



CALL FOR APPLICATION

2020 Genebank Impacts Fellowship Program

The Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), through the CGIAR Genebank Platform, established the '**Genebank Impacts Fellowship**' in 2018 to systematically evaluate the impacts of the international genebanks managed by the CGIAR Centers. These genebanks hold some of the largest and most widely used collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in the world. The Genebank Platform ensures that they meet international standards, work to improve efficiency, and use plant genetic resources within an enabling policy environment.

We are continuing the momentum started in the Genebank Impacts Community of Practice and will work on additional case studies that highlight the valuable contributions of the genebanks. The Fellowship contributes to ensuring the availability of crop diversity options for future plant breeders, scientists, and farmers, in view of increasing food demand from a growing world population in a changing climate.

1. What is the Genebank Impacts Fellowship?

The Genebank Impacts Fellowship provides an opportunity for the successful recipients to gain practice-based experience in evaluating the impacts of the international genebanks. This experience will be complemented by mentorship from impact assessment specialists and conservation scientists in the global CGIAR community. This Fellowship is supported by the Crop Trust, through the Genebank Impacts Community of Practice of the Genebank Platform.

This is a home-based assignment, but we require full time commitment for six months in 2020 and one month intermittent engagement in 2021 to finalize outputs. Applicants should be willing to travel to the host country of the genebank for at least one month during the fellowship period.

For information on the CGIAR genebanks, visit: <https://www.genebanks.org>.

2. Who is eligible to apply?

At least five Genebank Impacts Fellows will be recruited this year. Applicants are required to:

- Hold a Master's degree (or close to finishing, or in a PhD program) in agricultural economics, economics, agriculture, or related discipline;
- Demonstrate the relevance of the Fellowship to their career goals in the application;
- Commence Fellowship work no later than May 2020.

Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries and/or nationals (or residents) of host country genebanks and those with training and/or experience in the areas of evaluation theory or practice, applied agricultural research, crop science, and/or familiarity with the work of the CGIAR genebanks. Current CGIAR Center staff are welcome to apply, subject to the approval of their supervisors.



3. What opportunities does the Genebank Impacts Fellowship provide?

The Fellowship will:

- Support the Fellow in developing research skills to build advanced capacity in evaluating the impacts of the international genebanks;
 - Allow the Fellow to engage in broad practice-based experiences and professional development opportunities;
 - Enhance the impact profile of the international genebanks;
 - Advance knowledge in genebank and PGRFA research and assessment through publications and presentations.
- a. Advisory support and mentorship

Fellows will be members of Genebank Impacts Community of Practice. Advisory support and mentorship to Fellows will be provided by the coordination team, including the following experts in PGRFA research and impact evaluation:

- Melinda Smale, Professor of International Development, Michigan State University, Impact evaluation study lead
- Nelissa Jamora, Evaluation Specialist, Crop Trust
- Charlotte Lusty, Coordinator, Genebank Platform
- CGIAR genebank managers

b. Practice-based experience

Fellows will have the opportunity to develop and work on a specific evaluation project, in collaboration with one of the international genebanks. They will learn first-hand about the activities of the genebanks, as well as tools, frameworks, and methods that support PGRFA research and impact evaluation.

c. Professional development

Fellows will be invited to participate in a “bootcamp” workshop to formally launch the Genebank Impacts Fellowship and brainstorm on research questions and their respective workplans. We plan to invite genetic resources experts to talk about genebank operations and crop diversity conservation. Core topics will also include principles of economic valuation and selected examples of previously published work.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to participate in professional development activities organized by the Genebank Platform and their respective host genebanks, as appropriate and depending on funds.

d. Compensation

Each fellow will be provided a maximum amount of US\$14,000 for the duration of the assignment. In addition, a mobility lump-sum will be provided to partially cover travel costs to the host genebank and participation in an academic conference, subject to the approval of the advisory team. The amount can be supplemented by the host genebank, depending on the availability of funds.



For current CGIAR staff, the fellowship amount will cover the staff's full-time equivalent (FTE). Details will be negotiated with the Center genebank. For non-CGIAR staff, Crop Trust will offer the fellow a consultancy contract that follows the salary structure of the host Center for nationally recruited staff (NRS).

Fellows are responsible for their own medical or any other type of insurance coverage and for complying with all national tax laws. Relocation and housing allowance will not be provided by the Crop Trust.

4. How do I apply?

Requirements

1. CV
2. Cover letter, 1 page
3. Concept note, 1 page

The cover letter should discuss your motivation for applying, your career aspirations, and your host genebank preference from the list below. The concept note should discuss ideas and methodological approach on one of the following **priority topics**:

1. **GHUs/IITA** - *Ex ante* impacts of global germplasm exchange facilitated by the Germplasm Health Units (GHUs) of the CGIAR
2. **ICRISAT** - The contribution of the ICRISAT genebank to varietal improvement and farmers' welfare in India
3. **AfricaRice** - The contribution of the AfricaRice genebank to varietal improvement and farmers' welfare in Cote d'Ivoire
4. **ICARDA** - Impact of Focused Identification of Germplasm Strategy (FIGS) approach to reveal novel genetic diversity for sought traits for ICARDA's mandate crops
5. **CIP** - Welfare impacts of CIP potato repatriation to Andean communities

We will consider concept notes on other related topics and with other CGIAR genebanks if the study is at a mature stage and/or already on-going. Other possible topics below:

6. **IITA** - The contribution of the IITA genebank to cowpea farming in Nigeria
7. **CIMMYT** - Social valuation of landrace maize and public demand for PGR conservation in Mexico
8. **CIAT** - The contribution of the CIAT genebank to the development of iron-biofortified beans in Guatemala
9. **IRRI** - The contribution of the IRRI genebank to strengthening the capacity of national partners in PGR conservation
10. **Bioversity** - The contribution of Bioversity ITC to banana cultivation in Colombia
11. **ILRI** - The contribution of the ILRI genebank to the development of forage varieties by NARS in East Africa

Merge all documents in one PDF portfolio.

Name file as "yourlastname_impacts.pdf"

Send file to: impacts@genebanks.org using Subject: Impacts Fellowship Application



4. What is the application process?

Deadline of application: 28 February 2020

All applications will undergo a review process by a committee within the Genebank Platform. Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Relevance and quality of work, research, and/or evaluation experience
- Motivation to develop knowledge and practice in PGRFA research and impact evaluation
- Alignment of the applicants' skills and career aspirations to the objectives of the Fellowship

Short-listed applicants will be invited to a virtual interview in **March 2020**.

5. Questions and inquiries regarding this opportunity should be directed to:

Nelissa Jamora

Coordinator, Genebank Impacts Fellowship Program

impacts@genebanks.org

use Subject: 2020 Genebank Impacts Fellowship INQUIRY