

Research Award: Agriculture and Food Security Program

Deadline: August 6, 2014

Please note that all applications must be submitted online.

IDRC is one of the world's leaders in generating new knowledge to meet global challenges. We offer a number of research awards providing a unique opportunity to enhance research skills and gain a fresh perspective on crucial development issues. These one-year, paid, in-house programs of training and mentorship allow award holders to pursue their research goals and work in one of IDRC's dynamic program or division teams.

The [Agriculture and Food Security](#) (AFS) program supports research that generates new options for equitable and productive agriculture to improve food and income security for poor women and men in developing countries. Research has shown that appropriate food security interventions have the potential to achieve sustained improvements in household food security, as well as the nutritional well-being of vulnerable members of the population. The AFS program works with organizations to intensify and diversify small-scale agriculture, improve nutritional quality, and income. This is done by developing, disseminating, and using innovations (technological, institutional, political, economic, and social) without adverse consequences to societies and the environment. AFS supports research across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

AFS is looking for a Research Awardee to conduct research on the role of private sector organizations in scaling up research results, innovations and policy recommendations for improved food security. The research will place particular attention on the interactions of public sector organizations (universities, research organizations) and private sector actors (companies, entrepreneurs, cooperatives and associations, etc.) and on how innovative partnerships can be developed for scaling up food security innovations in a smallholder farming context.

The successful candidate will allocate about 50% of the time to his/her own research project under the guidance of a Senior Program Officer, and will be expected to present his/her research plan and provide progress updates during the year. The Research Awardee will also contribute to the management of the program (the remaining 50% of the time) through a variety of tasks which may include synthesizing and disseminating project outcomes and results, participating in project development, monitoring and evaluation, communication and learning activities, and preparing internal and external reports. Applicants should clearly outline their qualifications for this position, and explain how this opportunity will advance their career goals.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a citizen of a developing country;
- Be currently enrolled at a recognized university at the master's level or have completed a master's degree at a recognized university. These awards may be part of an academic requirement. Please note that doctoral and postdoctoral candidates, or those who have already completed a PhD or postdoc, should not apply;
- Your proposed research must focus on a developing country where IDRC supports research.

Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- General interest in research on food security issues, in developing countries;
- Specific interest in the economics of innovation in smallholder farming systems;
- Specific interest in the institutional economics of multi-partner arrangements;
- Strong verbal and written communication skills; and
- Field experience in developing countries is an asset.

It is highly desirable that the candidate is enrolled in (or has recently completed) a master's program related to one of the following areas:

- Economics, with strong emphasis on institutional economics
- Agricultural economics, with a focus on innovation

Your research proposal should demonstrate the intention to explore linkages between the role of private sector organizations in scaling up research results and innovations and food security, have a clear commitment to AFS' methodological building blocks (e.g., multistakeholder participation, transdisciplinarity), and recognize the dual nature of the position—applied research activity and general program support.

This position is located at IDRC's head office in Ottawa.

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A key part of Canada's foreign policy efforts, IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development.

International Development Research Centre

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