

BRECcIA Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2020

Scholarship description

Climate variability has an enormous impact on livelihoods across much of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), where rain-fed agricultural production characterizes local subsistence and is the mainstay of most national economies (Shiferaw et al., 2014). Water security is also fundamental to attaining many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as it is a constraint on meeting a range of challenges including food security, access to clean water, and resilience to hydrological hazards. At the same time, attaining food security is a national priority in SSA countries and is a key building block of development in the African Union's Agenda 2063 strategic framework (AU, 2015).

WaterNet is implementing a 4 year project Building Research Capacity for sustainable water and food security In drylands of sub-Saharan Africa (BRECcIA) funded by "UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)" under the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) programme. The GCRF Research Councils UK Collective Fund is 'one of the most ambitious international research programmes created with £225 Million being invested across 37 interdisciplinary projects' to address a range of world problems. BRECcIA comprises 6 Universities located in 4 countries (Malawi, Kenya, Ghana and the UK), as well as partnerships with 8 international organizations and is being led by the University of Southampton, UK. The main project focuses on climate change and its social and environmental impacts on water and food security in the drylands of Ghana, Malawi and Kenya; and on building research capability and capacity in those countries. WaterNet is a partner mainly focusing on building research capability and upscaling local capacity for the SADC region.

WaterNet is seeking to engage highly self-driven, output oriented Post-Doctoral Fellow with excellent language and communication skills (both verbal and written) to work under BRECcIA with a proven experience in research and policy engagement for Agricultural Water Management and Enabling Environment.

Eligibility

The successful candidate(s) should have completed a PhD in the past five years (i.e. 2015-2019). The candidate should be driven, disciplined, able to work as a member of a team, and be able to set and meet his/her own deadlines. The Post-Doctoral Fellow will be appointed for one year either as a student or staff, depending on the rules of the host institution. The Fellow should have an MSc (or equivalent professional qualifications) and experience in policy engagement, water resources management, agriculture, food security, community based natural resources management or a related discipline.

General

The fellow will work closely with an interdisciplinary team of researchers at Natural Resources and Environment Centre (NAREC) at the University of Malawi and partner Universities in the UK (University of Southampton and Kings College London at the University of London), Ghana (University of Ghana), Kenya

(Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Technical University of Kenya and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology) and other International Institutions (Leadership for Environment and Development in Eastern and Southern Africa (LEAD-SEA), International Institute for Environment and Development and Agrhyet Regional Centre). The fellow will also liaise with stakeholders to develop and carry out research, write research reports and journal papers, and develop teaching and training materials. There will be opportunities to travel locally and internationally to participate in project meetings and workshops, and to develop knowledge and professional skills set in: Trans-, multi- and interdisciplinary research projects; collaborative and partnership working; policy-influence; and international development issues. As a capacity building project, the fellow will also be expected to broaden their experience and skills in research management by undertaking training courses within the project specifically about research management (not just research skills). The fellow will also supervise MSc students working on the same project. Previous experience of working on policy engagement, water and food security challenges in sub-Saharan Africa would be advantageous.

Financial Package

A yearly attractive package is available to support the Post-doc Fellow. The Fellowship position will run for 12 months and can be extended up to December 2021. Financial support is for full-time study based at the WaterNet Secretariat offices in Harare, Zimbabwe with possibility of home based arrangement within the SADC region. Full-time staff members are not eligible for this position. Proposing starting date for the position is 1st August 2020.

How to Apply

An application letter clearly stating the position you are applying for, accompanied by copies of certificates, a recommendation letter, Curriculum Vitae of the aspiring Postdoc fellow (highlighting publications). These should be sent no later than 15 July 2020 to the WaterNet Executive Manager at jmkileshye-onema@waternetonline.org with a copy to waternet@waternetonline.org. Short-listed candidates may be interviewed via telephone or Skype.

Application deadline: 15 July 2020. If the position is not filled, the call will remain open.

