About IITA

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not for profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa’s most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, IITA improves livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.

IITA has successful breeding programs on six very important crops in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): cassava, yam, banana/plantain, maize, soybean and cowpea. In recent years, these have been reviewed based on the Breeding Program Assessment Tool (BPAT). The programs have also had extensive interaction with the CGIAR Excellence in Breeding (EiB) platform during which crop specific and cross cutting (institutional) improvement plans have been developed along with product profiles and market segmentation analyses. IITA plans to improve the quality of its field stations, farm operations, and plant growth facilities as part of the plans for, and in support of, improving crop breeding. To achieve this, an experienced manager with a strong background in research farm management and the ability to work closely with an Institutional Head of Breeding and breeding team leads is needed. This is a Senior level appointment and the appointee will report to the Director for West Africa.

For more details, please visit their website at: https://www.iita.org/
The Opportunity

The position is assigned in IITA Headquarters, Ibadan, Nigeria. The Head of Farm Management will manage the research farms and plant growth facilities of IITA in support of activities of the Institute’s crop breeding programs. S/he will have responsibility for all IITA research farms and plant growth facilities in sub Saharan Africa, with 70% of his/her time in West Africa (especially at Ibadan, Ikenne and Kano stations in Nigeria) and 30% at IITA stations outside West Africa (e.g. in Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda).

With support from station farm managers/superintendents and other staff, this position will lead research farm teams in the implementation of field operations of breeding Programs, his/her activities will include the following:
Key Responsibilities

- Lead research farm teams in the implementation of field operations of breeding programs in collaboration with breeding team leads.
- As lead for a Western Africa support network for field operations, develop a plan for running trials (at cost) for other CGIAR centers and national research programs and identify opportunities for sharing services with them.
- Develop and implement improvement plans for irrigation and soil and pest management.
- Ensure organization and regular maintenance and repair of farm machinery and equipment.
- Ensure monitoring and control of farm operations efficiency.
- Optimize procedures for material handling and workflow for seed processing and packaging.
- Manage greenhouse equipment, fertigation, pest management, and environmental controls.
Key Responsibilities

- Define an investment plan for research farms and plant growth facilities in consultation with the head of breeding and breeding team leads.
- Contribute to resource mobilization for upgrading farm infrastructure and equipment.
- Manage the human and financial resources of the Research Farms Unit.
- Develop the capacity of research farm staff and raise the quality of farm management at all sites, including increased mechanization of operations.
- Establish a culture of continuous improvement of experimental stations and farm practices.
- Promote a culture of maintaining healthy, safe and environmentally friendly stations.
Qualifications

- MSc Degree in Agronomy or related field in agriculture.
- At least 10 years’ experience in the management of research farms, preferably in support of crop breeding programs.
- Ability to manage change in a complex, multi-country operations.
- Sound understanding of agronomy and proven experience in the management of soil fertility, irrigation systems, and mechanization.
- Proficient in the use of software packages for managing projects and agricultural practices on research stations and farms.
- Experience in the management of plant growth facilities.
- Excellent work ethics and effective leadership, organizational, and communication skills.
- Ability to adapt to longer work schedules when seasonally required and to operate under time pressure when needed.
Qualifications

Having the following will be advantageous:

- Experience in research farm management in Africa.
Appendix

- Organizational Chart
- IITA 2012-2020 Refreshed Strategy
- Financial Statement 2017
- Annual Report 2017
Compensation and Application Process

The initial appointment will be for three years. IITA offers a competitive remuneration package paid in US dollars. IITA is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates.

Applicants should send an up-to-date CV and a cover letter illustrating their suitability for the above position against the listed qualifications, competencies, and skills with copies of the highest diploma/degree, training certificates related to the position, and names and email addresses of 3 professional referees to Ms. Auree de Carbon by email at:

adecarbon@carrhure.com. Deadline extended until June 22, 2020 at 18:00 CET. Please indicate in the ‘Subject’ of the email the title ‘application for the post of ‘Head of Farm Management’.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.