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**Internal call for application for MSc and PhD Scholarship under DeSIRA Project “*Capacity development for innovation in Rwanda: Strengthening innovation partnership in six districts: Burera, Rutsiro, Gatsibo, Nyagatare, Bugesera, and Ruhango*”.**

## **I. Background information on DeSIRA Project**

The University of Rwanda (UR) in collaboration with the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB), and ISTOM is implementing the DeSira Project for a period of four years (2021-2025) with funding from the European Union (EU). The main objective of the project is to strengthen agricultural innovation partnerships, dissemination of best practices and processes that support climate-relevant and sustainable transformation of agriculture farming systems in Rwanda. The project is designed in a way that strengthens the use of participatory and interdisciplinary approach to improve capacities for climate-smart innovation in local innovation partnerships in six districts namely Burera, Rutsiro, Ruhango, Gatsibo, Nyagatare, and Bugesera with focus to different value chains. Three thematic areas are of interest from the research perspective:

Thematically, the project will focus on three areas also considered as project’s outcome areas:

- (1) *diversification of livestock and crop systems;*
- (2) *effective management of irrigated areas, and;*
- (3) *Crop intensification and diversification in drought-prone areas.*

To achieve the above high-level outcome, the project will deliver three outputs:

- facilitate the process of engagement of multi-sector stakeholders and the functioning of innovation partnerships,
- to address knowledge gaps and technical capacity needs through a participatory action research, and
- communicate and disseminate best practices for scaling up and informing the policy process. The main vehicle for this is the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)’s Common Framework, an approach and tool kit for developing capacities for agricultural innovation system.

This 4 Years (2021-2025) research project foresees to offer opportunities for one (1) PhD Student and 2 Masters students from University of Rwanda to carry out some research components planned under the above-mentioned 3 thematic areas.

## **II. Call for application**

Reference made to the nature of the project’s activities and expected research components, the project plans to recruit two Master students in Agribusiness Cohort 2020-2021 and 1 PhD student already registered at the University of Rwanda for a period of 2 years for Msc candidate and 3 years for a PhD Candidate, respectively.



## II. Application requirements

### A. Master students

- Be a registered student in Msc programme in Agribusiness Cohort 2020-2021, Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Economics, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, University of Rwanda
- The candidates must be Rwandans
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and rural development.
- Ready to fully devote six months for the research activities including exchange programme(s) planned in the project.
- A three pages concept note or proposal on the research topic covering the project area.

### B. PhD candidate Student

- For PhD candidate, she/he must be registered at the University of Rwanda in the areas of agriculture and animal sciences starting from the academic year 2021-2022.
- The candidates must be a Rwandan
- Must be of an age bellow 45 years old
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience in agriculture farming systems with focus to Livestock farming.
- Ready to fully devote three years (3) for the research activities including exchange programme(s) planned in the project outside Rwanda.
- 5 pages of the proposal or concept note of the research.

## IV. Funding

### 1. The successful Msc candidates will benefit:

- A scholarship covering 50 % of her /his tuition fees for her/his masters' studies at UR
- A field logistics support during data collection process.
- Each candidate will be supervised by a group of supervisors from Rwanda and ISTOM  
Selected candidate will spend sometimes in France at ISTOM during his or her tenure under the exchange programme that is planned between UR and ISTOM in collaboration with FAO Rwanda.

### 2. The successful PhD candidate will benefit:

- Full scholarship during his/her PhD studies at UR
- A field logistics support during data collection process.



- Exchange programme between ISTOM and UR (PhD Student will spend sometimes to France for doing his/her research activities).

#### V. Application process and selection

The topics above are advertised to the students registered in postgraduate programs at the University of Rwanda. Each Msc and PhD student interested to work with DeSIRA project should prepare his/her application file which include:

- Application letter addressed to the Director of the Centre Postgraduate Studies at UR with a copy to the coordinator of postgraduate programme in the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.
- The curriculum Vitae
- A 3- 5 pages brief research proposal on selected thematic research areas entailing the brief understanding of the topic, problem statement, research questions, objectives, and methodology.
- A recent passport photo and a copy of ID or passport

N.B. Shortlisted candidates will be informed and invited for the interview.

#### VII. How to apply and key dates

Applicants are requested to send documents as listed above by email to the scholarship officer ([ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw](mailto:ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw)) at UR-CPGS with a copy to Coordinator of postgraduate programme in the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Dr Celestin Bigirimana ([celbigirimana@gmail.com](mailto:celbigirimana@gmail.com)), and Eularie Mutamuliza, ( Co-PI) ([emutamuliza1971@gmail.com](mailto:emutamuliza1971@gmail.com)).

#### VIII. Deadline for application:

The deadline for application is March 15, 2022

Done at Kigali, February 22, 2022

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research  
University of Rwanda

