



**Call applications for SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program- 2019  
in Agricultural Biotechnology  
SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**



Applications are invited from the potential candidates of SAARC Member Countries (except Afghanistan and Bangladesh) to pursue PhD study. Candidates should submit applications to Director, SAARC agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh on or before 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.



## Background

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) under the framework of SAARC has been working for strengthening agricultural research and development through regional networks of different institutions in South Asia. SAC has taken initiatives "SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program" to support aspiring agricultural professionals of the region to pursue their PhD degree in reputed agricultural universities in SAARC region and started this program since 2017. The scholarships provide financial support for applicants from SAARC Member States to undertake a postgraduate qualification at PhD level in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines for three years. The scholarships are competitive and merit-based providing opportunities for regular employees of the National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) in respective SAARC Member States to gain their PhD degrees.

The scholarship has been awarded in Soil Science to a candidate of Bangladesh for pursuing doctoral studies at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh in 2017 and another candidate from Afghanistan is pursuing her doctoral studies in Agricultural Economics at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 2018. SAC has been decided the "SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program-2019" in **Agricultural Biotechnology** for the academic year 2019.

## Eligibility

For 2019, applicants must be citizen of SAARC Member State (except Afghanistan and Bangladesh) and must be a regular employee of the National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System of the respective Member Countries. Applicants must be below the age of 40 years as on the date of application deadline. Applicants should have master's degree in agricultural sciences/ agricultural biotechnology/ plant breeding/ cytogenetics with excellent academic records from the recognized university and good command of spoken and written English. Candidates having master's degree, work experiences and publications on agricultural biotechnology and related fields will get weightage. Applicants must be available for full time PhD study from 2019 onwards for a period of three years.

## How to Apply

Applications are invited from potential candidates who have interest in pursuing their PhD study on Agricultural Biotechnology. Candidates should submit application along with supporting documents (certified copies of postgraduate and basic degree certificates, CV, copies of research paper published in indexed journals and a synopsis of research proposal) to the Director, SAC through the current employing institution, relevant ministry and SAARC Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / External Affairs of the home country with endorsements on or before 15th April 2019. The soft copy of application along with the necessary documents may directly be mailed to the Director ([director@sac.org.bd](mailto:director@sac.org.bd)) as an advance copy. Circular for calling applications and Application Performa are available on [www.sac.org.bd](http://www.sac.org.bd).

## PhD synopsis / Brief PhD proposal

Applicants are requested to submit a synopsis (brief proposal) of maximum 1000 words for PhD research under the given thematic area adhering to the format i.e. title, introduction, problem statement, objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and references. The proposal will be reviewed to determine whether the proposed research is within the scope of thematic area and the quality of research for awarding the scholarship for pursuing PhD degree. The outputs must lead to advance the existing knowledge in the field of study and to fill up the knowledge gap.

## Selection process

Applications received by the deadline (15th March 2019) will be pre evaluated by the Committee headed by Director, SAC according to the following criteria:

1. Academic records of the candidate (Bachelor degree and postgraduate degree)
2. Awards/medals/peer recognitions
3. Publications and research experiences in Agricultural Biotechnology
4. Relevancy and quality of PhD research synopsis

The short listed applications are finally evaluated and selection will be made by a committee comprise of regional expert team.

## Tenure and Placement

The SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program is tenable at the premier institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), India. The scholarship is for a period of three years on fulltime basis. SAC will facilitate the placement and admission.

## Host Institute

ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, New Delhi, India is the host institute. It is a premier institute for higher education in agricultural sciences established in 1905 and currently working at the status of Deemed University since 1958 in New Delhi, India. IARI has 20 divisions, 5 multi-disciplinary centers and 8 regional stations and offers research based PhD program in 26 disciplines with higher level of education and research and provides updated knowledge and skills in respective fields.

## Scholarship and related grant

1. Economy class airfare from home country and return at the end of PhD study;
2. Tuition fee;
3. Living allowances at the rate US\$ 600 per month for three years;
4. A one-time grant of US\$ 1000 to cover up expenditure for books, study materials, computer and thesis production;
5. A grant of US\$ 1000 per year to cover up research costs with the recommendation of PhD supervisor.

## Grant Conditions

The awardee should strictly follow the guidelines of respective university/institute. 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 to the host institute on behalf of SAARC Agriculture Center, Dhaka for the successful completion of PhD program. In case, leaving of the doctoral studies before the completion, the incumbent needs to surrender the entire fellowship amount with interest to the SAARC Agriculture Center, Dhaka. A hard and soft copy of the doctoral thesis needs to be submitted to the SAARC Agriculture Center, Dhaka after completion.

## Further contact

Dr. Rudra Bahadur Shrestha, Senior Program Specialist (Priority Setting and Program Development), SAARC Agriculture Centre, BARC Complex, New Airport Road, Dhaka 1215 Bangladesh (T:+88-2-8141655 or 8141140(Ext.105), F:+88-2-9124596, M:+880-1316814626, Email: [rudrabshrestha@gmail.com](mailto:rudrabshrestha@gmail.com) or [rudra@sac.org.bd](mailto:rudra@sac.org.bd))

Director  
SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)  
BARC Complex, New Airport Road  
Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh  
([director@sac.org.bd](mailto:director@sac.org.bd))