

PhD: Performance evaluation of cassava-legumes associations in Rwanda

Deadline for application: 06 June 2024 – 12h00

The research Unit: AIDA-CIRAD: <https://ur-aida.cirad.fr/nos-recherches/equipes-de-recherche/estime/contexte-et-enjeux> invites applicants for a PhD fellowship in Agronomy at the University of Montpellier, France: <https://gaia.umontpellier.fr/>. The research is part of the research project “CANALLS”, funded by the European Union <https://www.canalls-project.eu/>.

Start date is 1 July 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter

The project:

The humid tropics of Central and Eastern Africa hold much promise for enhancing food and nutritional security within and beyond Africa. With a rich variety of agroecological zones and diverse farming systems, they are home to a dense rural population and host a biodiversity of global significance offering vital ecosystem services and potential for sustainable development. Yet, if we are to tap into this potential, we need to address the complex environmental, social and economic challenges they face, which are in cases exacerbated by conflicts and high vulnerability. In this context, CANALLS aims to drive agroecological transitions in the humid tropics of Central and Eastern Africa via multi-actor transdisciplinary Agroecology Living Labs (ALLs).

In the CANALLS project, the PhD candidate will combine field experimentation and crop modelling to evaluate the performance of cassava-legume intercropping under contrasting environments and management practices (planting date and density, mineral and organic fertilization, date of weeding) in Rwanda. Altogether, the PhD candidate will contribute to assess the potential of intercropping as an agroecological practice to enhance sustainable cassava production.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for an enthusiastic and ambitious candidate driven by 1) understanding of crop and soil processes, such as facilitation and competition between intercrops and 2) our long-term mission to contribute to create more sustainable and resilient cropping systems. We welcome applicants with a background in agronomy, plant sciences, soil sciences, or environmental sciences

Our group and research, and what do we offer?

This is an excellent opportunity to join a dynamic group of researchers conducting applied agronomy research and to develop yourself as a creative and critical researcher. We offer creative and stimulating working conditions in a dynamic and international research environment.

The CANALLS project is led by Dr. Marc Corbeels (PI), E-mail: corbeels@cirad.fr. Principal supervisor of the PhD is Dr. Frédéric Baudron. E-mail: baudron@cirad.fr

Qualifications needed:

To be eligible for the PhD program, you must have completed a MSc degree or equivalent degree, related to the subject area of the project, e.g., agronomy, plant sciences, soil sciences, environmental sciences.

Employment as PhD fellow is full time and for maximum 3 years.

Employment is conditional upon your successful enrolment as a PhD student at the University of Montpellier, France: <https://gaia.umontpellier.fr/>. This requires submission and acceptance of an application for the specific project formulated by the applicant.

Responsibilities and tasks:

Carry through an independent research project under supervision

Complete the necessary PhD courses

Participate in relevant project activities, including prolonged stays at a research institution in Kigali, Rwanda for field work

Write scientific papers aimed at high-impact journals

Write and defend a PhD thesis on the basis of your project

We are looking for the following qualifications:

Curious mindset with a strong interest in tropical agronomy research and its translation into applications

Professional qualifications relevant to the PhD project

Relevant work experience

Relevant publications

Other relevant professional activities

Fluency in English, written and spoken

Application procedures, see <https://gaia.umontpellier.fr/>

Extract from the terms and conditions: Applications should be sent by email to Magali Dufour (magali.dufour@cirad.fr), Gabriel Denis (gabriel.denis@cirad.fr), Frédéric Baudron (frederic.baudron@cirad.fr) and Marc Corbeels (marc.corbeels@cirad.fr), specifying the thesis subject and enclosing the following documents: CV, letter of motivation, marks from MSc studies (or equivalent).