

## **AfricaRice PhD Graduate Fellowship: Consumer demand for novel healthy foods**

### **Job Details**

The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) seeks to recruit a PhD Graduate Fellow to work on consumer demand for novel healthy foods within the European Union-funded *HealthyDiets4Africa* project. Malnutrition – both over- and under-nutrition – remains a huge challenge in Africa. For instance, in two of the project countries, stunting affects 34% of children under 5 years of age in Uganda and 34% in Kenya with pockets of even higher stunting prevalence in low-income communities. Overall, more than 20% of Africa's population suffers from hunger, and the highest increase in malnutrition worldwide has been observed in West Africa.

The *HealthyDiets4Africa* project is responding to Africa's malnutrition challenge by aiming to contribute to the diversification of the continent's food systems and hence diets. The end goal is to promote the production and consumption of novel and healthy foods. The project is being implemented by a transdisciplinary consortium that aims at harnessing the potential of diversification of food systems for combating malnutrition and enhancing food and nutrition security. The central hypothesis is that diversification of different elements of the food chain will improve nutritional health outcomes and reduce malnutrition levels in Africa, while at the same time entailing economic and ecological benefits. The overarching objective is thus to establish diversified food systems in eight Western, Central and Eastern African countries.

The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is a leading pan-African rice research organization committed to improving livelihoods in Africa through strong science and effective partnerships. AfricaRice is a One CGIAR Research Center. It is also an intergovernmental association of 28 African member countries, with headquarters in Côte d'Ivoire. For more information, visit <https://www.africarice.org/>.

### **Position purpose**

The Graduate Fellow will undertake research activities related to measuring the dietary diversity of the food environment and consumer demand for diversified diets.

### **Responsibilities of the Fellow:**

The PhD student will:

- Determine the typologies of consumers that exist with respect to access to food markets to enable the characterization of consumers that are under-served by food markets.
- Determine consumers' willingness to pay for different attributes of novel healthy foods.
- Estimate elasticities of demand for healthy foods in rice-based diets.
- Determine if access to food markets influences consumer preference for novel healthy foods.
- Examine if there are significant heterogeneities in consumer preference for novel healthy foods with respect to gender, age, household income, and education.
- Assist in baseline and endline data collection and analysis to support impact assessment of the project's interventions.
- Report and compile a PhD thesis.
- Draft at least three articles for journal publication.
- Present the studies' findings at workshops and conferences.

**Minimum requirements:**

The ideal candidate should:

- Possess a Bachelor of Science degree in an economics-related discipline from a recognized university.
- Have a Master of Science degree in Economics, Agricultural and Applied Economics or related field.
- Be able to independently develop relevant data collection protocols and work plans.
- Possess strong writing and analytical skills as evidenced by previous publications.
- Have demonstrable interest in field work.
- Hold training or experience of ethical and technical capacity for data collection and analysis.
- Be able to work with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrated ability to work well in a multidisciplinary team comprising individuals from different cultural backgrounds.

**Location:** AfricaRice, Uganda.

**Duration:** 4 years.

**Terms of appointment and stipend:** AfricaRice will cover university tuition at a university in East Africa and will meet research expenses. It will also offer a competitive stipend to cover living expenses in the project location and medical insurance. The successful candidate will be supervised jointly by an AfricaRice scientist and the university/academic supervisor/s.

**How to apply:**

PhD candidates should submit the following documents compiled in one single PDF document to [AfricaRiceHR@cgiar.org](mailto:AfricaRiceHR@cgiar.org)

(Applications without the below documents will not be considered)

- A cover letter expressing their interest in the fellowship position and what they can bring to the fellowship.
- CV including names and addresses (including telephone and email) of three referees who are knowledgeable about the candidate's professional qualifications and work experience.
- Academic qualification certificates/transcripts.
- Proof of university admission.

AfricaRice promotes equal opportunities. AfricaRice believes that diversity contributes to excellence and therefore encourages applications from women, people with disabilities, and nationals of developing countries.

In the Email subject line, please indicate: 2023 PhD Graduate Fellow under the HealthyDiets4Africa project.

Closing date: 30 June 2023.