maize-based farming systems in Africa.
- Oversee the management of phenotypic, genotypic, and pedigree databases for CIMMYT's African breeding programs.
- Provide training in quantitative genetics and statistics applications to breeding to CIMMYT scientists, national researchers, and private partners.
- Publish scientific articles in refereed journals documenting research progress
- Participate in fund-raising to support the research program

We are seeking candidates with the following qualifications:

- A PhD in statistics, biometrics, or plant breeding
- Demonstrated understanding of agricultural research
- Excellent statistical computing skills, including proficiency in R, SAS, and GENSTAT
- The ability to work effectively in multi-disciplinary and multicultural teams
- Strong organizational skills and leadership skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English

CIMMYT (www.cimmyt.cgiar.org) is an internationally funded, non-profit research and training organization affiliated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, www.cgiar.org) and has an annual budget of approximately US\$40 million. CIMMYT's mission is to reduce poverty and enhance food security in the developing world by increasing the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of maize and wheat-based agricultural systems while protecting the natural resource base. The Center is a global leader in scientific research and training related to maize and wheat, and in biotechnology, socio-economics, and natural resource management research. These activities are conducted in partnership with national agricultural research systems, non-governmental organizations, and advanced research institutions, both public and private, in globally focused projects and programs. CIMMYT employs about 600 permanent staff and operates through decentralized partnership, with staff in 11 countries and projects and networks in many more.

The position will be based in Nairobi, Kenya and is for an initial fixed-term contract of 3 years, after which further employment is subject to performance and availability of funds. CIMMYT offers an attractive remuneration package paid in US dollars, with a range of benefits including housing allowance, life and health insurance, education allowance (to Grade 12), home leave, retirement fund, and relocation shipping assistance.

CIMMYT is an equal-opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

Use your skills in statistics and experimental design to help alleviate poverty in Africa!

Please send your letter of application outlining motivation, technical skills and experience relevant for the position and date of availability, accompanied by a detailed CV/Resume (including contact information, nationality, family status, date of birth) and the names and addresses (including phone/e-mail) of three referees **no later than August 31, 2010.**

Human Resources Manager, CIMMYT
(Reference 2010/06) Email: jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org

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