

## Norman E. Borlaug International Science and Technology Fellows Program Program Information and Application

### **Description**

The Norman E. Borlaug International Science and Technology Fellows Program (*Borlaug Fellows Program*) offers short-term training and collaborative research opportunities in international agricultural science and policy through exchanges for entry-level scientists, faculty, policymakers and regulators from developing and middle-income countries.

### **Geographic Coverage**

Although open to participants from developing or middle-income countries worldwide, the Program gives priority to Fellows from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia.

### **Background**

The Borlaug Fellows Program brings together international agricultural science and technology training programs of the U.S. Government. The Program is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the State Department, and the U.S. Agency for International Development and is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The Program was established in March 2004 in honor of Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug as an outcome of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's ministerial conference on agricultural science and technology. Dr. Borlaug was instrumental in breeding the first generation of high-yielding plant varieties that raised food production to stave off famine in hunger hotspots around the world, known as the Green Revolution, and in founding the international agricultural research system.

### **Purpose**

The Borlaug Fellows Program promotes food security and economic growth in developing countries by improving agricultural productivity. The Fellowship provides promising individuals in the early stages of their careers with a short-term opportunity to collaborate and network with U.S. or international experts at a host institution in their field of agricultural science or policy. It is expected that the Fellows will apply the knowledge obtained through the Program in their own research and teaching activities, and share it with colleagues at their home institutions and throughout their country.

## **Program Structure**

During a six-to-eight week training period, Fellows will be exposed to cutting edge knowledge and research techniques, carry out laboratory and field research, enjoy access to fully equipped libraries, make professional contacts, and learn about public-private partnerships, working one-on-one with a mentor. An assigned mentor coordinates the Fellow's training and visits the Fellow's host country after completion of the training. Training venues can include universities and government agencies in the United States as well as international agricultural research centers and private sector research and policy institutes worldwide. All Program correspondence and instruction will be in English.

Upon return, Fellows are expected to present a seminar to the academic and agricultural research community in their home country on what they learned and their research activities. Other post-fellowship events may be organized for Fellows and their mentors to identify areas of mutual interest and promote ongoing collaboration between scientists from the Fellow's country and the host institution.

## **Training and Research Topics**

The program encompasses the wide variety of agricultural technologies related to production, processing and marketing that support global food security and trade. The program also addresses obstacles to the adoption of technology in the areas of policy, regulations, human capital and scientific infrastructure. Training can be in any agriculture-related field - agronomy, plant pathology, entomology, veterinary sciences, microbiology, biotechnology, agricultural economics, sustainable agriculture, environmental sciences and natural resources management, biofortification and nutrition, systems for sharing knowledge, food safety, plant and animal health, global climate change, and water quality and management. Emphasis will be placed on two broad research topics; 1) in sustainable and organic agriculture production, regulations and marketing, and 2) agricultural business and entrepreneurship.

## **Training Program Design**

Training programs offer a mixture of technical instruction and practical field experience, tailored to the training objectives discussed during the interview and application process. Therefore, it is important that the application contain detailed information on the candidate's background and research interests.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

- Entry-level professional, with no more than 10 years relevant work experience.
- Graduate degree, PhD preferred.
- Citizen of a developing or middle-income country.
- Good working knowledge of the English language.

- Currently employed at a research or higher education institution or government ministry and intend to continue working in their country for at least two years post-fellowship.

## **Application Process**

An application form must be completed and submitted to the designated Borlaug Program Adviser, together with required supporting documents, no later than April 10, 2009. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria and priorities:

### Selection Criteria

- Academic and professional achievement.
- Level of scientific competence, aptitude for scientific research, leadership potential and likelihood that applicant will to apply knowledge gained from their Borlaug Fellows experience to further their country's development and implement change at the home institution.
- Relevance of candidate's research area in relation to the agricultural research needs of his/her country and to global food security and trade.
- Adequate proficiency in the English language.
- Flexibility and aptitude for success in a cross-cultural environment.

### Program Priorities

- Candidates from a range of institutions throughout sub-Saharan Africa.
- Candidates from a wide range of scientific disciplines and interests.

Application package must include the following:

- Completed application form
- Signed approval from official representative of home institution
- One-page Statement of Scientific Experience and Research Interests
- Copies of college transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable)
- Two letters of recommendation
- A photocopy of the identification page of the applicant's passport (containing name and picture)
- Two passport-size photographs

## **Program Contact**

More information on the Borlaug Fellows Program is available online at [www.BorlaugFellows.gov](http://www.BorlaugFellows.gov) or by contacting the Borlaug Fellows Program Coordinator: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Room 3008, Washington, D.C. 20250-1081; [info@BorlaugFellows.gov](mailto:info@BorlaugFellows.gov); 202-690-3359.

### **Information Specific to County/Region**

In sub-Saharan Africa, the Program is being implemented in collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). FARA will disseminate the Program Announcement and Application Forms to appropriate institutions in the region, receive and compile the completed applications, and produce a short list of pre-selected qualified candidates. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by a joint FARA-USDA panel that will select the candidates for the 2009-2010 Program.

The contact at FARA on the application process and other program information is:

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