Call for applications:
SAARC PhD Scholarship programme 2020 in Animal Nutrition (one) and Fish Nutrition & Feed Technology (one)
By
SAARC Agriculture Centre

Background
SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) under the framework of SAARC has been working for strengthening agricultural research and development through regional networks with different institutions in South Asia. From 2017 onwards, the SAC has taken initiatives “SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme” to support aspiring agricultural professionals of the region for undertaking doctoral studies in a premier Institute/ University in the SAARC region. The scholarship is highly competitive and merit based providing opportunities to the regular employees of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)/ Department/ Ministry in SAARC Member States. Till date, the scholarship has been awarded in Soil Science to the candidate of Bangladesh for undertaking studies at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh, in Agricultural Economics to the candidate of Afghanistan for undertaking studies at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology to the candidate of Nepal for pursuing studies at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India.

Eligibility
For the academic year 2020, two scholarships will be offered: one in Animal Nutrition and other in Fish Nutrition & Feed Technology. The applicants must be (i) citizen of Bhutan/India/ Maldives/ Pakistan/ Sri Lanka, (ii) regular employee of the National Agricultural Research System/ Ministry/ Department, (iii) below the age of 40 years as on the date of application deadline with more than three years of experience, (iv) good command of spoken and written English, (v) available for full time PhD for a period of three years.

Educational qualification for PhD in Animal Nutrition
Master Degree (MSc/MS/ MV Sc) in Animal Nutrition. A definite weightage will be given to an applicant having basic degree in Veterinary Sciences.

Educational qualification for PhD in Fish Nutrition & Feed Technology
Master Degree with specialization/ dissertation in Fish Nutrition. A definite weightage will be given to an applicant having basic degree in Fisheries Science.

How to apply
Applications are invited from potential candidates who are citizens of Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for pursuing their doctoral study in the subject of (i) Animal Nutrition and (ii) Fish Nutrition & Feed Technology. Candidates should submit application along with supporting documents (attested copies of postgraduate and basic degree certificates, marksheet/ report card, medals/ scholarship/ peer recognition received, research paper/ short note/ review/ bulletin/ book/ book chapter published, and a synopsis of research proposal) to the Director, SAC through the current employer /relevant Ministry/ SAARC Division/ Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / External Affairs of the home country on or before 19th August, 2020. In case, the candidate perceives delay in forwarding the application through concerned ministry, he/she could submit the duly filled application signed by self and employer along with supporting documents directly to Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Director, SAC (director@sac.org.bd)as an advance copy. Notification regarding the scholarship and application format is available on the SAC website (www.sac.org.bd).
PhD synopsis

Applicants are requested to submit a synopsis (brief proposal) of maximum 500 words for PhD research under the given thematic area adhering to the format i.e. title, introduction, justification, objectives, and expected outcome. The proposal will be reviewed to determine whether the proposed research comes under the ambit of thematic area mentioned in the application. The expected outcomes should also lead to the advancement of knowledge and generation of newer technologies in the particular subject for the benefit of South Asian region.

Selection process

Applications received on or before the deadline (19th August 2020) will be evaluated by the Committee headed by the Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre as per the following criteria: (i) Academic records of the candidate, (ii) Awards/medals/peer recognitions, (iii) research projects handled as principal investigator or co-investigator, (iv) courses taught, (v) relevance and quality of PhD synopsis submitted. The submitted applications will be finally evaluated based on the criteria mentioned above and selection will be made by the committee comprising of regional experts available at the Centre.

Tenure and placement

The SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme is tenable for a period of three years on full-time basis. During their doctoral study, candidates are not allowed to perform any kind of part-time or contract job at the place of their study. The selected candidates are expected to be placed at the Deemed University of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The SAARC Agriculture Centre will facilitate admission.

Host Institute

For PhD in Animal Nutrition

ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, India is the host institute. Established in 1889, ICAR-IVRI is one of the premier research institutions dedicated to livestock research and development of the region. The institute with faculty strength of more than 275 has a major mandate of research, teaching, consultancy and technology transfer in the field of animal sciences. The institute imparts quality undergraduate and post-graduate education to students from India and abroad.

PhD in Fish Nutrition & Feed Technology

Standing tall on a dynamic history of more than five decades, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (Deemed University) can justifiably be called the national leader in fisheries education in India. The institute has been committed to the development of qualified and trained manpower to plan, execute and manage various fisheries developmental programmes in the country. The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) was established by the Government of India, with the assistance of FAO/UNDP on 6th June 1961. The University with its headquarters at Mumbai has four centres at Kolkata, Izatnagar, Rohtak and Visakhapatnam.

What covers under the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme?

1. Economy class airfare from home country to the host institute. Eligible during joining and after the completion of study
2. Entire tuition fees as applicable to the concerned deemed university
3. Living allowance at the rate US$600 per month for three years
4. One-time grant of US$1000 to cover expenditure on books, study materials, computer and thesis preparation
5. A grant of US$1000 per year for three years to cover research cost with the recommendations of the PhD supervisor

Grant conditions

The awardee is expected to strictly follow the guidelines of respective University/Institute at the host country. The award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory progress or attendance or if the registration is suspended or terminated by his/her university for any reason. The awardee needs to execute a bond with the host Institute on behalf of SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka for the successful completion of PhD programme. In case of candidates leaving the doctoral studies before completion, they need to surrender the entire fellowship amount with interest to the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka. A hard and soft copy of the doctoral thesis needs to be submitted to the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka after completion. Besides, the awardee should acknowledge the SAARC Agriculture Centre in all publications including PhD thesis.

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