

Rothamsted International African Fellows Programme Programme Guidelines and Criteria Summary

The project will have the following attributes:

1. It will be targeted at finding a solution to a problem in African agricultural development that will have a practical application, be of benefit to small-scale African farmers and provide a means of increasing their household income / security. Projects will focus on seeking a solution to a research problem that needs to be addressed before proceeding to the practical application. It should be noted that in this context agriculture is taken to embrace both crop and animal agriculture and to include production and health issues.

2. All projects must be **PROBLEM-FOCUSED**, with the route to solving the problem clearly demonstrated in the application. Bursaries will not be awarded for general training, or as part of MSc / PhD degrees. Examples of potential project areas are listed below but other areas will also be considered:

- Identification of the geographical variation in a pest semio-chemical produced by plants, in order to ensure efficacy in different regions / countries.
- Characterisation of and/or treatment for a new pest/pathogen/vector/other problem currently causing significant concern in crop or animal agriculture.
- Determining the role of particular nutrients or cultivation/husbandry techniques to enhance animal/plant productivity, soil fertility or help protect the environment.
- Varietal improvement in the use of molecular markers or other techniques for marker assisted animal/plant breeding or development of novel candidate vaccines.
- Address agronomic constraints associated with the introduction of new, under-utilised or alternative crops to alleviate poverty.

3. Projects must be undertaken as collaborative partnerships between African and European scientists working in institutes and universities or equivalent research centres.

4. The science addressed should be of high scientific quality as judged by the clarity and achievability of objectives.

5. The work undertaken should provide opportunities for publication in refereed journal(s).

6. The project should be applicable to, and have the potential for, development impact in the country concerned. The following should be demonstrable:

- Availability of a clear dissemination and/or technology transfer route;
- Prospects for continuing collaboration with development objectives in mind;
- Interaction with the development priorities for the country concerned.

7. Priority will be given to projects which focus on the needs of the poorest communities and / or most disadvantaged members of society.
8. The problem being addressed should be one that clearly requires a working visit, because similar progress cannot be achieved by any other means e.g. use of literature sources.
9. Rothamsted International African Fellowships will be awarded without regard to the political or religious status of the applicant or country concerned.

The person will have the following characteristics:

1. The individual should have experience appropriate to that of a 'mid-career' scientist who is normally the citizen of an African country, and scientific work is based in Africa and directed to problems of relevance to Africa.
2. There is an absolute requirement that the applicant undertakes to return to an African country, to resume work in the field with which the problem is associated. Thus, candidates who have extensive and/or continuous experience in a developed country are not likely to be awarded a Fellowship. Candidates whose current employer agrees to retain their job position for the return will be favoured.
3. The programme is not applicable to students at the start of their career, or senior scientists in the later stages of their career.

Lower age Limit: The candidate is expected to have five years research experience since attaining their first degree, and will normally hold an MSc as a minimum qualification, although a PhD is preferable.

Upper Age Limit: It is expected that the candidate will be actively engaged in research, rather than in management or teaching. Evidence should be provided that they anticipate continuing in research on their return.

4. The individual should be someone known to the European partner organization (directly or indirectly), who has met the project leader, or been highly recommended.
5. Leading up to submitting the Application there should be collaborative contact between the African and European scientists to form a solid basis for a good and well-planned project.
6. Applications from women are particularly encouraged.