

ICARDA Graduate Research Internships

Call for Applications

4 PhD Internships on “*Wild Pollinators in Morocco*”

Location of the Graduate Research Internship: ICARDA- Rabat, Morocco

Closing date: 20 June 2017

Main purpose

The four selected PhD students (Moroccan nationals) will be based in Rabat, Morocco and will have the opportunity to write their thesis under the additional supervision of Prof. Pierre Rasmont, University of Mons, Belgium, as part of ICARDA/IUCN/INRA’s project “Conservation of pollinator diversity for enhanced climate change resilience” within the Biodiversity and Integrated Gene Management Program. This project shall comprehensively introduce the Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) approach in the MENA-region.

Wild pollinators provide most of the pollination services. They play a major role in crop pollination and in adaptation to climate change. Nevertheless, their diversity is in decline in all continents. FAP is a new approach to trigger farmers’ motivation to enhance habitats for pollinators. The approach includes FAP-fields with enhanced habitats and control fields (monoculture) and compares insect diversity and total net income to develop an incentive for farmers. The project will also develop the first inventory of crop pollinators in North Africa. The four students will contribute to this work and can prepare their thesis within the project.

We are looking for

- 1 Phd student on: *Wild pollinators in mountainous agro-ecosystems*
- 1 Phd student on: *Wild pollinators in oasis*
- 1 Phd student for: *Long tongue pollinators*
- 1 Phd student for: *Short tongue pollinators*

The students can write their thesis within the spectrum of their main responsibilities

- Regular collection and identification of pollinator species in FAP and control fields in Morocco
- Measure abundance of pollinators
- Describe the habitat requirements of some main crop pollinators
- Develop nesting support out of local material for main crop pollinators
- Evaluate impact of nesting support
- Contribute to trainings and field days for farmers and extension staff and to the development of manuals

Education, qualifications and experience

- MSc in entomology, agronomy or biology, preferably with focus on pollination
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English

- Fluent French would be an advantage
- Knowledge of data management and statistical analysis with popular computer software
- Willingness to travel also to remote areas

Terms of the award

- The graduate students will receive financial support for a maximum of 36 months, equivalent to 1,000 Euro per month that will be paid in Moroccan Dirham in order to cover joining and returning transportation to ICARDA Rabat office, subsistence allowance, insurance, accommodation and daily transportation in Morocco
- They will be trained in Rabat and will receive also three intensive trainings at the University of Mons, Belgium.
- The initial contract will be for 3 years, of which the first year will be probationary period.

How to apply

Please send your CV, Motivation letter, copy of your University PhD registration and a letter from your University supervisor indicating her/his approval for you to conduct an internship period of three years at ICARDA under one of the research topics indicated to

- Dr. Stefanie Christmann, ICARDA Expert on Farming with Alternative Pollinators, Email: S.Christmann@cgiar.org

and copy to

- Mr. Charles Kleinermann, Head – Capacity Development Unit- ICARDA
Email: c.kleinermann@cgiar.org

About ICARDA

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is an international autonomous, non-profit, research organization temporarily based in Beirut, Lebanon supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). ICARDA is committed to the improvement of livelihoods of the resource-poor in dry areas by enhancing food security and alleviating poverty through agricultural research, and the equitable use of natural resources.

For more details: www.icarda.org