



SAARC

Fax Message No.: 117/02/012

No.: SAARC/ARD/77/SAC/B/2017 (Vol-III)

**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION  
SECRETARIAT**

**SAARC Agriculture Centre PhD Scholarship: Call for Application**

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC and has the honour to state that the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), according to its approved Calendar of Activities-2018, has announced “**Call for Application**” for the **SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship – 2018**. SAC invites applications from regular employees of National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System in the Member States of SAARC, except Bangladesh, since an opportunity has been availed of by Bangladesh in the year 2017.

The esteemed Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs (**except Bangladesh**) are requested to take necessary measures to upload the announcement for the “**SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship – 2018**” in the websites of the following offices:

1. Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs;
2. Relevant Ministry(ies) and offices;
3. National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES); and
4. Relevant professional organizations/bodies/institutions.

The esteemed Member States may also like to post the same in the publicly accessible sites for a wider circulation. The prescribed Application Form could be downloaded from the SAC’s website (www.sac.org.bd) and the deadline for submission of application is **15 April 2018**.

For any further information on the matter, Director, SAC (director@sac.org.bd) and Dr. W.A.R.T. Wickramaarachchi, Senior Program Specialist, SAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh (Tel: +88-2-8141140, Fax: +88-2-9124596, Cell: +880-1754696984, Email: wartwa@gmail.com) may kindly be contacted.

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) avails itself this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC, the assurances of its highest consideration.

**Encls: a. a.**



**Kathmandu, 23 January 2018**

The Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC  
Attn: Director General/Joint Secretary (SAARC Division).

- Copy:** (i) All Governing Board Members of SAC, SAARC Member States; and  
(ii) Heads of SAARC Regional Centres/Specialized bodies, for posting the same in their webpage; and  
(iii) Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Farmgate, Dhaka.

**Post Box No. 4222, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**Tel: +9771-4-221785; Fax: +9771-4-227033, 4-223991**  
**E-mail: saarc@saarc-sec.org**



# SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE (SAC)

Ref: SAC No. 643/2018/08

Date: 18-01-2018

H.E. Secretary General  
SAARC Secretariat  
Kathmandu, Nepal

*Attention: Ms Ishrat Jahan, Director (ARD), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal*

**Subject: Request for issuance of *Note Verbale* for calling applications for SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship 2018**

Your Excellency

Greetings from SAARC Agriculture Centre.

As a part of continuous efforts towards capacity building of young scientist in the region, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) has initiated SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship Program in order to support aspiring young agricultural scientists to pursue their PhD degree program in reputed agricultural universities in SAARC Member Countries. It is delighted to inform you that Scholarship opportunity for 2017 has already been offered to a candidate from Bangladesh. SAC is happy to announce the offer of SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarships for year 2018 as per the guidance and approval of 54<sup>th</sup> Programming Committee.


SAC invites applications from regular employees of National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System in SAARC Member Countries except Bangladesh since an opportunity has been availed by Bangladesh in year 2017. Applicants should have a Master or equivalent postgraduate degree in Agricultural Economics and allied sciences with substantial research component. This scholarship provides financial support to undertake a postgraduate qualification at PhD level in Agricultural Economics at *Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka* for 3 years commencing from 2018.

Circular for calling applications with detailed guidelines and Application Performa are annexed (also available on [www.sac.org.bd](http://www.sac.org.bd)). The duly filled applications along with all supporting documents should be sent to Director, SAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh through the relevant Ministries and SAARC Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Ministry of External Affairs of the respective home countries on or before 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

May I therefore humbly request Your Excellency to kindly issue a *Note Verbale* to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs / Ministries of External Affairs of each Member Country except Bangladesh with copy to respective SAC-GB members to facilitate the nominations from the most suitable candidates.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours

  
(Dr SM Bokhtiar)  
Director



**Call for Applications - SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarships 2018**  
in Agricultural Economics at Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

**Application Deadline :15 April 2018**



Applications are invited from potential candidates of SAARC Member Countries ( Except Bangladesh ) to pursue PhD study in Agricultural Economics in Sri Lanka .  
Candidates should submit their applications to Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh on or before 15 April 2018.

**SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
[www.sac.org.bd](http://www.sac.org.bd)

## Introduction

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) under the framework of SAARC has been working for strengthening agricultural research and technology transfer through regional networks among agricultural research and development institutions and policy makers in South Asia. SAC has taken initiatives to support aspiring agricultural scientists of the region to pursue their PhD degree programs in selected agricultural universities and institutions in South Asia. SAC is pleased to announce the offer of annual PhD scholarships for the academic year 2018. It is delighted to state that SAARC PhD Scholarship opportunity for 2017 has already been offered to Bangladesh. Thus, applications for PhD scholarships for 2018 are invited from SAARC Member countries except Bangladesh to pursue PhD in the field of Agricultural Economics for 3 years. The scholarships are competitive and merit-based providing opportunities for regular employees of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System to gain their PhD qualifications.

## Eligibility

Applicants must be a citizen of SAARC Member Countries except Bangladesh (Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and must be a regular employee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System of the respective Member Countries. Applicants must be age of 45 years or below on the date of the application deadline (15th April 2018). Applicants should have a relevant postgraduate qualification (MSc/ MS/ MPhil) in agricultural economics, agribusiness and related discipline with a substantial research component of not less than one year. Candidates are expected to have excellent academic records and good command of spoken and written English. Further, candidates having publications on agricultural economics would get preference. Applicant must be available full time for the PhD study in Sri Lanka from 2018 for 3 years.

## How to apply

Applications are invited from potential candidates who are interested to pursue PhD study on Agricultural Economics. Candidates should submit application along with PhD synopsis and supporting documents (certified copies of postgraduate and basic degree certificates, title page of postgraduate research thesis, current CV, copies of publications, English version of birth certificate, passport copy, proof for English proficiency) to Director, SAC through the relevant ministries and SAARC Division under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / External Affairs of the home country with endorsements on or before 15th April 2018. A scanned copy of the set of application may be sent directly to Director, SAC via email as an advance copy. Admission Circular and Application Form are available on [www.sac.org.bd](http://www.sac.org.bd).

## PhD research synopsis

Applicants are requested to submit a synopsis (brief proposal) of maximum 8 pages for PhD research under the given thematic area of "Trade and Development" comprising trends of agricultural food exports in South Asia, opportunities for inter and intra regional trade, determinants of bi- and multi-lateral export of agri food items, regional policies and regulatory framework of South Asia and proposed regional institutional arrangements for enhanced the competitiveness of regional and global trade adhering to the format given here. The PhD research synopsis will be reviewed to assess whether the proposed research is in accordance with given thematic area and the scientific quality of research proposal. The outputs of research must lead to advance the existing knowledge and to fill up the gap of the knowledge in the field of "Trade and Development".

## Synopsis format

1. Title 2. Introduction 3. Objectives 4. Review of literature 5. Plan of work and methodology 6. Expected outputs 7. References

## Selection process

Applications received from member countries by the deadline will be pre evaluated by the Committee headed by Director, SAC according to the following criteria:

1. Academic records of the candidate (Bachelor degree and postgraduate degree)
2. Publications and experience in relevant field
3. Relevancy and quality of PhD research synopsis

The short listed applications are finally evaluated by a committee comprised of regional expert team for the selection of the most suitable candidate.

## Tenure and Placement

Awards are tenable at an Agricultural University of SAARC countries designated by SAC. Funding is for 03 years with fulltime basis. SAC will facilitate the placement and admission.

## PhD Program and thematic areas for research

NO	Name of the PhD Program -2018	Thematic Area of the PhD Research
1	Agricultural Economics	Trade and Development

## Host Institute

The successful candidate will be admitted to Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya (PGIA-UoP), Sri Lanka (<https://www.pgia.ac.lk>) to pursue PhD in Agricultural Economics. PGIA-UoP is a premier institute for higher education in agricultural sciences in Sri Lanka offers postgraduate programs in 31 disciplines with emphasis of providing most updated knowledge while facilitating research programs. Over the past four decades, it has achieved substantial progress and has emerged as a "Centre of Excellence" in higher education in agricultural sciences in Sri Lanka.

## Scholarship and its inclusions

1. Economy class air fare from home country to Sri Lanka and return at the end of PhD study
2. Tuition fee (partially waived by the host institute)
3. Living allowances at the rate US\$ 600 per month (up to 3 years)
4. A one-time grant of US\$ 1000 to cover up expenditure for books, study materials, computer and thesis production.
5. A grant of US\$ 1000 per year to cover up research and other costs with the recommendation of PhD supervisor.

## Grant Conditions

The scholar shall not change the specified course of study, thematic area of the research as indicated in the application nor transfer of registration for any other PhD course. The withdrawal of the course is not permitted. If the course is withdrawn, SAC reserves the right to recover entire expenditure from the scholar. The award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, progress or attendance or if the registration is suspended or terminated by the university for any reason.

## Further contact

Dr W.A.R.T. Wickramaarachchi, Senior Program Specialist (Priority Setting and Program Development), SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh (T: +88-2-8141140, F: +88-2-9124596, M: +880-1754696984, E: [wartwa@gmail.com](mailto:wartwa@gmail.com))

Director  
SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)  
BARC Complex  
New Airport Road  
Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh  
([director@sac.org.bd](mailto:director@sac.org.bd))

Reference No (Official use only):

**SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Application for SAARC Agriculture Scholarship – 2018**

*Please affix 4cm  
X 3cm color  
photograph*

**Important**

- Regular employees of National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System from SAARC Member Countries except Bangladesh (Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) are only eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be on or below 45 years of age by 30 April 2018
- Duly filled applications should be sent through the concerned respective head of institutions and ministries concerned.
- Copies of degree certificates, title page and abstract of postgraduate thesis, passport (information page), birth certificate (English version), documents for proof your employment, Proof for English proficiency, copies of publications and synopsis of the proposed PhD research should be annexed to this application.
- Incomplete applications in any respect will be rejected.

**1. Full Name:**

**2. Present employment ( Name of designation):**

**3. Official address:**

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

**4. Permanent residential address:**

Telephone:

Email:

**5. Date of Birth:**

**6. Age as on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (Years/ Months/ Days):**

**7. Nationality:**

**8. Gender:**

9. Marital status:

10. Passport No:

11. Academic Qualifications (from highest qualification):

Degree	Year		University/ Institute	Major subjects	Grade/ Class/ Division
	From	To			

12. Title of the postgraduate (MSc, MS, MPhil) research / Title of the thesis

13. Employment records (from most recent position):

Post / Position / Rank held	Name and address of organization / institution	Period of service (Month/Year)		Brief job description and responsibilities
		From	To	

14. List of scientific publications including research articles, books, chapters, abstracts and popular articles etc (Attach a separate sheet if the given space is inadequate):

15. Consent for pursuing of PhD under the given thematic area/ specialization (Tick off (✓)):

No.	Name of the PhD program	Thematic area / Specialization	Tick off (✓)
1	Agricultural Economics	Trade and Development	

14. Title of the proposed PhD research (PhD synopsis must be annexed):

**Declaration by the candidate**

I do hereby declare that particulars provided by me in the foregoing items are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statements or any required information withheld from this form may provide grounds for the withdrawal of any offer of scholarship. In the event of my being selected for the program of study I have applied for, I do agree to abide by such regulations of the institute as applicable to me.

.....  
Signature of the applicant  
Date:

**Recommendation of the candidate's employer / Head of Institution / Head of Department**

I do hereby certify that Mr / Ms.....  
..... (full name) of .....  
..... (official address) shall be released on deputation for 3 years to pursue the PhD program offered by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from the day of commencement of the program

Date: ..... Signature: .....  
Name: .....  
Address: .....

.....  
Official rubber stamp

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**Recommendation of the concerned Ministry**

I do hereby certify that Mr / Ms. ....  
..... (full name) of .....  
..... (official address) under ministry of .....  
(name of the concerned ministry) shall be released on deputation for 3 years to pursue the PhD program offered by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from the day of the commencement of the PhD program

Date: ..... Signature: .....  
Name: .....  
Address: .....

.....  
Official rubber stamp

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