

# India-Africa

## Fellowship Programme



**Indian Council of Agricultural Research**  
Department of Agricultural Research & Education

India-Africa Fellowship Programme started in 2010-11 under the India-Africa Forum Summit to support the agricultural human resource development in Africa through formal education of African scientists/faculty and students in India. India offers 75 fellowships (50 for M.Sc. and 25 for Ph.D.) every year in Agriculture and allied sciences for four years. These fellowships are available to African nationals for study at identified Indian agricultural universities from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Agricultural Universities (AUs) system.

The system comprises of 53 State Agricultural Universities, five research institutes including four of the ICAR with deemed to be university status, one Central Agricultural University and four Central Universities with Agricultural Faculty. Many of them are internationally recognized for their contribution to research and human resource development. The AUs are spread over the entire length and breadth of the country and cater to Human Resource Development for different agro-climatic regions. All Indian AUs have excellent laboratory and other infrastructural facilities including instructional farms, good libraries, computer centres, boys and girls hostels and sports and recreational facilities. To provide better amenities to the international trainees, well furnished international students hostels are available on various campuses.

### Eligibility

- a. Must have good knowledge of English.
- b. Master's Programme
  - For admission in M.Sc. programme in Agriculture and allied fields, the candidate must have a four year Bachelor's degree in the respective/related subject.
  - For admission in M.V.Sc. programme, the candidate must have passed B.V.Sc. & A.H. with internship before the date of registration in the University.
  - OGPA of 6.00/10 or equivalent OGPA/equivalent percentage of marks for general category candidates and 5.50/10 or equivalent OGPA/equivalent percentage of marks for SC/ST/PH category candidates at Bachelor's degree level.
- c. Doctoral Programme
  - Master's degree in respective/related subject.
  - OGPA of 6.5/10 or equivalent OGPA/equivalent percentage of marks for general category candidates and 6.00/10 or equivalent OGPA/equivalent percentage of marks for SC/ST/PH category candidates at Master's degree level.

### Duration of Course

Master's programme is of two years whereas the Ph.D. is a three year programme. No fellowship will be provided for any extended period to complete the degree due to what-so-ever reason.

### Fellowship Amount

- A fellowship will be awarded for two years @ INR 12,000 per month for master's programme and for three years @ INR 15,000 per month for doctoral programme out of the India-Africa Fund of the Govt. of India (MEA/DARE). [Revision of fellowship rates, provision of research contingency and group medical insurance are under consideration].
- All expenditure towards tuition fee, hostel fee, mess, medical, contingency and travel within country etc. during the course will be borne by the student utilizing the fellowship amount.
- For joining the programme, the cost of issuing air ticket/travel and visa will be borne by the MEA through the Indian Mission in the respective African country.
- Annual charges of bench fee (US\$ 4000 per candidate per year) payable to the Indian AU will be covered under the India-Africa Fund.

## Selection and Admission Procedure

The African nationals will be admitted to Indian AUs on the recommendations of the Government of India following their nomination by the African Union Commission. Information about the universities, their programmes, course and admission requirements are available on the websites of respective agricultural university. The African candidates desiring admission in Indian agricultural universities will apply to their government for sponsorship. All applications will then be sent to the African Union Commission which in-turn will forward them to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India. MEA will send them to the Director, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Govt. of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. DARE will forward them to the ICAR for consideration of eligibility and recommending for admission in an Indian AU. The final selection will be communicated by the university along with the recommendation letter of ICAR/DARE.

## Facilities

All the agricultural universities have residential requirements and students have to stay in the hostels. All foreign students are provided accommodation in the university campus. Some universities offer hostel for married students also.

## Time Schedule

Notification of the fellowships by the respective Govts. in their respective countries in Africa	End of December
Last date for receipt of applications in African countries	End of February
Scrutiny of applications and forwarding nominations to the DARE, Govt. of India	Middle of March
Communication of selection for admission and the name of AU where admitted	Middle of May
Confirmation/acceptance of admission by the AUs	End of June
Commencement of academic session	End of July/ First week of August

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### I. For Fellows

- Agricultural Universities (AUs) are autonomous and independent and hence, have their own eligibility criteria. Forwarding of applications is thus not a guarantee of admission. A fellowship is awarded only when admission is confirmed by the University and the ICAR.
- Once admitted to an AU, the candidates have to abide by the rules and regulations of the University.
- Candidates must carry a proper visa for the entire duration of the course. They should ensure that they get the correct visa from the Indian Embassy/ High Commission in their country. Government of India guidelines stipulate that if a fellow arrives without proper visa and his/her actual admission at the University/ Institute does not materialize, he/she will be deported to his/ her country.
- Before departing for India, the fellows should seek a full briefing from the Indian Diplomatic Mission in their country about living conditions in India, the details of fellowship, the type and duration of the course to which he/she is admitted.
- Fellows should inform the Indian Embassy/ High Commission in their country, about their travel schedule, and send copies to the ICAR/DARE and the concerned university well in advance so that

the University can make reception and other arrangements for them. Fellows should also request the Indian Embassy/High Commission to forward their travel plan to the concerned University and DARE/ICAR well in advance.

- Fellow should ensure that the University forwards his/her Joining Report (in the format provided in application) to the ICAR immediately after his/her joining the course, duly signed and stamped by College authorities, to enable DARE/ICAR to release the fellowship amount to the Universities.
- Upon arrival in India all fellows should register themselves with local FRRO within 7 days or within the stipulated time as directed by the Indian High Commission/Embassy concerned while issuing visa.
- The fellows who are awarded fellowship should bring with them all documents relating to their qualifications in original for verification by the respective College/University at the time of admission. Many Indian universities require that these original documents be deposited with them which will be returned to the candidate before departure after completion of the course.
- Fellows are advised to carry some money (about Indian Rs. 10,000/-) with them to meet some initial expenditure while joining the course.
- A fellow may bring his/her family only after permission of the University authorities. The expenditure on family travel and sustenance throughout the period will be met by the fellow out of his/her own resources.
- All tuition fee, university exam fee, hostel and mess fee, caution money/security deposits etc. are to be paid by the fellows utilizing the consolidated fellowship amount paid to them on monthly basis.
- Fellowship commences from date of joining the University. The fellowship is released on receipt of joining report and is paid monthly through the concerned University as per its rules.
- Traveling expenses for outside or within the country during the course of study for personal reasons or data collection etc. are to be borne by the fellows themselves.
- The fellowship will be paid only up to the declaration of result/receipt of provisional certificate and not till the issuance of degree by the University.
- No fellowship is payable for ex-India period.
- If a fellow is hospitalized in India for a period of one month or longer, the fellow's living allowance will be reduced by 50%.

### Financial Entitlement

- A fellowship will be awarded for two years @ INR 12,000 per month for master's programme and for three years @ INR 15,000 per month for doctoral programme out of the India-Africa Fund of the Govt. of India (MEA/DARE). [Revision of fellowship rates, provision of research contingency and group medical insurance are under consideration].
- Fellowship will be paid on regular monthly basis only after completion of month and not in advance except during initial stage of joining adhering to rules and regulations of the University.

### Mandatory Attendance

- Fellows must ensure that they complete the mandatory attendance as required by that particular University to be eligible to take their exams. DARE/ICAR will not issue any recommendation letter if the fellow is short of attendance.
- DARE/ICAR would not extend the fellowship period if the fellow is detained/debarred from sitting in the exam due to shortage of attendance.

### Change of University /Course

- Once a fellow is admitted in a particular university/course, he/she is not allowed to change the course or the university even if the duration and the tuition fee is the same. If any student is found violating this norm, his/her fellowship would immediately be cancelled.



### Extension of Fellowship period

- Request for extension of fellowship will be considered in rare cases on case-to-case basis by the competent authority of DARE/ICAR in consultation with MEA.
- For extension of fellowship tenure, fellows would have to apply to DARE/ICAR in writing, giving justifiable/valid reasons for seeking such extension. They should also invariably route their applications, enclosing all supporting documents, through the Head of the Departments, Dean of Faculty and the Registrar of University for consideration.

### Travel/Visit to home country

- Fellows should leave the country immediately after the completion of their studies.
- A fellow wishing to travel outside India during the course of study for personal reasons may do so at his/her own expense and with the prior permission of the concerned university where he/she is studying with intimation to DARE/ICAR. However, he/she will have to keep the attendance and other requirements of University in view.
- If a fellow decides to return to his/her country before the completion of the course, he/she would not be entitled to a return passage, and the expenditure would need to be borne by himself/herself. He/she may be required to refund the amount of airfare paid by the Indian Mission for travel to India as well as the fellowship amount paid by DARE/ICAR during his/her stay in India.
- Fellows are permitted to go to their home country during vacations without any financial liabilities on the DARE/ICAR. Fellowship will not be paid for this ex-India period. Prior intimation regarding such departures must be conveyed to the ICAR/University they are studying. The fellows must submit a copy of their passport as well as the original, for verification of the ex-India period. Only on completion of such verifications, would further fellowship dues be released.

### Discontinuation/Cancellation of Fellowship

- Generally DARE/ICAR discontinues fellowship payment when a fellow fails in his/her examination. The student is then asked to clear his/her examination as per the University norms within the stipulated time period as a self financing student, with a clear understanding that DARE/ICAR would revive his/her fellowship once he/she clears the examination successfully.
- Fellowship could be cancelled if the fellow fails repeatedly or is involved in exam-malpractices/anti-social activities, or is found violating ICAR/University norms.

### Medical Treatment

- In case of illness, a fellow should first visit the University dispensary for treatment. The ailing fellow may, however, visit a civil or private hospital on the University's panel on the certification/recommendation of the University's Medical Officer, and only if that particular medical treatment or procedure is unavailable in the University dispensary.
- In case of a major emergency, fellows can avail of treatment from Central Govt. Health Scheme (CGHS) approved private hospitals. In such cases, an emergency certificate is required from the concerned hospital. In general cases, foreign students may visit Government hospitals. Wherever CGHS facility is not available, reimbursement are given as per approved rates of CGHS.
- On completion of ailment, fellow should submit the medical claim to DARE/ICAR along with all original vouchers, prescriptions, cash memos for medicines and test reports duly signed by the attending doctors and the International Students Advisors of the University. No claim will be entertained with only the hospital stamp.
- Medical reimbursement for treatment taken will be made as per CGHS norms. All fellows are advised to avoid visiting private hospitals.

- Fellows availing of medical treatment outside the State where they are pursuing their studies, need to obtain prior approval of DARE/ICAR, before taking treatment. It may be noted that to and fro train/air fare is not permissible to them.
- No reimbursement is admissible for expenditure incurred on tonics, dental, artificial aids, spectacles, acne treatment and on family members who accompany the fellow to India.
- All claims to be submitted within one month of the treatment for reimbursement.

## II. For Universities

- The Universities will communicate its acceptance for admission, date of joining, admission requirements, fee structure, hostel & mess facilities, how to reach the University and the name and contact details of nodal person etc. to the candidate and the concerned authority at DARE/ICAR well in advance (at least one month before). The acceptance letter must be accompanied with a copy of ICAR recommendation letter, and the fellowship guidelines.
- After receipt of travel plan of the foreign candidate, the University may make proper arrangements for receiving the candidate.
- Proper accommodation facilities are to be provided to the candidates.
- Medium of instruction in the University must be English.
- Due care should be taken by the candidate/University while sending joining report regarding duration (date of joining and completion of degree programme). The DARE/ICAR gives fellowship up to declaration of result only.
- The University may admit the student, in case he/she does not have enough money to pay immediately, by taking an undertaking from him/her that the admission fee and other charges will be deducted from the monthly fellowship amount to be paid to him/her by the DARE/ICAR.
- The candidates have to be paid fellowship on regular monthly basis. The fellowship is to be paid after completion of the month and not in advance except during initial stage of joining. In case of non-receipt of fellowship grant from DARE, the universities may pay the monthly fellowship at the prescribed rate out of the ICAR development grant available with the university which may be recouped/adjusted from the fellowship grant whenever received from DARE.
- Progress Report, along with certified copy of mark-sheet, must be submitted every semester/annually to ensure continuation of fellowship by the DARE/ICAR.

## III. Indian Mission in Africa

- The Indian Missions have to verify the English Proficiency as required in the application form.
- Indian Missions may advise the candidates to obtain a medical fitness test that they are free from AIDS and any other ailment, before issue of visa and air ticket.
- The Indian Mission in the respective country will issue visa and air ticket to the candidate after receiving confirmation from University/DARE/ICAR for admission. They will send the travel plan of the candidate to the concerned University well in advance so that University can make proper arrangements for reception and accommodation.

### ***For further details***

visit [www.icar.org.in](http://www.icar.org.in)  
or write to

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([adgeqr@gmail.com](mailto:adgeqr@gmail.com))

or

Under Secretary (IC.III-Trg.), DARE, New Delhi  
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