

Crop Information Specialist – Postdoctoral Fellow

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is seeking an innovative, self-motivated, scientifically outstanding candidate for a postdoctoral position as the CIMMYT-based Crop Information Specialist within the IRRI-CIMMYT Alliance, Crop Research Informatics Laboratory (CRIL). The Crop Information Specialist will report to the CRIL Program Leader at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and collaborate closely with other scientists in CRIL at CIMMYT and IRRI. The position is initially available for one year with an opportunity for an extension, but may lead to a career path position for an outstanding scientist. The primary responsibilities will be to:

- Upgrade data integration tools for molecular, phenotypic and environmental information, upgrade software for and coordinate routine curation and management of phenotype and genotype data from maize breeding programs.
- Create a web portal for all relevant information associated with germplasm being used in and developed by the maize drought tolerance breeding program.
- Coordinate the global integration of all historical phenotype, pedigree and genotype data from CIMMYT maize breeding programs into a single database.
- Work with the simulation and modeling specialist to develop molecular breeding decision-support tools based on comprehensively integrated databases.
- Replace, merge or refine existing maize and wheat system components with ICIS, migrate important historical data into ICIS-based systems and deploy them with users in CIMMYT regional breeding programs and national partners.
- Work with crop scientists in the CIMMYT maize breeding programs to determine the future user requirements for Crop Information Systems, critically assess existing components and devise strategic action plans.
- Work with the community of crop and information specialists developing the public, open source International Crop Information System (ICIS) to assess existing data models, schemata and components, identify any improvements required to support maize and wheat user requirements and implement those improvements.

The position will be based in CRIL at CIMMYT's Main Campus located 45 km northeast of Mexico City, Mexico. The position is initially available for one year, with an opportunity for an extension, but may lead to a career path position for an outstanding scientist.

We are seeking candidates with the following qualifications:

- ✓ Ph.D. degree in information management, computer science, plant breeding or other biological science.
- ✓ Strong background in information management and computer science.
- ✓ Extensive experience with large, diverse data sets.
- ✓ Experience with crop research preferably in the areas of genetic resource management and plant breeding.
- ✓ Interest in international agricultural research and development.
- ✓ Ability to work well as part of multidisciplinary decentralized teams.
- ✓ Must have excellent communication, organizational and inter-personal skills.
- ✓ Proficiency in spoken and written English language.

Experience in any of the following areas would be considered an asset:

- ✓ Systems analysis, database design and programming, particularly in Java.
- ✓ Knowledge of drought tolerance physiology and/or molecular plant-microbe interactions.
- ✓ Familiarity with molecular breeding programs.
- ✓ Proficiency in Spanish.

CIMMYT (www.cimmyt.cgiar.org) is an internationally funded, non-profit research and training organization affiliated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, www.cgiar.org) and has an annual budget of nearly US\$40 million. CIMMYT's mission is to help the poor in the developing world by increasing the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of maize- and wheat-based cropping systems while protecting natural resources. The Center is a global leader in scientific research and training related to maize and wheat, and in biotechnology, economics, and natural resource management research. These activities are conducted in partnership with national agricultural research systems, non-governmental organizations, and advanced research institutions, both public and private, in globally focused projects and programs. CIMMYT employs a staff of around 700 and operates in a decentralized, partnership mode, having staff in 14 countries, projects and partnership networks in many more.

CIMMYT salaries for internationally recruited staff are highly competitive, with a range of benefits including housing allowance, life and health insurance package, education allowance (from KG to Grade 12), annual medical examination, and shipping allowance.

CIMMYT is an equal-opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

Please send via e-mail your letter of application, **no later than October 15, 2006**, CV/Resume (including full contact information) with names and contact information of three references to:

Human Resources Manager, (*Reference 20006/03*)
Phone: (+52) 55-5804-2004 Fax: (+52) 55-5804-7558
Email: jobs-cimmyt@cgiar.org

For further information contact Dr. Graham McLaren, Leader, CRIL, g.mclaren@cgiar.org or Dr. Jonathan Crouch, Germplasm Resources & Enhancement Unit Director, j.crouch@cgiar.org