



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

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Washington, DC
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES PROGRAM
African Animal Feed and Fertilizer Innovation
Application Deadline: February 11, 2024

Background:

The Scientific Exchanges Program (SEP) supports USDA's agricultural research goals of promoting collaborative programs among agricultural professionals of eligible countries, agricultural professionals of the United States, the international agricultural research system, and U.S. entities conducting research. SEP is implemented by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, Global Programs, Fellowship Programs.

The SEP leverages the latest developments in cross-cutting agricultural science priorities, and advances in research and technologies to train a new generation of agricultural scientists in trade, trade policy, trade capacity building, and food security. The collaborative nature of the SEP training and research programs benefits multiple parties: fellows, their home institutions and partner countries; the U.S. host institutions, their faculty, researchers, and students; and the global agricultural sectors, by improving agricultural productivity, ecosystems health, and food security in partnering nations through the transfer of the latest science and technologies.

The program is specifically intended for applicants from Africa to travel to a U.S. based institution for a **12-week** research residency program in the thematic area of **African Animal Feed and Fertilizer Innovation**. The Fellowship Program is anticipated to start in May 2024.

Fellowship Program Objectives:

The African Animal Feed and Fertilizer Program will focus on research related to increase access to high quality animal feed and innovative techniques leading to improved efficiency of fertilizers among African smallholder farmers. The animal feed sector in Africa remains underdeveloped. High quality, available animal feed plays a vital role in improving animal health and welfare, which directly impacts the production of safe products of animal origin and overall food security.

Additionally, in a rapidly changing agricultural environment, farmers need to make strategic decisions about their animal feed and improve upon fertilizer production methods to jump start the next generation of fertilizers. Considering this, the Program will illustrate how the adoption of improved animal feeding coupled with innovative and efficient fertilizer, nutrient management, and cropping practices will assist in reducing food insecurity.

Length of Fellowships:

Fellowships last between 11-12 weeks. All program proposals must include goals that are achievable within that timeframe. After completing the U.S.-based portion of the fellowship, the mentor will visit the Fellow's home institution approximately one year after the U.S. portion of the training.

The Fellowship is fully funded with all expenses paid including international and domestic travel to the U.S., J-1 visiting scholar visa application fee, health insurance in the U.S., lodging, and per diem. Fellowship does **not** pay for salary or fringe benefits, nor does it pay any personal expenses or research projects in the fellows' home countries upon return.

Eligibility Requirements:

Ideal candidates are interested in developing knowledge and solutions to address topics related to animal feed and fertilizer innovation. Women applicants and researchers from rural areas are strongly encouraged to apply. Furthermore, researchers who can also serve as decision-makers in bringing about significant policy and institutional changes for sustainable reform initiatives in their home institutions are strongly encouraged to apply.

Candidates will be evaluated, interviewed, and selected based on the following criteria:

- Must be a citizen of and currently reside in either Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, The Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.
- Excellent comprehension of the English language (reading, writing, and speaking).
- Master's degree or higher with at least minimum two years of practical experience.
- Currently employed by a government entity, university, research institution, or other scientific institution in the eligible countries.
- Intention to continue working in home country for a minimum of two years following their return from the United States.
- Early/mid-stage of professional career (2-10 years of experience preferred; candidates with more than 15 years of experience are weakly competitive; candidates with 20 years or more experience will not be considered).
- Proposal directly related to one of the listed research areas.

The application deadline for this 2024 Scientific Exchanges Program is on February 11, 2024 11:59PM (EST).

Application Requirements:

- Application form completed and signed (Provided)
- Signed approval from applicant's home institution (Section XIV of Application)
- Two letters of recommendation (academic and professional preferred)
- Copies of diploma(s) for college/university degree(s) received
- Copy of valid passport identification page

Contact Information:

To request an application or for questions related to the application process, please contact:

Office of Agricultural Affairs Pretoria

United States Embassy

AgAlgiers@usda.gov

Submit applications by email to

- Evgenia Ustinova (ustinovaj@state.gov)
- Alexandra Koran at (Alexandra.Koran@usda.gov)
- Joyce West at (Joyce.West@usda.gov)

Applications must be received on or before **11:59PM EST February 11, 2024**. When submitting your application, please add "**Potential SEP Fellow: Animal Feed/Fertilizer**" in the subject line.

Interviews with applicants are tentatively scheduled to take place in spring 2024.

Should you have any questions concerning the program please contact:

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