

## PhD. Fellowship: Seed Systems, impact pathways and nutrition

Asia Regional Office, Hanoi, Vietnam

### The Organization

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture ([www.ciat.cgiar.org](http://www.ciat.cgiar.org)) develops technologies, innovative methods, and research-based based solutions in agriculture and the environment, in order to increase prosperity and improve human nutrition in the tropics, and by doing so, help the world secure a sustainable food future. Headquartered near Cali, Colombia, CIAT conducts research for development in tropical regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. CIAT is a member of the CGIAR Consortium ([www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)), a global research partnership for a food secure future. The Center's research focuses on increasing productivity of key crops (cassava, common bean, rice, and tropical forages), developing sustainable agroecosystems and landscapes, and using information to foster better decisions about issues such as climate resilience and inclusive markets.

From its regional hub in Hanoi, Vietnam, CIAT conducts collaborative research and capacity strengthening in nearly 20 countries across Asia – with over 100 institutional partners ranging from national public-sector research and development agencies, universities, NGOs, private-sector business firms, and regional/international organizations.

We are looking for a Vietnamese PhD candidate with interest in interdisciplinary science and affinity/experience with impact (pathway) analysis and/or food-based approaches for nutrition or food systems to work within an international partnership led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

### About the job

The 4-year PhD position at Wageningen University is co-funded by the Dutch Science foundation (NWO) and CIAT and includes participation in a 3-year interdisciplinary research project on seed system development among ethnic communities in Northern Vietnam (April 2019-March 2022). The research will focus on understanding how, and under what conditions, increased access to and use of high-quality seed of indigenous and exogenous vegetables translates into income and nutrition security; it will combine desk study and literature review with field studies to be carried out in the highlands of northern Vietnam with different ethnic minority groups.

### About the project team

The project is coordinated by CIAT and comprises a multi-stakeholder consortium involving the Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute (FAVRI), the Vietnam Farmers Union, and two private seed companies (Vinaseed, Tan Loc Phat) from Vietnam, and the international research center Bioversity International and Wageningen University and Research (WUR). The project contributes to the CGIAR research program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), specifically Flagship 1 on 'Food Systems for Healthier Diets'. The team comprises senior researchers in plant production, social and nutrition sciences.

## Main duties

The project in Vietnam includes three objectives:

- (1) conduct multi-level seed system characterization to understand current practices;
- (2) identify key leverage points for upgrading systems for contrasting vegetable species, ethnic groups and market systems;
- (3) construct a solid evidence base for the specific pathways enabling (or not) seed access for nutrition and food security.

The PhD candidate will develop both quantitative and qualitative methods and apply these to answer specific research questions related to seed system characterization and pathways leading to nutrition security. The candidate will work together with another fellow PhD researcher who focuses on seed system characterization and key leverage points for upgrading systems. The candidate is expected to complete a PhD dissertation within four years, of which 18 months are spent at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and 28 months at CIAT in Vietnam.

## Requirements for this position

- Vietnamese nationality and at least 2 years of working experience, preferably in research for development, nutrition, rural development or food security sectors.
- MSc degree in social or economic sciences or related discipline (e.g., nutrition) and proven research experience in the field of agriculture and/or food and nutrition security
- Preferably experience with interdisciplinary research and/or impact assessment related to agriculture for nutrition
- Strong quantitative and/or qualitative research skills and proven scientific writing skills
- Excellent communication skills with interest to work in an international and interdisciplinary team, and motivation to stay abroad for longer periods of time.
- Fluency in written and spoken English (TOEFL internet-based 90 with a minimum of 20 for speaking, or IELTS (academic version) 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 for speaking) (See also <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/English-language-requirements.htm>)

## Terms of Appointment

We offer a sandwich PhD grant with an average working time of 40 hours per week for a 48 months period. Sandwich PhD candidates are international PhD candidates who only spend part of their time at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. As a sandwich PhD candidate, you will be appointed as a visiting researcher at CIAT, Hanoi. You will have a grant and you will generally spend the initial 6 months (proposal writing/course work) and last 12 months (thesis writing) of the four-year PhD program in Wageningen. In the intermediate period you will conduct your research in your country of origin, although a short stay in The Netherlands may be planned when relevant to your work and when funding permits. This PhD is directly supervised by WUR's Department of Plant Sciences (Centre for Crop Systems Analysis), possibly in collaboration with a second Department based on the background and interest of the PhD candidate (e.g., Department of Development Economics or Department of Nutrition), and by CIAT.

### Additional information

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Kees Swaans at CIAT ([k.swaans@gmail.com](mailto:k.swaans@gmail.com)) and/or Dr. Tjeerd Jan Stomph at WUR ([tjeerdjan.stomph@wur.nl](mailto:tjeerdjan.stomph@wur.nl)).

For more information on joint “Sandwich” PhD grants: <http://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Categories-of-PhD-Candidates/Sandwich-PhDCandidates.htm>

### Applications

You can apply by sending your motivation letter, CV, and minimally three professional references to CIAT Human Resources Officer , Ms. Oanh Ha ([hrciat@gmail.com](mailto:hrciat@gmail.com)), all correspondence must clearly indicate in the subject *Application: VR Seed Systems, impact pathways and nutrition*.

Please indicate in your CV the duration of the BSc and MSc programs. Add a scan of your BSc and MSc diploma, with grades list; provide original documents with translations to English. Please also add a scan of passport or identity card.

Closing date for applications is Friday 23<sup>th</sup> of August. Interviews are expected to take place in week of 26 to 30 August.