

Research Associate TORs – Plantain and Banana Improvement Programme

Location: Ibadan

Contract: National (2-year renewable contract)

Successful candidate will among other things perform the following duties:

Assist plantain/banana breeders in planning and implementing laboratory and field research activities for the breeding programme and manage the breeding database;

- Supervise field/laboratory research activities across plantain breeding and trial sites, breeding operations including field preparation and layout, field management, pollinations, and data collection;
- Be responsible for updating and maintaining trial records and pedigree records on banana breeding database (MUSABASE) and backstop plantain breeding staff on digital data entry and use of applicable software; and liaise with the banana breeding team in East Africa
- Assist in designing experiments, collating data, running statistical analysis (ANOVAS for comparing genotype performance for single location and multi-environment trials), conduct literature search and prepare good quality reports;
- Supervise germplasm multiplication and distribution activities for the programme; Keep track of hybrids being used worldwide and organise feed back
- Plan and ensure procurement of supplies for laboratory, field, and screen house activities, oversee hiring and supervision of casual labour for various operations while maintaining strict control of budget expenditures;
- Supervise junior staff and assist in annual performance appraisals;
- Assist graduate students on their research projects and trainees/interns as required;
- Assist the IITA plantain breeder with reporting to donors;
- Perform all other related duties that may be assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification: M.Sc Plant Breeding, Crop Production, Agronomy, or related discipline with a strong background in genetics, computer science/data management and/or statistics and proven skills in reporting. A minimum of three (3) years' experience performing similar functions or related roles in an agricultural research organization or equivalent experience is desired.

Competencies: The ideal candidate must:

Possess excellent computer skills in MS-Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and strong knowledge in experimental design and use of statistical analysis packages;

Have excellent writing and oral communication skills in English.

Be well organized and work effectively in a team, able to work under pressure and meet deadlines, implement protocols, troubleshoot and train subordinates.

**Experience in database management and use of statistical analysis software (particularly R) would be considered as an advantage.*