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RUFORUM Post-Doctoral Fellowships

OVERVIEW

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture Post-Doctoral Fellowships are designed to support researchers with a strong background in agricultural sciences. These fellowships target recent PhD graduates, particularly those who have trained under RUFORUM's programs, and focus on supporting the development of early-career scientists within African universities. The fellowships last for 24 months and are hosted at RUFORUM member universities. Fellows receive funding to support their research, which may involve mentoring graduate students and conducting interdisciplinary research. The program is designed to foster leadership, mentoring, and research skills while increasing the retention of skilled scientists in Africa, contributing to the growth of higher education and research institutions across the continent. The key goal is to allow fellows to establish their credentials and expand their professional networks, which will benefit their careers and academic institutions. The fellowships also emphasize promoting gender equality, encouraging women to apply. Fellows must be attached to a host university, which supports their work and provides mentorship. The fellowship program builds on RUFORUM's long-standing efforts to create a cadre of skilled African scientists who can drive research and innovation across various fields.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have a PhD degree in agriculture or related fields.
- Candidates should be within a specified number of years after completing their doctoral degree (typically 3 to 5 years).
- Applicants must be citizens of an African country, and the research must align with the continent's development needs.

RESEARCH FOCUS

- Priority is given to research projects that address critical issues in agriculture, food security, climate change, and sustainable farming practices.
- The program encourages research directly relevant to African countries' socio-economic development.

FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

- The fellowship provides funding to cover research expenses, including stipends, travel grants and fieldwork.
- Fellows also receive access to mentoring and networking opportunities within the RUFORUM community, including collaboration with universities, governments, and industry stakeholders.
- Fellows are expected to publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journals, which helps establish their academic reputation and visibility.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:

- Call for Proposals: RUFORUM issues a call for proposals on its website (www.ruforum.org) and through member universities.
- Interested candidates must submit a detailed research proposal outlining their objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and the impact of their research on African agriculture.

- A panel of experts from the RUFORUM network reviews applications.
- Proposals are evaluated based on scientific merit, relevance to African agricultural development, potential for innovation, and the feasibility of the research plan.
- The quality of the applicant's prior work, including publications and academic contributions, is also considered.

IMPACT

- The fellowship aims to strengthen the capacity of African researchers and institutions, contributing to the development of knowledge and technology in agriculture.
- It also facilitates South-South collaboration by promoting partnerships between African universities and institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- RUFORUM collaborates with international organizations, governments, and research institutions to provide a platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative research.
- Fellows have opportunities to engage in various regional and international conferences, workshops, and symposia.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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