



Call for Application for a Postdoctoral research Candidate in Gender and Rural Transformation (ENTRUST) under the UR-Sweden Research Training Partnership Programme 2019-2024

1. Background

The University of Rwanda – the Department of Rural Development and Agriculture Economics of CAVM- UR- in collaboration with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden through the Research Training Partnership Programme, Rwanda (2019/24) has received funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Sweden, to implement a research and training programme entitled: **Engendering Rural Transformation for Sustainable Development (ENTRUST) sub-project L1924_6**. The main focus of the ENTRUST programme is to increase the understanding of rural transformation and its drivers using an inter-disciplinary approach. In addition, the programme integrates a gendered approach to examine the influence of policies on local economic development, agricultural entrepreneurship and value chains as well as in depth exploration of farming, food consumption patterns and health outcomes using micro and meso level data in Rwanda. ENTRUST aims at:

- positioning the theme of rural transformation both in the context of the UR teaching curriculum and research programme and with regard to sustainable development; as well as to meet the goals in higher education of making UR a prime research institution in the region and the continent, translating science into policy and practice;
- contextualising livelihoods, diversification of rural economies, and strengthen the role of the University of Rwanda in addressing socio-economic issues in relation to rural development, rural transformation, rurality, and gender; and
- applying holistic approaches to understanding rural transformation as they relate to very specific SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 16; Rwanda's Vision 2050, the NST, Sector Strategic Plans in Rwanda, District Development Strategies, and national retreat and dialogue resolutions.

In view of the above, the University of Rwanda is pleased to invite well motivated, diverse and committed potential candidates to apply for one position for a sandwich based Postdoctoral research position in Gender and Rural Transformation starting January 2020. The Postdoctoral researcher must be a University of Rwanda's employee and will have regular research visits to Sweden. The total length of the postdoc period is 24 months with a maximum of 6 months, intermittently expected to be spent in Sweden. The potential candidate and the Supervisory Teams will determine the period jointly. Professors and senior researchers from both SLU and UR will collaboratively supervise the candidate. It is also expected that at least 50% of the total time will be devoted to supporting UR activities when necessary.





2. Research themes/ areas

The proposed research training under the ENTRUST program will focus on three thematic areas:

- Thematic research area 1: Gender and Rural Entrepreneurship
- Thematic Research Area 2: Gender, Rural Transformation and ICT
- Thematic Research Area 3: Farming, Food Consumption Patterns and Health

The current postdoc position is linked to the third thematic research area: Farming, Food Consumption Patterns and Health. The main goal of this research thematic area is to shed light on farming, food demand and security, dietary habits, nutrition and the health situation in Rwanda, taking into account prevailing regional characteristics and disparities. Food crop production in Rwanda is predominantly dependent on the productivity characterizing small farm-holders. Increasingly, there is need for more research to contribute to debates regarding household agriculture and food security, and its contribution towards nutrition and wellbeing (Mackay et al 2018). This is crucial for addressing the double burden of nutrition particularly in countries with rising incomes like Rwanda. Raising productivity levels among smallholder farms therefore represents a vital means to address problems of undernutrition, overnutrition and farm household wellbeing. A body of evidence now exists underscoring the need to have good nutrition between a woman's pregnancy and a child's second birthday. This period sets the health course for irreversible brain development, growth and predisposition to later adult life diseases, viz. cardiovascular related, obesity and diabetes (Black et al, 2013). The overall transformations experienced by the Rwanda economy at all levels are not uniformly distributed in the country and they are influencing households in the following manner: i) through an evident rural/urban divide and ii) regional disparities that are presently prevailing. This situation would require combining a meso approach considering the five established economic and administrative regions (provinces) and micro- approaches. In this process, special attention needs to be devoted to the peri-urban areas within which households could be at the same time part-time farmers and also involved in other economic activities (for instance informal markets).

3. Funding

Sida through the UR Sweden Program will support the funding for the Postdoctoral research position for the Research, Higher education, and Institutional Advancement sub-project **L1924_6**. This is a scholarship position.





4. Duties

The postdoctoral researcher is expected to take active part in developing research ideas based on the themes described above, and to write and publish a couple of peer-reviewed scientific articles in collaboration with the research team. Specifically, the potential postdoctoral researcher is expected to:

1. **develop** relevant data base using household surveys to analyze the consumption patterns of different categories of farmers in the various Societal University Villages (SUVs) to be established from the project. Among the activities in the management of the SUVs' this will include designing survey instruments, training enumerators, supervising data collection, and assisting in the processing and analyzing of the large data sets collected under the project or related to the study themes.
2. **develop** and **specify** relevant economic wide-ranging models able to capture the consumption and production patterns of food and non-food products of farm households; taking into account, not only the gender aspects in the decision-making (production and consumption) processes by households, but also nutritive and health aspects/situations facing these households;
3. **estimate** econometrically these proposed models; and
4. **develop**, based on the quantitative information provided by these previous econometric models, a) *micro-simulation models* of several representative farm households (by region, peri-urban, rural) and b) *perform simulation scenarios* that can address and assess dietary patterns, health issues and corrective policies aimed at improving the nutritive and health situation of the representative households.

The candidate is also expected to be involved in teaching and supervision of graduate and undergraduate students at UR, when necessary.

The successful candidate will mainly be working at UR, Rwanda but is expected to spend some time with project team members in Sweden for research and capacity building programmes.





The following are key eligibility criteria:

4.1. Eligibility Criteria

- Be a Rwanda Citizen
- Hold a PhD Degree not more three years in relevant fields e.g. development studies, agricultural sciences, social sciences, economics, health sciences, computer sciences, or equivalent
- Be a UR staff. Staff from other institution are not eligible. This post-doc position is strictly planned to increase the research capacity for UR staff.
- Both men and women are encouraged to apply. However, if it happens that two candidates or more have similar conditions, priority will be given to women candidates in order to bridge the gender parity gaps in research and teaching at UR.
- The potential candidate should have demonstrated ability to independently initiate, conduct, and complete research projects; and to generate and publish the findings in international peer-reviewed journals.
- Strong practical knowledge in both qualitative and quantitative software.
- Excellent communication skills in English (both written and oral) are required.

4.2. Key documents to support the application

The following documents are required to support your application:

- Certified copy of your PhD degree relevant to this program and transcript.
- Cover letter indicating your scientific interests and motivation for applying to this position [**Max: 2 pages**];
- Curriculum Vitae, including complete list of peer-reviewed publications. [**Max: 4 pages**]
- One sample of peer-reviewed publication.
- **Three recommendation letters:** one from the current employer, one from your previous supervisor, and the other from any other reference person (former employer or professor).

Please Note that incomplete applications will be rejected in the screening phase.





5. Selection criteria

In addition to the above admission and eligibility conditions, the candidate will have to satisfy the conditions to be set by the Research and Post-graduate committee. These will include: fulfilment of the requirements, quality and relevance of cover letter, publications, satisfactory responses to the questions and comments of the interview or recruitment committee, and gender consideration.

6. Important Dates

- Application deadline: **10th October, 2019**
- Conduct interviews and selection of the successful Postdoc candidates: **15-18th October, 2019**
- Notification and Appointment of the new Postdoc candidates to the ENTRUST Program: **25th October, 2019**
- Starting period of the Postdoc position: **13th January, 2019**

7. How to apply

Application and support documents should be done and sent electronically to Mrs. Gloriose GASHAYIJA UMULISA, the Scholarships Officer at UR-CPGS (email: gashayijagloriose@gmail.com) with Cc. to the Sub-program Team-leader, Assoc. Prof. Alfred R. Bizoza (email: alfredbiz23@gmail.com) and the Deputy Team Leader Dr. Alphonsine Mukamuhirwa (email: amukamuhirwa@gmail.com). More information and further clarifications about the sub-program can be addressed to the Deputy Team Leader of the sub- Programme (e-mail: amukamuhirwa@gmail.com).

Done at Kigali, on 10th September, 2019

Dr Celestin NTIVUGURUZA
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