

January 2017

Wageningen University, The Netherlands, (Chair Group Knowledge, Technology and Innovation), together with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, CIMMYT, invite interested candidates to apply for

PhD fellowship
‘Gender-Responsive Innovation in Maize-(and Wheat-)based Agricultural Contexts’

Duration: 4 years, starting April/May 2017

Apply before: Sunday 19 February 2017, 24:00 (Amsterdam time zone: UTC+01:00)

Innovation in agriculture and natural resource management is critical to reducing rural poverty, but gender norms and social restrictions often influence the ability of different groups of women – and men – to learn about, participate in and benefit from innovation processes in agriculture and natural resource management. Yet, how and why this occurs in some circumstances and not others has been poorly understood. In order to address this and improve the capacity of agricultural research and development (AR&D) to design and scale out agricultural innovations that enable both poor women and men to participate and benefit, a group of social scientists from various international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR initiated GENNOVATE, a qualitative comparative research initiative focused on the interlinkages between gender norms, agency and agricultural innovation processes.

Climate change, male rural outmigration and many other global trends play out locally and urge to close collaboration between genders and generations for securing future farming and livelihoods. Following up on the first analysis phase of the GENNOVATE project, this PhD project will build on GENNOVATE data collected by the CGIAR research programs on WHEAT and MAIZE to select specific cases for further in-depth research on the interlinkages between gender norms, agency and agricultural innovation processes. In particular, this PhD project is expected to contribute to developing methods and approaches for catalyzing the integration of ‘good’ gender inclusive practices in maize- and wheat research for development and related agricultural innovation systems work. This can entail methods to identify and incorporate gender specific preferences, needs, constraints to the access and use of technology (e.g. selection of varieties, post-harvest storage and processing, crop management or mechanization), but also methods to address constraining norms and values around e.g. labour and care arrangements, management issues, income pooling, mobility and market access. There are various possibilities for a special angle, e.g. on masculinity or how agency and innovation capacity of young women and men can be better employed.

Interested candidates for this fellowship are invited to send in a concept note, with a research plan reflecting their interest (for format see **ANNEX 2**). The concept note will serve as a preliminary work plan to be further elaborated and specified in the first year of the PhD project together with the supervisors and according to the graduation requirements of Wageningen University and Research.

References to the relevant programs of the collaborating partners can be found in **ANNEX 1** to this file.

What candidate are we looking for?

We are looking for an enthusiastic team player with the following qualifications:

- An excellent academic record in a relevant natural or social science discipline (Masters completed);
- Affinity with the integration of gender and social inclusion in agriculture based innovation;
- Strong knowledge and skills regarding research design, data collection, analysis, and presentation. Solid knowledge of and experience with qualitative data collection methods and analysis is a requirement, and knowledge and experience with quantitative, and/or spatial-temporal methods are considered additional advantages.
- Interest in the interaction between the natural and social sciences; and proven ability to work in (interdisciplinary) scientific teams and collaborate with a range of societal stakeholders
- Strong oral and written communication skills in English, especially regarding academic writing and presentation;
- Creative, analytical thinking, open-mindedness and ability to adapt to different socio-cultural and institutional contexts.

NOTE: Applicants will be asked for a ‘Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language’ unless they have a degree from a university in an English-speaking country (TOEFL, British Council or IELTS)

The PhD fellowship covers four years, starting in April/May 2017. The development of the research project, as well as research guidance and -supervision will take place in joint collaboration between KTI and CIMMYT’s Strategic Leader for Gender and Social Inclusion.

For the first phase (basic PhD training and proposal development), and last phase (finalizing writing of the thesis), the candidate will be required to stay in the Netherlands for 7 up to 12 months each period. An additional 3-4 month stay in the Netherlands is anticipated at the end of the 2nd year. It is anticipated that the remaining time in between will be dedicated to data collection and other research activities and interactions with regional/locally based researchers and partners in the specific case study regions and/or at CIMMYT headquarters.

The fellowship includes living allowances, fees, visa costs and insurance, office costs, education, travel, supervisory visits, and research costs.

How to apply?

Applications are submitted via email KTI.GENNOVATE@wur.nl including the following information:

1. Subject line in the email: GENNOVATE PhD application
2. An application letter explaining your motivation
3. A well written and referenced concept note that presents your preliminary research ideas for this project (max 1000 words, excluding references, **see format instructions in annex 2**)
4. A detailed CV including your personal details (name, contact details, age, gender), academic training, work experience, and a list of publications (please add English translations of titles if appropriate). Please include also language skills, computing and (academic) software skills and

research for development (R4D) networks, as well as two references with full contact details.

5. Scanned copies of academic diplomas (bachelors and masters) and associated lists of marks/qualifications for courses followed. Diplomas will be validated by NUFFIC, NL.
6. Writing sample, e.g. a scientific article or other scientific text written by you alone or you as main author.

Applications are to be received before **Sunday 19 February 2017, 24:00** (Amsterdam time zone, UTC+01:00)

Further process and timeline

Shortlisted candidates for this fellowship will be invited for interviews by late February 2017.

Interviews will be conducted in late February / March 2017, normally via skype.

The interviewed applicants will be informed before 31 March 2017.

For questions you can contact Margreet.vanderBurg@wur.nl or Conny.Almekinders@wur.nl.

See Annexes 1 and 2 on following pages

Annex 1: Info about the programs of the collaborating partners

Wageningen University & Research: Chair group KTI & general PhD info

More information on the work of chair group Knowledge, Technology and Innovation (KTI) you can find [here](#). The inaugural lecture of Chair Cees Leeuwis (2013, [downloadable here](#)) gives an outline of key aspects and approaches of interest to the chair group's research.

Regular PhD info can be found [here](#); please also look at WASS, graduate school for the social sciences.

CGIAR: GENNOVATE and CRP Maize under leadership of CIMMYT

1. GENNOVATE under leadership of CIMMYT

GENNOVATE (“Enabling Gender Equality in Agricultural and Environmental Innovation”) is a qualitative, comparative, collaborative research initiative, which explores how local agricultural innovation processes both shape and are shaped by gender norms and agency. It has been carried out as global comparative research across 130 rural communities in 26 countries. Qualitative research is used to address hidden gender norms within societies, particularly in relation to agricultural innovation and intersecting with other dimensions, especially regarding wealth, age/life-cycle stage, ethnicity and religion. It addresses how gender norms affect the ability of men, women and youth of both genders to learn about, generate, access, adopt and benefit from innovations in agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). For further information, see the GENNOVATE [website](#) and [flyer](#). An updated concept note (2015) can be found [here](#) and the used data collection instruments are listed under [here](#).

GENNOVATE has been developed under the leadership of Dr. Lone Badstue, strategic leader in gender research and social inclusion at CIMMYT. Besides the participation of CIMMYT, other CGIAR institutes have participated in various degrees.

Prospective outcomes and ways forward

GENNOVATE is currently in the initial analysis phase. CIMMYT Socio-Economics Program and Wageningen UR are seeking to collaborate in the supervision of PhD's who further analyse the database that the project established, deepen the analysis on new insights with follow-up research and possibly testing implications for future innovation processes.

The PhD Fellowship will draw on the GENNOVATE database for the CGIAR Research Programs on MAIZE and WHEAT, both of which are led by CIMMYT. The initial database analysis shows interesting patterns; which will be refined and further contextualized during the coming months.

Following up on the GENNOVATE database, it is expected that further in-depth research by the PhD candidate combining insights from knowledge and innovation studies, science and technology studies and gender studies in well selected case studies will help to further identify patterns of good ‘gender responsive’ practices of innovation – within and beyond externally induced innovation - to be tested and elaborated for future innovation practices.

2. CGIAR Research Program MAIZE under leadership of CIMMYT

Information about CRP MAIZE can be found at: <http://maize.org/>

The CRP MAIZE Phase II proposal, 2017-2022, can be accessed [here](#); and provides a detailed overview of the various research priorities and related aspects for CRP MAIZE.

The CRP MAIZE Gender Strategy (2015) can be downloaded [here](#); it suggests how gender can be integrated in the various Flagship Projects of CRP MAIZE. The PhDproject can especially contribute directly to MAIZE flagships 1, cluster of activity 1.3 (gender and social inclusion), as well as flagships 4 and possibly 3, depending on the specific topic selected.

3. International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, CIMMYT

The **International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center**, known by its Spanish acronym, CIMMYT, is a non-profit research and training organization with more than 400 partners in over 100 countries.

The Center works to sustainably increase the productivity of maize and wheat systems and thus ensure global food security and reduce poverty. For this it applies the best of biotechnology, traditional agronomy and breeding, socioeconomics, agricultural extension, and capacity building to create sustainable solutions with lasting impact and a strong focus on climate change, hunger, rural community development, and the environment. Read more about CIMMYT [here](#).

CIMMYT socio-economics program: a brief description and key objectives can be found [here](#).

The CIMMYT socioeconomics Program aims to help prioritize, target, understand and enhance wheat and maize interventions to make the greatest impact. It helps optimize the use of research resources, accelerates the uptake of innovations and enhances impacts and their social inclusiveness for poor producers and consumers of wheat and maize in Africa, Asia and Latin America.(...) Cross-cutting research ensures social and gender inclusiveness. The program provides guidance on whether interventions are making changes that are transforming agriculture and rural landscapes.'

In the various stages, the program helps with positioning, prioritizing and foresight, then with providing perspectives on progress, process and operational issues, and at last, it helps to document impact and draw out lessons.

See Annex 2 with instructions for concept note next page!

Annex 2: Format for Concept Note on proposed PhD project

Please explain in 1000 words maximum (excluding references) how you would approach a PhD research in relation to the GENNOVATE research initiative and CRP MAIZE.

Your outline should include a working title of your project, a brief sketch of the theoretical perspective, the research problem and research question(s); a short outline of the methodological approach; and a description of the expected scientific significance and development impact of the research you propose.

WORD COUNT: (1000 max.)

1. YOUR NAME:

2. WORKTITLE PhD-PROJECT:

3. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE(S)

(you may select a theoretical perspective from a gender studies perspective or you may integrating gender into a social and/or natural science perspective, depending on your preference):

4. SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM DEFINITION AND KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

5. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

(please also include your thoughts on the operationalization of gender-responsive innovation):

6. SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE:

7. EXPECTED DEVELOPMENT IMPACT:

REFERENCES