

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

## BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

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*For further information on Bioversity International, consult the Web page at <http://www.bioversityinternational.org>*

Bioversity International undertakes encourages and supports research and other activities aimed at improving the well being of present and future generations of people by enhancing conservation and the deployment of agricultural biodiversity on farms and in forests. The organization is active in over 100 countries worldwide, and has more than 300 staff working from some 20 country offices. It is one of 15 centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Bioversity's headquarters are located in Maccarese, just outside Rome, Italy. The Organization is now seeking a well-qualified candidate for the position of:

### **Programme Specialist: Genetic Resources**

Bioversity is seeking a highly motivated researcher to assist in managing and improving the scientific content of the Musa Germplasm Information System (MGIS), a database supporting the management of banana collections worldwide and facilitating the increased use of banana genetic diversity. Based at the Bioversity office in Montpellier, France, the successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Project Coordinator for 'Conserving and promoting the use of genetic resources of commodity crops', within the 'Commodities for Livelihoods' programme.

Within the framework of the Global Musa Conservation Strategy, in consultation with other members of the Musa conservation team and in close collaboration with the MGIS database developer, the Genetic Resources Programme Specialist will:

- Develop a data input and checking process to ensure data quality and work closely with Musa collection curators worldwide to help them gather and enter their data in MGIS in an accurate and sustainable manner
- Help to identify the gaps and errors in the MGIS records and develop a process to rapidly correct them, in consultation with the Taxonomic Advisory Group (TAG)
- Assist in analyzing morphological and molecular data from accessions verified in the field after maintenance *in vitro* in the Bioversity International Transit Centre (ITC)
- Work with others to enhance the value of MGIS to users through the incorporation of appropriate characterization and evaluation data
- Promote information exchange to assure effective links and collaboration between the ITC and Musa *ex situ* collections, within the framework of MusaNet
- Contribute to clarifying the ontology of Musa and other crops through discussion with relevant experts and help to develop a flexible identification key for Musa species, subspecies and cultivars
- Contribute to improving the information system for other commodity crops (coconut, cacao and coffee)
- Contribute to the production of various publications (on paper and on-line) involving genetic resources information
- Contribute in other ways to the genetic resources research activities of Bioversity and its CfL programme as may be agreed in consultation with the Programme Director.

## Minimum mandatory qualifications and competencies:

### Minimum qualifications & experience:

- An MSc (or other academic qualifications and experience that are equivalent) in plant genetic resources, biodiversity or closely related field
- Minimum of 3 years' of relevant experience, preferably in an international working environment; previous research experience with bananas would be a great advantage.

### Skills & abilities:

- Knowledge of plant taxonomy, ideally encompassing both classical and molecular approaches.
- Good understanding of the issues related to conservation and the use of banana genetic resources in sustainable agricultural development.
- Experience in information sciences, plus relevant professional experience would also be an advantage.
- Proficient in relevant software packages (Microsoft Word, data analysis and communications); knowledge of GIS and modeling expertise would be an advantage.
- Superior interpersonal, communications and teamwork skills including the ability to interact effectively with a wide range of collaborators from different cultural backgrounds.
- Excellent command of the English language, both written and spoken; working knowledge of French, Spanish or another major international language are a considerable advantage.

### Personal qualities:

- Demonstrates a high degree of originality, creativity and innovation on discipline topics and issues including a record of publications.
- Demonstrates a high degree of initiative and strategic thinking in technical innovation
- Demonstrates superior adaptability and flexibility.

**Terms and conditions:** This is a locally recruited professional position and all benefits are denominated and paid in EURO. Bioversity International offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, medical insurance and leave provisions. The initial contract will be for a period of three years, renewable, subject to a probationary period of one year.

**Applications:** A letter of application (responding to the required qualifications and competencies) and *curriculum vitae* in English, including date of birth, gender and nationality, with names and full contact details of at least three referees, including telephone, fax and email address, should be sent to Bioversity International (for attention S.Faure), Parc Scientifique Agropolis II, 34397 Montpellier Cedex 5, France, by fax to +33 (0)467-610334 or preferably by email to [s.faure@cgiar.org](mailto:s.faure@cgiar.org) by **18 September 2008**. Please quote source of advertisement.

*Bioversity is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.*

*All received applications will be acknowledged, but only short listed applicants will be further contacted.*

*With effect from 1 December 2006, IPGRI and INIBAP operate under the name "**Bioversity International**", Bioversity for short. This new name echoes our new strategy, which focuses on improving people's lives through biodiversity research.*