



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **FAO-CIHEAM FIELD RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR PHD STUDENTS AND YOUNG RESEARCHERS**

CIHEAM and FAO invite participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Forum for PhD students and Young Researchers on “Research and Innovation as tools for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security” to apply to undertake short-term field research linked to food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development to enhance practical skills to work in field projects. The initiative will provide successful applicants with an opportunity to engage with local, rural community-based organisations (i.e. producer organisations (POs), cooperatives, SMEs...) in these thematic areas: Enhancing food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture; sustainable land and water management in water scarce and coastal areas; alien pests management; increasing sustainability and inclusiveness of Mediterranean agri-food value chains; agri-entrepreneurship for rural poverty reduction; empowering women and youth in agriculture. The purpose is to strengthen interactions between young scientists, rural communities and local organisations, promote knowledge exchanges, equip youth with practical skills, share best practices and innovative tools for sustainable agriculture and rural poverty reduction, and foster networks and employment opportunities for young researchers and PhD students across the South of the Mediterranean region including through South-South Cooperation. This Field Research Initiative is technically supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

#### **The FAO - CIHEAM Field Research Initiative**

The FAO-CIHEAM Field Research Initiative is a competitive grants initiative designed as a PhD student/young researcher placement in a rural community-based local organisation (PO, SME, cooperative...) to apply, scale-out and disseminate research findings which can contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, increasing the sustainability and resilience of agriculture, improving livelihoods and reducing rural poverty and supporting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose of the initiative is to:

1. Provide an opportunity for the student to link academic work with the experience of a rural community and engage in knowledge exchanges with local farmers and producers;
2. Provide a local host organisation (i.e. PO, SME...) with the specialized knowledge of the student to scale out the research findings and promote new approaches for improving sustainable livelihoods and reducing rural poverty;
3. Provide the student with practical skills to apply research findings in development-related field projects, engage with local communities and generate innovative solutions;
4. In the framework of South-South Cooperation, create spaces for sharing of best practices and experiences among PhD students/young researchers and rural community POs/SMEs involved in the initiative, and other relevant stakeholders (including national apex POs, local government, private sector, academia, and civil society organizations).

#### **Call for Applications for FAO-CIHEAM Field Research Initiative**

There are ten awards available for PhD students /young researchers, participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Forum. These grants are for a maximum of 2500€ over a period of 2 months, and are intended to provide support for dissemination activities and materials, transport, and upkeep during the field research.

#### **Submission of proposal**

All applications must be received on-line and sent by e-mail to: [call\\_youth@iamb.it](mailto:call_youth@iamb.it)



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### **Eligibility**

Students who are participating in the 2nd Mediterranean Forum for PhD students and Young Researchers are eligible to send their applications with project proposals for field research. The projects will be selected based on the quality of the proposals. The submitted project proposals have to be linked to one or more of these themes: Enhancing food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture; sustainable land and water management in water scarce and coastal areas; alien pests management; increasing sustainability and inclusiveness of Mediterranean agri-food value chains; agri-entrepreneurship for rural poverty reduction; empowering women and youth in agriculture. All field research projects have to take place in POs or SMEs or other local organisations based in rural communities, in the country of origin of the PhD student/young researcher, and offer strategies and approaches to bring benefits at the community level. The PhD student/young researcher applicant must nominate a supervisor to guide this work during the field research.

### **What is expected from the Applicant?**

1. The Call is open to all PhD students and young researchers who participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Forum in Bari, 18-20 September, 2018;
2. The proposal must be linked to one or more themes indicated above, and possibly related to the PhD student's / young researcher's previous research;
3. Submitted on-line applications need to include a) a brief summary of the applicant's research work, including links to the publications, if any b) a short motivation of why they should receive the award 3) outline of what they propose to achieve during their attachment. d) proof of acceptance of the attachment by the local host organisation (i.e. PO, SME...) e) a letter of support to the application by the University and indication of the name of the PhD student's/young researcher's supervisor during the project.

### **Application Review Process**

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis by the FAO-CIHEAM team of experts. Criteria for selection and ranking by the team of experts:

1. Clear articulation of the purpose and relevance of the project proposal
2. Realistic timeline and achievable objectives
3. Clearly identified expected benefits for the host organisation and rural community where the project will take place
4. Participatory and innovative approaches for reducing rural poverty and improving sustainable livelihoods will be prioritised

### **Grant Award Process**

Letters will be sent to the student advising them of success and establishing banking details.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The Awardee is expected to provide:

- A final report submitted at the end of the field research to the FAO and CIHEAM team of experts: a) highlighting the findings of the field research b) follow-up actions identified together with a host organisation c) potential areas for further research
- A policy brief/analytical paper for dissemination prepared based on the implementation of activities during the project (i.e. for University newsletter...)
- Additional means to communicate results of the field research can be considered (i.e. through short videos, blog, etc.)



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**Time Frame for the call for applications**

1. Deadline for proposal submission to FAO-CIHEAM team of experts by November 2018
2. Review by FAO-CIHEAM team of experts finalized and results of the selection communicated to applicants by March 2019

**Inquiries and more information** e-mail to: [call\\_youth@iamb.it](mailto:call_youth@iamb.it)