

# ABCf 2020

Africa Biosciences  
Challenge Fund  
fellowships



# Call for applications

The call for 2020 Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund fellowships is now open. The purpose of the ABCF program is to develop capacity for agricultural biosciences research in Africa, to support research for development projects that contribute towards increasing food and nutritional security and/or food safety in Africa, and to facilitate access to the BecA-ILRI Hub facilities by African researchers and their partners. The fellowships are offered to applicants with innovative ideas for short term research projects (up to 6 months). Research projects should be aligned with national, regional or continental agricultural development priorities and CGIAR strategies for research.

## Areas of research

Applicant must be a scientist from African National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) e.g. national agricultural research institutes and universities. S/he should be interested to carry research on crops and livestock in the areas of national or regional priority. Scientists conducting research in the following areas are particularly encouraged to apply:

### 1 Livestock genetics

**Livestock focus:** African indigenous breeds, particularly goats, chickens, pig, large ruminants and fish

**Research focus:** harnessing genetic diversity for; conservation; resistance to disease and drought; improved productivity; disease control and rapid diagnostics of animal disease such as African Swine fever (ASF), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR); tick and tickborne diseases; Newcastle disease; Gumboro disease, etc

### 2 Crop improvement and plant protection

Molecular breeding, rapid diagnostics management of crop pests, pathogens and weeds, plant-microbe interactions, soil health, application of microbial technology for improving adaptation of staple food crops and forages to biotic and abiotic stresses

### 3 One Health

Food nutrition quality analysis, food safety and mycotoxin analysis, zoonotic microbes (bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoa, helminth) and antimicrobial resistance

### 4 Bioinformatics and data sciences

On research areas listed above.



# Eligibility

**Female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.**

## **Applicants of the fellowship should:**

- Be 45 years of age or younger at the time of application
- Be from the 18 BecA mandate countries, which are [Burundi](#), [Cameroon](#), [Central Africa Republic](#), [Congo Brazzaville](#), [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#), [Eritrea](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Gabon](#), [Kenya](#), [Madagascar](#), [Rwanda](#), [São Tomé and Príncipe](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#), [Sudan](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#). In exceptional cases, applicants from other African countries will be considered
- Be a researcher employed in an African NARS
- Be actively engaged in research that is contributing to agricultural development in Africa
- Have attained a minimum education level of a master's degree
- Have good working knowledge of written and spoken English;
- Submit the application with a signed letter of endorsement of the application or letter of nomination from the head of the applicant's home institute/organization
- Must NOT be a previous fellow.

## **The Fellowship will support**

- Research\* costs at the BecA-ILRI Hub
- Round trip travel from home country to Nairobi
- Medical insurance
- Accommodation
- A modest subsistence allowance.

*\*The ABCF fellowship does not cover fieldwork or research in the applicant's home country.*

# Timelines

The call will be open on 15 December, 2019 and closed on 20 January, 2020.

The successful candidates will be notified by 15 March, 2020.

# Application instructions

The ABCF Fellowship uses an internet-based application system. Applicants must have access to a computer and internet to apply.

Written responses must be your own or original work. Using language/information copied from other sources will be considered plagiarism and will result in application being disqualified.

# Apply here

[https://hpc.ilri.cgiar.org/beca/training/ABCF\\_2020/](https://hpc.ilri.cgiar.org/beca/training/ABCF_2020/)





Contacts:

**Roger Pelle**

Head, ABCF program  
BecA-ILRI Hub  
Email: [r.pelle@cgiar.org](mailto:r.pelle@cgiar.org)

**Valerian Aloo**

Capacity building officer  
BecA-ILRI Hub  
Email: [v.aloo@cgiar.org](mailto:v.aloo@cgiar.org)

Biosciences eastern and central Africa-International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI) Hub  
PO Box 30709 Nairobi 00100 Kenya | Tel: +254 20 422 3805  
[BecA-Hub@cgiar.org](mailto:BecA-Hub@cgiar.org) | [hub.africabiosciences.org](http://hub.africabiosciences.org)

The Biosciences eastern and central Africa-International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI hub) platform is a shared agricultural research and biosciences facility co-created by ILRI and the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It increases access to world-class laboratories for African and international scientists conducting research on African agricultural challenges. The BecA-ILRI Hub is a focal point for learning, interaction and strategic research towards delivering products to improve food and nutritional security in Africa.  
[hub.africabiosciences.org](http://hub.africabiosciences.org)

NEPAD Agency is the implementing agency of the African Union, facilitating and coordinating the development of continent-wide programmes and projects, mobilising resources and engaging the global community, regional economic communities and countries in transforming Africa. NEPAD Agency is contributing to Africa's Agenda 2063 goals, the continent's long-term development framework for socio-economic transformation. [nepad.org](http://nepad.org)

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to improve food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for better and more sustainable use of livestock. ILRI is a CGIAR research centre. It works through a network of regional and country offices and projects in East, South and Southeast Asia, and Central, East, Southern and West Africa. [ilri.org](http://ilri.org)

CGIAR is a global agricultural research partnership for a food-secure future. Its research is carried out by 15 research centres in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations. [cgiar.org](http://cgiar.org)

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