

Entomologist Tropical Fruits

Supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), CIAT is a non-profit organization that conducts socially and environmentally progressive research aimed at reducing hunger and poverty and preserving natural resources in developing countries.

Globalization of economies and growth of global food markets are driving demand for tropical fruits, both in and outside Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). More than 1100 edible fruit species are produced in LAC: the region's rich array of tropical fruit diversity constitutes one of its most promising options for increasing rural incomes. Thus tapping into this potential, CIAT's Tropical Fruits Program provides farmers, partners, local agencies, and entrepreneurs with the tools, technologies, and methodologies needed to better select likely products for development, and successfully produce, process, and market them.

The agricultural diversity of the research field also provides many opportunities for enhancing human nutrition and the environmental sustainability of agricultural systems in LAC, learning which can then be applied to other regions of the world.

CIAT is looking for a visionary and dynamic **Entomologist** to carry out research on IPM and biological control in smallholder-based tropical fruit production in Latin America.

Role and responsibilities

- Contribute to the development of environmentally-sound (tropical) fruit production systems in Latin America & the Caribbean.
- The incumbent will combine insights in insect ecology, biology and agronomy to devise cropping systems that are cost-effective, respect the broader farming environment and do not compromise grower or consumer health. Emphasis will be placed upon novel cropping systems and management schemes that make optimum use of natural control mechanisms while not boosting insect-based pollination.
- Team up with local researchers to fully exploit the potential for biological control, develop decision-making tools that guide rational pesticide use, and identify ways to optimally deliver relevant information to small-scale farmers in the region.
- Initial research will focus on devising integrated pest management schemes in guava and yellow passionfruit in the Colombian Eastern Plains, quantify potential for biological control in local Andean fruits, and take forward weevil trapping in coconut production in the Colombian Pacific.
- Provide technical backstopping to niche-based modeling of geographic distribution of several fruit pest species, and the use of bait-sprays to control Tephritid fruit flies in various fruits.
- Co-supervision of graduate students.
- Grant writing and broader mobilization of research funds.
- Technical meetings with national/international counterparts.
- Research activities will be conducted in the context of established partnerships with national and international research organizations.
- The candidate is expected to travel on a frequent basis, both nationally as within the region.

Requirements and competences

- PhD in ecology, entomology or agronomy.
- Training, knowledge or post-doctoral experience desirable in biological control or food web ecology.
- Pro-active researcher with proven publication track record.
- Demonstrated ability to generate external grant funding and develop successful research collaborations.
- Desirable experience living in the tropics, collaborating with local research institutions.
- Capacity/willingness for field work (farmer orchards, research plots and natural areas).
- Experience carrying out participatory research with smallholder farmers is a plus.
- Excellent command of English and. Command of Spanish and Portuguese and is highly desirable.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural team across institutions and levels of authority.
- The ability to coordinate project implementation and documentation, and work independently, as well as ability and interest in being an active part of a team.

Terms of employment

The position will be based in the CIAT Headquarters in Cali, Colombia and will report to the Program Leader (Tropical Fruits). The contract will be for an initial two-year period, renewable based upon performance and availability of funding.

CIAT offers internationally competitive salary and benefits packages. CIAT is an equal opportunity employer, and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality. We believe that the diversity of their staff contributes to excellence. Women and developing country professionals are encouraged to apply.

Applications

Applicants are invited to send a cover letter illustrating their suitability for the above position against the listed qualifications, competencies and skills together with a detailed curriculum vitae, including names and addresses of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate's professional qualifications and work experience. All correspondence should be addressed to the CIAT Human Resources Office to Catalina Montoya (c.m.ruiz@cgiar.org).

Closing date for applications: February 20, 2012.

We invite you to learn more about CIAT at: <http://www.ciat.cgiar.org>