



Research Area Director – Latin America and the Caribbean

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture - CIAT is one of 15 not-for-profit Centers funded mainly by various countries, private foundations, international and regional organizations that make up the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Through its research activities, CIAT aims to achieve a more eco-efficient agriculture at the service of the less privileged rural farming communities of Latin America and the tropical world. CIAT research is organized in three major areas: (1) improved crops for the poor, (2) improved soil fertility management, and (3) Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

CIAT is seeking applications for the newly created position of Research Area Director – Latin America and the Caribbean (RAD-LAC). The position will be based at CIAT headquarters (Cali, Colombia) under the Principal Manager Category and reports to the Director General. The LAC Research Area includes the following Programs: Decision and Policy Analysis, Amazon Ecoregional Program, Tropical Fruits, and the Agronatura Science Park which includes a CIAT Foundation (FUNDACIAT) that is currently being established and which will provide the ground to achieve development impact in LAC.

The RAD-LAC will be a key member of CIAT's Senior Management Team who, under the overall leadership of the Director General, is responsible for developing the institute's research strategy and for overseeing its implementation.

The Director will be responsible for ensuring the quality and scientific relevance of the research programs and for making sure that it is regularly reviewed and assessed. The incumbent will ensure that the Area has an appropriate structure, is well balanced and relevant to the achievement of the institute's mission. To this end, the RAD-LAC will be responsible for the Area's long-term strategic plan and for developing and submitting regular medium-term and annual work programs and budget.

The Director will oversee and support the development of project proposals for his/her research area from a technical and financial perspective. Together with the Resource Mobilization Officer and the Grants Management Office, the Director is responsible for regular proposal submissions, donor liaison, and establishing attractive project pipelines for programs under his/her supervision. As part of the Management Team, the Director will be actively involved in the allocation and management of core funds for research. The RAD-LAC will oversee the recruitment and management of scientific staff, the strengthening of partnerships, and will play a major role in fostering collaboration both among units within CIAT and with public, private, and civil society organizations (national, regional, and international) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Responsibilities

- Develop and lead strategic research initiatives with particular focus on integrating research across programs.
- Contribute to mobilize resources and in the preparation of research proposals for funding.
- Create a working environment that allows high performance research.
- Assure significant output and impact achievement in line with medium and strategic objectives.
- Prepare and implement business plans, medium-term plans, and strategic plans.
- Create an environment that will lead to outstanding publishing records.
- Coordinate, plan, and prepare external reviews, including monitoring overall follow-up on the implementation of agreed recommendations.
- Support the activities of the Program Committee of the Board of Trustees.
- Represent CIAT at national, regional, and international meetings.

Requirements

- PhD in agricultural sciences (biophysical or social).
- More than 10 years of relevant work experience related to national, regional, or international agricultural research in Latin America.
- Excellent written and spoken Spanish and English and very good working knowledge of Portuguese.
- Strong management and proven leadership skills.
- Excellent networking skills, alliance-building experience.
- Entrepreneurial perspective and ability to manage and plan a large range of activities, including a diverse profile of partnerships at international settings.

Terms of employment

The contract will initially be for a 3-year period, renewable subject to assessment of performance. CIAT offers internationally competitive salary and benefits, is an equal opportunity employer, and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality. Women and candidates from Latin America, Africa, and Asia are particularly encouraged to apply.

Closing date for applications: until the position is filled. Applicants should apply by email, including a cover letter, a full C.V., and the names and contact information of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate's professional qualifications and work experience. Applications should be sent to **CIAT-DLAC@cgiar.org** at the Office of the Director General. All applications will be acknowledged; only short listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about CIAT by accessing the web site:
www.ciat.cgiar.org

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