



## **CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

### **Seed Systems Project:**

#### **Call for Scholarship Applications: MSc in Agronomy/Plant Breeding 2019/2020**

The Seed Systems research project entitled "Strengthening farmer-managed seed systems for improved seed quality and access to preferred varieties in Malawi" funded by The McKnight Foundation Collaborative Crop Research Program is looking for **one enrolled student to be awarded a partial scholarship. This position is for a candidate who is currently pursuing Master of Science degree in Agronomy/Plant Breeding/ or Seed Science** and who has already completed or will soon complete course work at Bunda College of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR).

#### **Areas of Research:**

The niche of this project is seed systems of neglected and underutilised crops species (NUS) and yet they are so nutritious that they have high potential to contribute to the food and nutrition security of the country. The research is aimed at identifying, phenotyping and genotyping the crops' varieties with farmer preferred traits and contribute to building the capacity of the farmers to improve production and availability of quality seed of the NUS crop varieties in the targeted farming communities. The targeted communities are in the districts of Mzimba, Kasungu, Ntcheu and Chiradzulu. The research outputs are expected to contribute to strengthening the farmers' capacity in seed production and distribution to improve availability and access of quality seed of the NUS crops.

## **Application Requirements**

Qualified Malawian candidates should have strong BSc Degree in Agronomy, Agriculture and/or any other relevant agricultural related field (e.g. plant molecular biology/biotechnology, Horticulture) with a GPA of not less than 3.0. Selection of candidates will be based upon the merit of the transcript submitted, strength of CV, quality of concept note, and those, who have already been admitted in the MSc Agronomy/Plant Breeding program at LUANAR. The application must include the following:

- A cover letter
- Certified copy of your first degree certificate
- Certified copy of your first degree transcript
- Concept note focusing on the areas highlighted above (2-3 pages maximum)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two references from qualified referees (one should be your former research supervisor)

## **Stipend and research Support**

The support provides research expenses based on the project budget, tuition fees and student upkeep, based on acceptable academic standing and research progress.

## **Period of the scholarship**

The period of the scholarship is for a maximum of two years. The successful candidate(s) should therefore complete the studies within 24 months.

## **Expected Outputs**

Successful students will immediately participate in preparatory activities of the main project that include a baseline survey and identification of niche crops for the project. The student(s) will then develop their thesis research proposal and its implementation, focusing on phenotyping, genotyping and field evaluation of the farmers' preferred varieties & traits. Expected outputs include a thesis, published journal article(s), presentation of research findings at scientific fora, locally and globally. The candidate will also assist with coordination of his/her relevant research activities in the targeted project areas; Mzimba, Kasungu, Ntcheu and Chiradzulu.

## **How to Apply**

Interested candidates are asked to submit their applications before end of business on Friday 28th February, 2020 to the following:

**Farmer Managed Seed Systems (Mcknight Foundation -CCRP Grant # 19-265)**

**The Head of Crop and Soil Sciences Department  
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Bunda Campus  
P O Box 219  
Lilongwe**

Electronic copies should be submitted to: [mmaliro@luanar.ac.mw](mailto:mmaliro@luanar.ac.mw)

For inquiries you can also contact the Principal Investigator on  
+265999112540 (sms & WhatsApp.)