Institution: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, UNL

Call for Applications:
The University of Nebraska is now accepting applications for a pilot program funded by the Scientific Exchanges Fellowship Program, within the United States Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service. Fellows will work with a mentor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, USA for 12 weeks on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) technical barriers to trade (TBT). The U.S. mentor will later visit the fellow’s home institution to continue collaboration.

The application deadline is October 15, 2019.

Objectives: Provide early-to-midcareer agricultural research scientists, faculty, and policymakers with individual training opportunities in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT)

• Provide practical experience and exposure to new perspectives and/or technologies that can be applied in their home institutions.
• Foster increased collaboration and networking to improve agricultural productivity and trade.
• Facilitate the transfer of new scientific and agricultural technologies to strengthen agricultural practices.
• Address obstacles to the adoption of technology such as ineffectual policies and regulations.

Eligible Countries: Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania, and Tunisia

Targeted Research Areas:

1. Agricultural Economics
   o Develop a research project consistent with the training program on SPS and TBT policies and their economic impact on international trade and welfare
   o Applied trade policy analysis with a strong focus on so-called non-tariff measures (policies other than taxes at the border)
   o Applied econometrics
   o Trade concerns and frictions related to food labelling, nutritional claims, quality and processing standards, and packaging requirements

2. Plant Pathology
   o Conduct phytosanitary wheat disease surveys
   o Assess the impact of wheat diseases on international trade
   o Import standards and regulations for crop diseases
   o Diagnose crop diseases
   o Screen wheat lines for resistance to stem rust and Fusarium head blight
   o Field research on integrated management of Fusarium head blight of wheat

3. Food Safety
   o Molds and mycotoxins
   o Post-harvest, including regulation and quality standards
   o Genetically Modified Food Crop safety and gene editing
   o Food allergens and Glutens (Celiac), bioinformatics
Eligibility

To be considered for the Scientific Exchanges Fellowship Program, candidates must:

- Be citizens of an eligible country (Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania, or Tunisia)
- Be fluent in English
- Have completed a Master’s or higher degree
- Be in the early or middle stage of their career, with at least two (but not more than 10) years of practical experience
- Be employed by a university, government agency or research entity in their home country
- Be able to pass a security review
- Demonstrate their intention to continue working in their home country after completing the fellowship
- Not have participated in the Borlaug Fellowship program

USDA selects candidates based on their academic and professional research interests and achievements, level of scientific competence, aptitude for scientific research, leadership potential, likelihood of bringing back new ideas to their home institution, and flexibility and aptitude for success in a cross-cultural environment. Consideration is also given to the relevance of the applicant’s research area to the research topics highlighted in the application announcement and to global food security and trade.

Application Requirements

Candidates must apply via the online application system (https://AfricaSPS/TBT/UNL). The following information will be required:

- Completed application form
- 1-2 page program proposal on the targeted research areas
- Signed approval from applicant's home institution
- Two letters of recommendation (attached to the application or via e-mail)
- Official copy of transcript for college/university degree(s) received (attached to the application)
- Copy of passport identification page (attached to the application)

Information about this call:

All questions related to this Call for Applicants must be directed to Dr. Liana Calegare, Global Programs Manager, Global Engagement – Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - ianrglobal@unl.edu. Please write “Africa SPS/TBT” on the subject line of your e-mail.

Tentative dates for the program: March 28 – June 20, 2020
Identification of Fellows and Timeline:

Eight candidates will be selected at the end of the selection process: 3 Fellows with background and training in Agricultural Economics, 3 Fellows with background and training in Food Science & Technology, and 2 Fellows with background in Agronomy and Plant Science

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 23 – October 15, 2019</td>
<td>Collect information on new candidates through a call for applicants</td>
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<td>October 15-31, 2019</td>
<td>Screening and selection of candidates to be interviewed (16 to 24 candidates)</td>
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<td>November 1-30, 2019</td>
<td>In-person interviews facilitated by USDA-FAS representatives in the target countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1-15, 2019</td>
<td>Evaluation and final decision on selecting 8 candidates</td>
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<td>December, 2019 – February 2020</td>
<td>Paperwork (USDA) and visa process</td>
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<td>January – March, 2020</td>
<td>UNL team will start to engage and communicate with Fellows as soon as the selection process ends. Each Department will have the opportunity to share their initial activity plan with the fellows for their input and to better fit fellows’ expectations and goals</td>
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<td>March 28/29, 2020</td>
<td>Fellows arrive in the US</td>
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