



## Associate Expert, Socio-economist Kampala, Uganda

ASSOCIATE EXPERT SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Position:** Associate Expert, Socio-economist – Improving field response to disease outbreaks in small holder banana in East Africa
- Sector:** Socioeconomics
- Location:** Kampala, Uganda
- Duration:** Three years duration, contract renewed annually
- Eligibility:** The post is open to:
- candidates who have Dutch nationality or a permanent residence status in the Netherlands; or candidates who have the nationality of another EU Member State; or
  - candidates from eligible developing countries; See the section “Further Information” for other eligibility criteria and the list of developing countries eligible to participate in the JPO/JE/APO/AE Programme.

**Note:** Nationals of the duty station (Uganda) are not eligible. Nor are candidates who have previously worked as a JPO/JE/APO/AE.

### General information:

Bioversity International is the world's largest international research organization dedicated to the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity. It is non-profit and independently operated. Bioversity's work is motivated by a vision in which people enjoy greater well-being through increased incomes, sustainable improved food security and nutrition, and greater environmental health, made possible by conservation and the deployment of agricultural biodiversity on farms and in forests. Bioversity International has its headquarters in Rome, Italy and offices in more than 20 countries worldwide, including 4 regional offices for Sub-Saharan Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), the Americas (Cali, Colombia), Asia, Pacific and Oceania (Serdang, Malaysia) and Europe (Rome, Italy). Bioversity is supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is funded by over 60 national and international donor agencies. The research is implemented through four Programmes (Diversity for Livelihoods, Understanding and Managing Biodiversity, Commodities for Livelihoods, and Global Partnerships) and three Research and Support Units (Policy and Law, Capacity Development and Public Awareness).

### Position Overview:

As a member of the Commodities for Livelihoods Programme, the main role of the Associate Expert position will be the ex-ante analysis of the impact of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) on poor farmers' livelihoods in order to orient and provide socioeconomics support to Bioversity research on BXW, within the framework of the ASARECA-funded project. ASARECA (The Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) is a non-political organization of the National Agricultural Research Institutes of ten countries whose aim is to increase the efficiency of agricultural research in the region so as to facilitate economic growth, food security and export competitiveness through productive and sustainable agriculture. The purpose of the project 'Enhanced management of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt for sustainable banana productivity in East and Central Africa' is increased utilization of innovations for sustainable management of BXW in East & Central Africa with an overall goal to enhance sustainable productivity, value added and competitiveness of the banana sub-sector in Eastern and Central Africa. The project's objectives include the following: i) to generate novel and efficient BXW management strategies, ii) to refine, validate and scale out BXW management innovations with value chain actors, iii) to mobilize and strengthen capacity of value-chain actors to manage BXW, iv) to develop new markets to accommodate increased post-BXW banana production to reduce poverty among the disadvantaged, v) to facilitate development and harmonization of cross-border supportive BXW management policies.

Bioversity is seeking candidates who are prepared to make a full three year commitment with anticipated start date in early 2010.

### Specific duties and responsibilities:

Within the ASARECA-funded project: *Enhanced management of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt for sustainable banana productivity in East and Central Africa*, the AE will take responsibility for:

#### 1. Establish BXW distribution (disease typologies) and the expected impact on poor farmers' livelihoods in Eastern and Central Africa

- Develop a conceptual framework for the assessment of the impact of BXW and draft a preliminary model for empirical analysis including vulnerability assessment and food security in east and central Africa.
- Screen available data sets available in the public domain to test the model, identify gaps in the data and propose additional data collection.
- Develop scenarios of BXW distribution and possible responses, (in collaboration with project management) to be analysed using the impact model.
- Based on the initial results of the model develop data collection and analysis tools and train NARS scientists in the use of the tools

- In collaboration with the National University of Rwanda to initiate GIS-led mapping of BXW distribution and associated vulnerability (with respect to income, food security, social capital, etc) of communities/households affected by the disease.
  - Refine preliminary model, analyse impacts of scenarios and prepare reports for use in the project planning and publication.
2. **Characterize the trans-border market chains, assess current and potential production/consumption patterns and develop a pilot model for regional market surveillance to be implemented with national partners.**
- Identify and mobilize chain actors to describe and characterize the trans-border value chains of bananas in East and Central Africa
  - Develop tools to conduct cross-border market surveys (in BXW and non BXW target sites) analyzing current and potential production/consumption patterns, train teams in their use, organize the surveys and analyze the results
  - Identify simple indicators for the prediction of production and demand of bananas in the short and medium term and develop tools for regular market surveillance.

**Qualifications, skills and experience:**

- Qualifications:**     ▪ **Required:** M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics or Natural Sciences with demonstrated experience with socioeconomic data collection and analysis
- Experience:**         ▪ Experiences with socioeconomic field surveys, data collection and analyses, econometrics and modelling and the use of GIS tools
- Relevant working experience, preferably in multicultural teams
  - International experience, preferably including residence abroad in a developing country
  - Field experience in rural Africa is desirable
- Knowledge Skills:**    ▪ Knowledge of small holder agriculture in the tropics
- Excellent analytical and writing skills
  - Ability to set up and maintain effective databases
- Competencies:**     ▪ Achievement: self-motivated, with the ability to overcome obstacles to achieve objectives
- Interpersonal skills: the ability to work effectively in a team
  - Creativity and Initiative: the ability to address unexpected issues or problems as they arise and to be innovative in planning and organizing research and other activities.

**Languages:**

**Required:** English language fluency (verbal and written); working knowledge of French and Swahili is advantageous.

**Duty Station:**

The Associate Expert will be located at Bioversity's East and Southern Africa Office located in Kampala, Uganda. He or she will be part of a small team of 9 scientists and support staff. Kampala itself is a busy city in developing Africa and the largest city and capital of Uganda. Most modern facilities are available, but transport can be challenging and occasional cuts in the supply of electricity do occur.

**Terms and conditions:** Bioversity International offers an attractive remuneration package including a competitive salary, non-contributory retirement plan, housing allowance, medical insurance and leave provisions. All benefits are denominated and paid in US Dollars.

**Further information:** on Bioversity can be found at: <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/> or about the vacancy by request to [bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org](mailto:bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org)

For further information on *eligibility criteria*, click on the link below:

[http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key\\_Topics/Development\\_Cooperation/Associate\\_Experts\\_Programme](http://www.minbuza.nl/en/Key_Topics/Development_Cooperation/Associate_Experts_Programme)

**Applications:** Please apply online through the following link: [Bioversity Employment Opportunities Webpage](#) by clicking the "Apply" button. Alternatively, via e-mail to: [bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org](mailto:bioversityvacancy@cgiar.org) including a letter of application, curriculum vitae in English indicating 'Associate Expert, Uganda' in the subject line; or via mail to: Human Resources Office, Bioversity International, Via de Tre Denari, 472/a, 00057 Maccarese, Rome, Italy; or via Fax to (39) 06 6118 341. Please quote the source of advertisement.

The *curriculum vitae* should include applicant's date of birth, nationality, marital status (if married with spouse and children details); contact details; summary of secondary education; detailed description of higher education including degree courses undertaken and special assignments/projects; consultant contracts; work experience; recreational interests; language capabilities; details of three referees including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address.

**Deadline for applications:**           **29 November 2009**

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