



BioInnovate Africa Fellowship for Women Scientists



Call for Nominations/Applications
Nomination and Application Deadline: Monday 6th May 2019, 5pm
East Africa Time

1. Context

BioInnovate Africa is, so far, the largest regional innovation-driven bioeconomy platform in Africa. It was established in 2010 and comprises over 300 scientists and innovators based in more than 90 organisations within eastern Africa.

BioInnovate Africa:

- a. Enables scientists, industry partners and policy makers to co-create and translate innovative bioscience research ideas, inventions and technologies into practical use for societal benefit
- b. Supports scientists and innovators to create sustainable bioenterprises
- c. Works with institutional leaders, policy and decision makers to build productive biobased innovation ecosystems

BioInnovate Africa is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). It is based at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) in Nairobi, Kenya. BioInnovate Africa operates in six eastern Africa countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and also collaborates with partners in South Sudan. The African Union Development Agency (formerly the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency), councils, commissions and ministries of science, technology and innovation in eastern Africa are key partners of BioInnovate Africa.

The BioInnovate Africa Women's Fellowship is an initiative to increase women's involvement in bio-entrepreneurship and bio-innovation in eastern Africa. The Fellowship provides opportunities for early and mid-career women scientists to work with and learn from the diverse BioInnovate Africa bioeconomy projects and networks in the region.

2. Duration

Fellows are hosted in different BioInnovate Africa organisations, outside their country, for 4 to 6 months. During this period, Fellows gain experiences and establish networks to advance their skills, innovation capacity and overall career progression.

3. Themes, projects and topics

The Fellows work in or choose topics from BioInnovate Africa projects in any of the following categories:

- a. Post-harvest management
- b. Phytomedicine/biopharmaceuticals
- c. Food and nutrition
- d. Biofertilizers
- e. Biofuels
- f. Biopesticides
- g. Industrial enzymes
- h. Insect-based proteins
- i. Bioeconomy policies

The Fellows, when applying, indicate a maximum of two preferred themes, which they wish to participate in. Placement of Fellows in a particular theme or project is guided by choice of the Fellow and an assessment of their individual capacity to work in the theme or project.

4. What the Fellowship provides

The Fellowship includes a round trip air ticket (from country of home organization to country of host organization), modest monthly stipend, and health insurance.

5. Benefits of becoming a BioInnovate Africa Fellow

- a. Practical experience: Each Fellow is placed in a BioInnovate Africa supported project, working alongside peers in biological based research and innovation. This hands-on opportunity will give you an all-rounded experience in developing, testing, producing, and commercializing impactful innovative biological based ideas and technologies.
- b. Career development: This fully supported Fellowship includes one-on-one mentorship by leading research scientists and bio-innovators, as well as access to entrepreneurs and leaders in bio-innovation in eastern Africa and around the world.
- c. Knowledge and skills improvements: This Fellowship ensures access to advanced training opportunities to nurture practical skills in applying scientific knowledge for beneficial societal use, as well as leadership skills in managing innovation projects.

- d. Networking: Fellows interact with other Fellows, project teams and other scientists in the host organizations. This interaction widens the Fellows' scope of work and network, enabling the Fellows to develop full potential.

6. Expected outcomes

BioInnovate Africa Fellows continue to interact with each other, and the teams they have worked or networked with, and grow their ideas into future bio-innovation projects in the region. Beyond the Fellowship, and upon return to their respective institutions, Fellows are expected to contribute to innovation ecosystem building, and serve as role models for other female scientists in their communities.

7. Eligibility

- a. Early and mid-career female scientist affiliated to a university, research institute or relevant legally registered private firm, which is currently participating in a BioInnovate Africa project.
- b. Female national or resident of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.
- c. Master's degree holder in any of the following fields: biological, chemical or environmental sciences, medicine, agriculture, engineering or any other closely related field.
- d. Ready to take up the Fellowship on a full-time basis, and in a BioInnovate Africa partner country other than their own.
- e. Not a previous BioInnovate Africa Fellow.

8. Application Requirements

For those interested to apply, all applications must be accompanied by:

- a. A motivational essay of between 500 and 700 words detailing your interest in this Fellowship, and how it will support your career advancement. You should indicate the idea related to any of the BioInnovate Africa projects you would like to develop into a possible bio-innovation project, after completing the Fellowship.
- b. Applicants must indicate their preferred theme. Describe why you have selected the theme and how it aligns with your current work.
- c. A detailed Curriculum Vitae, which includes at least two referees with knowledge of your educational and professional qualifications and capabilities.
- d. A signed letter of support from your head of department and/or organization, written on official letterhead. The letter of support should briefly describe your suitability for the Fellowship and commitment by the organization to grant you sufficient leave to participate in the Fellowship.

9. Application and Selection Process

- a. Each BioInnovate Africa project co-Leader in the organization, in consultation with the head of the organization, will nominate a maximum of three (3) applicants and request the nominees to apply before Monday 6th May 2019, 5pm East Africa time. The Nominated applicants must fulfill the eligibility and application requirements listed above.
- b. The nominated applicants shall apply through the online system http://grants.bioinnovate-africa.org/forms/womens_fellowship_2019.php?page=3
Only applicants nominated by BioInnovate Africa project co-leaders and heads of the respective partner organizations will be considered. The deadline for the nominees to apply will be Monday, 6th May 2019, 5pm East Africa time.
- c. After the deadline, the BioInnovate Africa Programme Management Office (PMO) will screen the applications received through the online system for completeness and eligibility. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Qualifying applications will be evaluated by an independent panel of experts set up by the PMO. The panel will select up to 12 applicants in this round of the call, two from each BioInnovate Africa participating country.

10. Application Deadline

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 6th May 2019, 5pm East Africa time**. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications sent through email or post will not be accepted.

11. Next Steps

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of May 2019. Fellows are expected to start working with the host project teams in July 2019.

For more information about the BioInnovate Africa Fellowship, please contact:

The Program Manager, BioInnovate Africa,

icipe - International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Duduville Campus, Kasarani,
P.O. Box 30772-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Telephone: +254-20-8632433 Email: bioinnovate@icipe.org