



As part of the trainee programme for Swiss international cooperation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) offers posts for Junior Professional Officers (JPO). These positions enable committed people to gain professional experience in the field of international cooperation.

The positions involve a preparation in Switzerland followed by a deployment abroad with the SDC, a Swiss NGO or an international organisation. Positions are available in Swiss development cooperation with countries of the South, in Switzerland's cooperation with eastern Europe and in humanitarian aid.

1. Assignment Title: Agronomist/Crop Scientist

2. Project Title and brief description:

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is interested to host a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) in agronomy/crop science to join our international team of scientists working on improving the livelihoods of maize and wheat farmers in the developing world. The successful candidate will work on a new project on sustainable intensification of maize-legume systems for Eastern and Southern Africa.

3. Duration: possible introduction in Switzerland & 24 months assignment to CIMMYT in either Ethiopia, Kenya or Zimbabwe (possible prolongation)

4. Location, Country:

The position will be based at one of our main research hubs in the region (Ethiopia, Kenya, or Zimbabwe).

5. Expected starting date: september 1st 2010

6. Host Agency/Host Institute:

CIMMYT is an internationally funded, non-profit research and training organization affiliated with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and has an annual budget of approximately US\$50 million. CIMMYT's mission is to reduce poverty and enhance food security in the developing world by increasing the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of maize and wheat-based agricultural systems while protecting the natural resource base. The Center is a global leader in scientific research and training related to maize and wheat, and in biotechnology, socio-economics, and natural resource management research. These activities are conducted in partnership with national agricultural research systems, non-governmental organizations, and advanced research institutions, both public and private, in globally focused projects and programs. CIMMYT employs about 600 permanent staff from over 40 nationalities and operates through decentralized partnership, with staff in 15 countries and projects and networks in many more.

7. Organizational Context: JPO will work under the supervision of The Director of the Conservation Agriculture Program at CIMMYT

8. Description of Duties:

The following examples of researchable issues and responsibilities can be adjusted based on the interests and qualifications of the candidate.

The primary agronomic research issues will include:

- Test and develop productive, resilient and sustainable smallholder maize-legume cropping systems and innovation systems for local scaling out
- Identify risk-averting options for systems intensification and diversification using systems modeling
- Experiment with stress tolerant, more productive varieties and conservation agriculture practices
- Quantify soil quality, system productivity and disease, pest and weed dynamics
- Test appropriate interventions for improving seed and fertilizer delivery and farmer access to technologies and markets

- Incorporate lessons from active farmer experimentation into on-farm research and/or demonstration plots
- Facilitate farmer learning through exchange visits

The JPO will participate in undertaking these activities and contribute as follows:

- Explore options for sustainable farming systems intensification based on improved stress tolerant varieties and the principles of conservation agriculture
- Establish and monitor of on-farm and on-station research trials
- Conduct farmer awareness meetings and discussion groups
- Evaluate the effects of conservation agriculture on soil properties and weed, pest and disease dynamics.
- Use modeling approaches to scale-out insights from on-farm experiments across eastern and southern Africa

9. Type of assignment place: assignment with family

10. Qualifications/Requirements:

- MSc with interest to conduct a PhD, or PhD in Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Economics or related disciplines'.
- Good understanding of the challenges of agricultural transformation and poverty in developing regions.
- Motivation and interest to work in research targeting smallholder farmers for reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition
- Interest and adaptability to work in a multidisciplinary and multi-cultural environment which will involve regional travel.
- Good quantitative and statistical skills
- Experience with survey design and analysis and field experimentation desirable.
- Excellent English communication and writing skills.

11. Living conditions: Ethiopia, Kenya or Zimbabwe with frequent travel to Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and/or Tanzania

12A. Conditions of Service for Post Doctoral Fellows: 24-36 months contract duration, allowances (housing, car, dependent education/travel, home leave, annual medical examination, language study, professional society), insurance (health, accident, life, retirement), shipping and travel to and from the country of assignment, salary (USD 33,500 – USD 37,000).

12B. Conditions of Service for JPO without a PhD degree: 24-36 months contract duration, allowances (housing, car, home leave, annual medical examination, language study, professional society), insurance (health, accident, life), shipping and travel to and from the country of assignment, salary (USD 24,000 – USD 35,000; aligned with donor recommendation).

CIMMYT is an equal-opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

For additional information contact Dr. Pat Wall, Program Director, Conservation Agriculture Program, p.wall@cgiar.org