Introduction

The Innovation Centre for Bio-resources (iCB) is one of the three research centers of the “AFRICA-ai-JAPAN” initiative supported by the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), with the mission to build capacity of students and staff within the shared JKUAT and PAUSTI community. The centre was established last year with the aim of advancing agricultural and related research through innovative bio-transformation of majorly locally available resources. The current agenda of this call, therefore, is to seek individuals interested and capable of coming up with creative, locally feasible, practical solutions to challenges in the areas of agriculture and food security.

The iCB is currently offering research funding opportunities to qualified JKUAT/PAUSTI postgraduate students, tutorial fellows, teaching assistant, research assistants or technologists under the “AFRICA-ai-JAPAN” research grant. Young scientists are encouraged to apply.

The applicants are allowed to submit applications in only one of the following thematic areas. Submitting an application to more than one area or submitting an application without specifying the area will lead to automatic disqualification.

Thematic areas:

1. Food security and value addition. This will include crop management, postharvest management of perishables, and food nutrition for human health (functionality).
2. Biodiversity conservation: This will include but not limited to endangered species; bio-prospecting, breeding and conservation for increased food production.
3. Neglected/Orphaned Crops – This should cover orphaned crops that can contribute to food and nutrition security. High yielding, nutritious and climate smart crops are particularly of interest.
4. Animal health and production – This will include breeding for improvement as well as disease and pest management. Underutilized animals can also be covered.
**Eligibility Criteria**

The iCB postgraduate grant programme under the “AFRICA-ai-JAPAN” project is intended for young scientists from JKUAT/PAUSTI who fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

1. Candidates MUST hold a Bachelor’s or a Master’s degree in the areas of Horticulture, Food Science, Nutrition, Postharvest Technology, Animal health and production or other related disciplines.
2. Candidates should preferably be young scientists registered in a postgraduate course in JKUAT/PAUSTI and should be in their research year.
3. Candidates who hold a grant for postgraduate studies by JKUAT/PAUSTI or any other organization should give full disclosure.

In case of any questions regarding the above, applicants should contact the iCB management team at jicapausti@jkuat.ac.ke prior to submission of the application

**Application Process**

All applications must be emailed on or before 30\(^{th}\) April 2015 to jicapausti@jkuat.ac.ke with a copy to icbjaicauat@gmail.com. The applications must be submitted in one PDF formatted document containing the following information:

1. Personal contact information including email address and mobile phone number.
2. A Curriculum Vitae not more than two pages long.
3. Two reference letters submitted directly by the referees themselves to jicapausti@jkuat.ac.ke.
4. Copies of academic certificates and letter of admission to JKUAT/PAUSTI where applicable.
5. A motivation letter with declaration of interests.
6. A concept note of not more than three pages.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the 15\(^{th}\) May 2015. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

**For more information on iCB, please visit:**

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