

Senior Durum Breeder

Position specification

Internationally Recruited Position

Reports to: Director, Biodiversity & Gene Management Program (BIGMP)

Location: Rabat, Morocco

Closing date: March 11, 2014 or until a suitable candidate has been found

Main purpose of the position

ICARDA has responsibility for the improvement of bread and durum wheat within Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) as part of the Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research Program (CRP WHEAT) led by CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center). The ICARDA-durum program includes a vigorous pre-breeding program exploiting the genetic variability in durum wheat and its wild relatives. ICARDA is seeking a motivated breeder in durum wheat to be based at its dryland breeding platform in Rabat, Morocco

About ICARDA

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is an international autonomous, non-profit, research organization temporarily based in Beirut, Lebanon supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). ICARDA is committed to the improvement of livelihoods of the resource-poor in dry areas by enhancing food security and alleviating poverty through agricultural research, and the equitable use of natural resources. For more details: www.icarda.org

Main responsibilities

- Durum wheat breeding in partnership with national programs and advanced research institutes.
- Breeding durum wheat for rainfed and irrigated environments in the dry areas of West Asia-North Africa (WANA) and the Nile valley and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Developing of durum germplasm with high grain quality.
- Developing of durum germplasm with high tolerance to drought and heat.
- Developing of durum germplasm with resistance to diseases and insects.
- Maintain genetic variability in the germplasm while ensuring positive yield gains
- Application of molecular marker-assisted selection.
- Cooperation with scientists in other disciplines such as entomology, pathology, virology, biotechnology, end use quality, agronomy and socio-economics.
- Providing training to staff from national wheat breeding programs, including provision of training materials.
- Development of research proposals for potential donors and of technical research reports.
- Keep up-to-date on developments on durum breeding through the scientific literature, and publish research findings in ISI-peer reviewed scientific journals with high journal Impact Factors.

- Representing ICARDA at regional and international fora.

Education, qualifications and experience

- PhD in plant breeding.
- Post graduate experience in breeding cereals.
- Relevant field experience.
- Proven ability to lead and plan a breeding effort.
- Strong knowledge of durum wheat and its traits.
- Good understanding of the agro-environmental constraints of the target region.
- Proven ability to implement molecular breeding and pre-breeding techniques.
- Relevant experience at national/ regional /international level.
- Demonstrated ability to design, implement and analyze field trials.
- Good knowledge of quantitative genetics applied to plant breeding, genetic linkage, QTL and association studies analyses.
- Strong skills in biometrics.
- A proven record in research through peer-reviewed publications.
- A proven record in funds rising through international research grants.
- Candidates with a well-established personal network of collaborations with centers of excellence and national programs will be preferred.
- Fluency in English and knowledge of a second language such as French or Arabic would be an advantage.
- Good inter-personal skills and an ability to work with multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams.

Terms of appointment, salary and benefits

The initial contract will be for 3 years, of which the first year will be probationary period. Subsequent employment is decided based on the merit and productivity of the staff member, and continued need for the position.

How to apply

Please apply online at www.icarda.org/iea/ **by March 11, 2014**

We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage applications from women. Applications will be acknowledged, but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.