



## Breeding Services Manager (Integrated Breeding Platform)



The Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) is seeking a Services Manager who will manage the marker services and trait and metabolite services provided by the GCP as part of the Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP). The marker services of the IBP currently consist of a combination of low-throughput SSR genotyping laboratories and high-throughput SNP genotyping services contracted to service the needs of molecular breeders and other scientists associated with the IBP and other GCP-supported projects. She/he will have the following responsibilities:

- Manage the client/user relationship with marker services. This involves identifying the users' needs, recommending an optimum approach based on those needs, overseeing the administrative management of that relationship when necessary, and arranging for the genotyping work to be performed at competitive pricing while following the turnaround time needed by the users. It also involves providing guidance to relevant policies related to DNA and germplasm exchanges that may have an impact on the users' projects
- Drive the transition from SSR to SNP genotyping for most of the crops supported by the IBP. This involves identifying sources of publicly available SNPs for each of those crops and developing a strategy for the deployment of those SNPs in the IBP marker services.
- Continue to assess the capacity and availability of new potential services providers in the genotyping field, especially regarding access to the low-cost, high-throughput, semi-automated SNP genotyping that will be necessary to support the increasing genotyping workload of molecular breeding. Keep abreast of the latest developments in genotyping to ensure that the marker services remain competitive and relevant to evolving user needs.
- Assess the capacity and availability of potential trait and metabolite services providers that could provide, as needed, specialised phenotyping services for specific traits that are beyond the usual capacity of traditional IBP users.
- Contribute to training and capacity building activities of the platform in particular by coordinating small projects aimed at promoting exposing users from developing countries to marker technologies and promoting their use.

The Services Manager will report administratively to the Platform Manager but will also work closely with the Integrated Breeding Leader for strategic issues. She/he will interact closely with the users of the IBP (primarily molecular breeders and traditional breeders integrating markers into their breeding programmes) and with services providers to ensure that the users' needs are met and to assess future needs. This international position, based at GCP headquarters in Mexico, is for a fixed-term contract of three years, with possibility for renewal subject to performance and funding.

### We are seeking candidates with the following qualifications:

1. A Ph.D. degree in plant breeding, plant genetics or similar area with at least 3 years of appropriate experience for the position, or a Masters Degree with at least 8 years of suitable experience.
2. Thorough understanding of molecular breeding and breeder needs in terms of marker technologies (especially SNP genotyping and use in breeding)
3. Good understanding of plant physiology and the power of integrating secondary traits in modern plant breeding
4. Experience in project management
5. Affinity for international agricultural research and development
6. Ability to work well as part of a multidisciplinary and decentralised team
7. Excellent interpersonal skills and proactive in identifying and preventing potential problems
8. Excellent communications skills in written and spoken English

### Experience in the following areas would also be considered a major asset:

9. Practical experience in the extensive use of markers in a commercial breeding programme
10. Strong expertise in the use of genomics tools for SNP development and for next-generation applications such as genome-wide selection

The Generation Challenge Programme ([www.generationcp.org](http://www.generationcp.org)) is an internationally funded, non-profit research and training programme that was created by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to bring together research efforts at public and private research institutions in developed and developing countries to build a platform of publicly available genetic and genomic resources and tools that can be used to deliver the fruits of the Genomics Revolution to resource-poor farmers. The Generation Challenge Programme has an annual budget of USD 14 million.

GCP is hosted by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT [www.cimmyt.org](http://www.cimmyt.org)); Main Campus is located 45 km northeast of Mexico City, Mexico. CIMMYT has an annual budget of approximately USD 50 million and its mission is to help the poor in the developing world by increasing the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of maize and wheat-based cropping systems while protecting natural resources. CIMMYT employs about 600 permanent staff from over 40 nationalities and operates through decentralised partnership, with staff in 13 countries and projects and networks in many more. Rapid growth is occurring in South and East Asia.

CIMMYT/GCP 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 allowance. The CIMMYT campus has recreational and sports facilities and offers transportation to international schools in Mexico City. Good housing is available on and off campus.

**GCP/CIMMYT is an equal-opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and ethnicity**

Please send via e-mail your letter of application, CV/Resume (including full contact information), and names and contact information of three references to:

Human Resources Manager, CIMMYT (Reference GCP 2010/02)

Email: [jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org](mailto:jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org)

**Deadline for applications: July 23, 2010**

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Selection Committee by mid August.  
For further information, contact Dr Xavier Delannay, Integrated Breeding Leader, [x.delannay@cgiar.org](mailto:x.delannay@cgiar.org)