

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE (SAC) PhD SCHOLARSHIP – 2017

Thematic area of research:

Influence of conservation agriculture on soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission in cereal based cropping systems

Applications are invited from the potential candidates of SAARC Member Countries to pursue PhD study in the thematic area. Candidates should submit applications to Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh on or before 30th April 2017.

Introduction

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) under the framework of SAARC has been working for strengthening agricultural research and technology transfer through regional network among agricultural research and development institutions and policy makers in South Asia. SAC has taken initiatives to support aspiring agricultural scientists of the region to pursue their PhD degree programs in reputed agricultural universities in SAARC Region and SAC is delighted to announce the launch of annual doctoral scholarship grant for the academic year 2017. The scholarships provide financial support for applicants from SAARC Member States to undertake a postgraduate qualification at PhD level in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines for 3 years. The scholarships are competitive and merit-based providing opportunities for regular employees of the National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) in respective SAARC Member States to gain their PhD qualifications.

Eligibility

Applicant must be a citizen of a SAARC Member State (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and must be a regular employee of the National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) of the respective Member States. Applicants must be age of 40 years or below on the date of the application deadline. Applicant should have a relevant postgraduate qualification (MSc/ MS/ MPhil) in agriculture or allied sciences with excellent academic records and good command of spoken and written English. Candidates having publications on climate change and conservation agriculture would get preference. Applicant must be available full time for PhD study from 2017 for 3 years.

How to apply

Applications are invited from the potential candidates of SAARC Member Countries to pursue PhD studies in the given thematic area. Candidates should submit application along with PhD synopsis and supporting documents (certified copies of postgraduate and basic degree certificates, current CV, list of publications) to Director, SAC through the relevant ministries and SAARC Division under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / External Affairs of the home country with endorsements on or before 30th April 2017. A scanned copy of the set of application may be sent directly to Director, SAC via email as an advance copy. Circular for calling applications and Application Performa are available on www.sac.org.bd.

PhD synopsis / Brief PhD research proposal

Applicants are requested to submit a synopsis (brief proposal) of maximum 8 pages for PhD research under the given thematic area of "Influence of conservation agriculture on soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission in cereal based cropping systems" adhering to the format given here. The synopsis will be reviewed to determine whether the proposed research is in accordance with given thematic area and the quality of research for awarding the PhD degree. The outputs must lead to advance the existing knowledge in the field of investigation and to fill up the gap in the knowledge.

Synopsis format

1. Title 2. Introduction 3. Objectives 4. Review of literature 5. Plan of work and methodology 6. Expected outputs 7. References

Selection process

Applications received from Member Countries by the deadline (30th April 2017) will be pre-evaluated by the Committee headed by Director, SAC according to the following criteria:

1. Academic records of the candidate (Bachelor degree and postgraduate degree)
2. Publications and experience in relevant field
3. Relevancy and quality of PhD research synopsis

The final evaluation and selection will be made by SAC-BAU (host university) joint evaluation team.

Tenure and placement

Awards are tenable at an Agricultural University of SAARC countries designated by SAC. Funding is for 03 years with fulltime basis. SAC will facilitate the placement and admission.

Host University

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, Bangladesh (<http://www.bau.edu.bd>)

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) is the premier institution of higher agricultural education and research in Bangladesh. The university offers PhD degree based on PhD research with satisfactory course work if any suggested by supervisor. The host university is to waive half of the tuition fee.

Scholarship and related grants

1. Economy class air fare from home country and return at the end of PhD study
2. Tuition fee
3. Living allowances at the rate US\$ 600 per month
4. A one-time grant of US\$ 1000 to cover up expenditure for books, study materials, computer and thesis production.
5. A grant of US\$ 1000 per year to cover up research costs with the recommendation of PhD supervisor.

Grant conditions

The award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress or attendance or if the registration is suspended or terminated by his/ her university for any reason.

Further contact

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M: +880-1754696984, E: wartwa@gmail.com)

Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)
BARC Complex, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
director@sac.org.bd



**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
SECRETARIAT**

Fax Message: 0244/02/021

No: SAARC/ARD/77/SAC/B/2015 (Vol-II)

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the SAARC Member States and with regard to the **SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship – 2017** has honour to enclose letter [no. SAC/611 Dated 23 February 2017] received from the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka along with a circular and application form.

The Secretariat, in this respect, would like to request the esteemed Member States to take necessary measures to upload the announcement for **“SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship – 2017”** in the websites of the following offices of SAARC Member States:

1. Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs;
2. Relevant Ministry(ies) and offices;
3. National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES)
4. SAARC Regional Centres/Specialized bodies; and
5. Relevant professional organizations/bodies/institutions.

The Member States may also like to post the same in the publicly accessible sites for a wider circulation. **Mentionable that the prescribed Application Form could be downloaded from the SAC's website (www.sac.org.bd) and the deadline of application is 30 April 2017.**

For any further information Director, SAC (director@sac.org.bd) and Dr W.A.R.T. Wickramaarachchi, Senior Program Specialist (Priority Setting and Program Development), SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh (T: +88-2-8141140, F: +88-2-9124596, M: +880-1754696984, E: wartwa@gmail.com) may kindly be contacted.

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation avails itself this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the SAARC Member States, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl: As stated (4 pages)

Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs
(SAARC Divisions)
SAARC Member States

Copy: 1. All Governing Board Members, SAARC Agriculture Centre;
2. Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh



Application for SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) PhD Scholarship – 2017

1. Full Name:

2. Designation:

3. Name of the institution address (with Telephone, Fax, Mobile, Email):

4. Permanent residential address (with Telephone and Email):

5. Date of Birth:

6. Age as on 30th April 2017:

7. Nationality:

8. Gender:

9. Marital status:

10. Academic Qualifications:

Degree	Year	University	Major subjects	Grade/ Class/ Division

11. Employment records (from most recent one):

Posts held	Organization	Service (No. of years)	Brief job description and responsibilities

12. List of scientific publications (from most recent one):

13. Thematic area of the PhD research (as indicated in the circular):

14. Title of the PhD research (PhD synopsis must be annexed):

*Paste a
passport size
photograph*

Declaration by the candidate

I certify that the statements made by me in the foregoing items are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statements or any required information withheld from this form may provide grounds for the withdrawal of any offer of scholarship.

Signature of the applicant

Date:

Recommendation of the candidate's employer / Head of Department

I do hereby certify that Mr. / Ms.....
.....of

shall be released on deputation for 3 years to pursue the PhD program offered by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from the day of commencement of the program

Date: Signature:

Name:

Address:

.....
Officer Seal

Recommendation of the concerned Ministry

I do hereby certify that Mr. / Ms.
..... of the Ministry of

shall be released on deputation for 3 years to pursue the PhD program offered by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from the day of the commencement of the PhD program

Date: Signature:

Name:

Address:

.....
Officer Seal
