ACHIEVE-IT

Academic Collaboration through Higher International Education for a Viable and Equitable Africa with Italy

CUP: D91I23001030006

Advanced training course on

Food system challenges to achieve food security in Africa

CALL FOR APPLICATION

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Parma, within the framework of the PNRR Achieve-It project *"Academic Collaboration through Higher International Education for a Viable and Equitable Africa with Italy (ACHIEVE-IT)"* - CUP: D91I23001030006 - at the Centro Universitario per la Cooperazione Internazionale (CUCI), announces a call for applications for the selection of **No. 10 researchers and university lecturers** to participate in the **advanced training course "Food system challenges to achieve food security in Africa"**.

Description of course content

The course aims to face different challenges of food systems to reach food security in Africa, from agriculture to food processing, quality and safety issues. The first session of the school will focus on the impact of agriculture practices on sustainable production, smart resilient crops, as well as innovation in agriculture to face climate changes. Then, the roles of food technology and food development on food security will be discussed. A focus on the important role of food fermentation to provide high quality, safe and nutritious food products together with safety and scale-up challenges will also be considered. Moreover, toxin contamination, risk evaluation and management, UE Regulatory aspects will be addressed.

Visits to food companies and university of Parma laboratories will be included in the School experience.

Planned Activities:

The course will include class sessions, workshops, roundtables, discussions, visits to university of Parma laboratories and food companies.

Participation in the course includes **6 days of in-person attendance** at the **University of Parma** (www.unipr.it) and an **11-day stay**, including **arrival and departure days**.

The course will take place from **June 8 to June 18, 2025** with the following schedule:

June 08: arrival in Italy

June 09: free and community time

June 10, 11, 12, 13, 16,17: Summer School in Parma's University Day

schedule:

> from 9.30 AM to 12.30 PM peer education sharing knowledge and research
>
> from 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM lunch time
>
> from 2.30 PM to 5.30 PM group activities and laboratory.

June 14-15: free and community time.

June 18: Departure

Benefits of the Mobility Grant

Selected participants will benefit from:

- A fully funded training period at the University of Parma.
- Opportunities for academic exchanges and collaboration.
- Exposure to innovative teaching methodologies.
- Potential to establish long-term research and teaching collaborations.

Target Audience

This call is specifically addressed to researchers and lecturers from the following universities:

- Burundi**, University Hope Africa**, Songa, Burundi
- Burundi, **Université des Grands Lacs**, Bujumbura
- Burundi**, University of Ngozi**, Ngozi, Burundi
- Ethiopia, **Hawassa University**, Hawassa
- Niger**, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey**, Nyamey
- Rwanda**, Catholic University of Rwanda**, Butare
- Rwanda**, INES-Ruhengeri**, Musanze
- Rwanda**, Rwanda Polytechnic**, Musanze
- Rwanda**, University of Rwanda**, Kigali
- Rwanda**, University of Technology and Arts of Byumba,** Byumba
- Sénégal**, UCAD Université Cheikh Anta Diop**, Dakar
- Tanzania**, Sokoine University of Agriculture**, Morogoro

II.   FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support must be considered to cover the expenses related to the travel and the stay abroad.
The amount is related to the days of actual stay in the host institution. In particular, the funding is as follows:

1) 1400€ for visa, health insurance, food and accommodation
2) 1200€ for ticket fly

III.   REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To be eligible, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Be members of the academic staff of one of the listed universities (target audience section of this document)
- Pursue academic work in fields relevant to the course
- Provide a self-certification of English language knowledge (at least B2 level)

Application Submission: Deadline: <u>14 March 2025</u>

To submit an application for enrolment, candidates must complete the online application form available at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Li0AGOuQG5ePXQuyBKSy_p7c-I16I307sWwdpY3ff_0/edit

The application must include:

- Proof of affiliation with one of the listed institutions.
- Completed application form.
- A Curriculum Vitae (including a list of publications).
- A motivation letter.
- Self-certification of English language knowledge or official certification of English language knowledge (at least B2)

IV.   SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection of candidates will be carried out on a 100-point scale, distributed as specified in the evaluation criteria. A merit ranking will be established based on the scores obtained, and admission to the course will be granted to candidates with the highest scores until all available places are filled.

Selection Criteria

1. Relevance of CV to the course objectives: Max. 40 points.

   a. **Fully Relevant**: The item is directly and entirely aligned with the specified topic of the course
   b. **Mostly Relevant**: The item is significantly aligned with specified topic of the course with only minor deviations.
   c. **Partially Relevant**: The item is somewhat aligned with the specified topic of the course but with notable gaps or inconsistencies.
   d. **Not Relevant**: The item has no discernible alignment with specified topic of the course

2. Publications relevant to the course topic: 2 points per publication, Max. 20 points.

3. Teaching and leadership experience: Max. 10 points.

   a. Teaching hours per year
   b. Institutional assignments (coordinators, directors, etc.)

4. Motivation letter: Max. 10 points.

5. The career time perspective will be considered, with preference given to individuals who have a longerterm career trajectory. Max. 20 points.

Age of the candidate	Pts
25-35	20
36-45	15
46-55	10
More than 55	5

Gender will be taken into account during the selection process. In cases where two candidates have equal qualifications and scores, preference will be given to promote gender balance and to the younger applicants

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- One official appointed by the University Centre for International Cooperation (CUCI) of the University of Parma.
- Two professors responsible for organizing the course.

The final ranking will be communicated to all applicants.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the submitted applications and compile a ranking list, which will be communicated to the participants in the competition by **March 24, 2025**.

V.   POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Selected candidates must confirm their acceptance within 10 days of notification by sending the signed acceptance form to CUCI with a copy to their home university.

Upon acceptance, the following steps will be required:

1. Define and sign the Mobility and Financial Agreement.
2. Comply with the administrative requirements of the hosting institution.

Withdrawal from the mobility grant may be made provided it occurs prior to the purchase of the ticket fly and the disbursement of the planned funding. Any withdrawal after these steps will necessitate full reimbursement of the funds already allocated.

Grounds for Rejection

The host university reserves the right to refuse staff for the mobility grant on the basis of objective impediments that are inconsistent with its regulations. These may include:

a) Failure to submit the required information of the selected staff within the stipulated deadline;
b) Non-compliance with the application procedures set forth by the sending university;
c) Failure to meet the language proficiency requirements specified by the partner institution;
d) Incompatibility between the proposed teaching plan and the educational offerings of the host institution;
e) Issues related to entry and stay regulations in the host country.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact:

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