



**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
SECRETARIAT**

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SAARC Agriculture Centre PhD Scholarship: Call for Application

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC and has the honour to state that the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), according to its approved Calendar of Activities-2019, has announced "**Call for Application**" for the **SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship-2019**. The SAC invites applications from regular employees of National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System in the Member States of SAARC, except Bangladesh and Afghanistan, since such opportunities have been availed by Bangladesh and Afghanistan in the year 2017 and 2018, respectively. A copy of letter No. SAC/687/19/17 dated 31 January 2019 of the SAC, along with Call for Application and Application Form for SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship-2019, is attached.

The esteemed Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs (**except Bangladesh and Afghanistan**) are requested to take necessary measures to upload the announcement for the "**SAARC Agricultural PhD Scholarship – 2019**" in the websites of the following offices:

1. Ministry of Foreign/External Affairs;
2. Relevant Ministry(ies) and offices;
3. National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES); and
4. Relevant professional organizations/bodies/institutions.

The esteemed Member States may also like to post the same in the publicly accessible sites for a wider circulation. The prescribed Application Form could be downloaded from the SAC's website (www.sac.org.bd) and the deadline for submission of application is **15 April 2019**.

For any further information on the matter, Director, SAC (director@sac.org.bd) and Dr. Rudra Bahadur Shrestha, Senior Program Specialist (Priority Setting and Program Development), SAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh (Tel: +88-2-8141665, Fax: +88-2-9124596, Cell: +880-1316814626, Email: rudrabshrestha@gmail.com or rudra@sac.org.bd may kindly be contacted.

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) avails itself this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States of SAARC, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encls: a. a.

The Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs,
(SAARC Division),
Member States of SAARC.




Kathmandu, 1 February 2019

Copy to:

- (i) All Governing Board Members of SAC, SAARC Member States;
- (ii) Heads of SAARC Regional Centres/Specialized bodies, for posting the same in their webpage; and
- (iii) Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka.



SAARC AGRICULTURE CENTRE (SAC)

Ref: SAC/ 687/19/17

Date: 31/01/2019

H.E. Secretary General of SAARC
SAARC Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal

Attention: Director (ARD), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal

Subject: Request for issuance of *Note Verbale* for calling applications for SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program - 2019

Excellency,
Greetings from SAARC Agriculture Centre!

As a part of continuous efforts towards capacity building of young scientist in the region, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) has initiated SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Program in order to support aspiring young agricultural scientists to pursue their PhD degree program in reputed agricultural universities/ related institute in SAARC Member Countries. It is delighted to inform you that scholarship opportunities for 2017 & 2018 have already been offered from Bangladesh and Afghanistan, respectively. Now, SAC is happy to announce the offer of this scholarship program for the year of 2019 as per subsequent approval of the 56th Programming Committee.

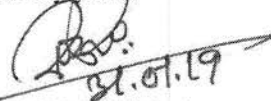
SAC invites applications from regular employees of National Agricultural Research, Extension and Education System in SAARC Member Countries (except Bangladesh and Afghanistan) since such opportunities have been availed by Bangladesh and Afghanistan in 2017 and 2018. Applicants should have master's degree in agricultural science/ agricultural biotechnology/ plant breeding/cytogenetics. The scholarship provides financial support to undertake PhD program in Agricultural Biotechnology at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), India for 3 years commencing from 2019.

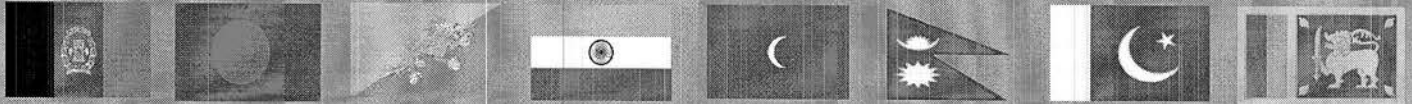
Circular for calling applications with detailed guidelines and applications performa are annexed also available on (www.sac.org.bd). The duly filed applications along with all supporting documents should be sent to Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre, BARC complex, Farmgate, Dhaka, Bangladesh through the current employing institution, relevant ministry and SAARC Division of the Ministry of foreign Affairs/Ministry of External Affairs of the respective home countries on or before 15 April 2019.

May I therefore humbly request Your Excellency to kindly issue a *Note Verbale* to the Ministries of Affairs/Ministries of External Affairs of each Member Country (except Bangladesh and Afghanistan) with copy to respective SAC-GB members to facilitate the nominations from the most suitable candidates.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours


(Dr. S. M. Bokhtiar)
Director



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 15th 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) as an advance copy. Circular for calling applications and Application Performa are available on 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 or rudra@sac.org.bd)

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

Reference No (Official use only):

Please affix 4cm
X 3cm color
photograph

**SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Application for SAARC Agriculture Scholarship – 2019

Important

- Regular employees of National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System from SAARC Member Countries except Afghanistan and Bangladesh (Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) are only eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be on or below 40 years of age by 30 April 2019
- Duly filled applications should be sent through the concerned respective head of institutions and ministries concerned.
- Copies of degree certificates, title page and abstract of postgraduate thesis, passport (information page), birth certificate (English version), documents for proof your employment, Proof for English proficiency, copies of publications and synopsis of the proposed PhD research should be annexed to this application.
- Incomplete applications in any respect will be rejected.

1. **Full Name:**

2. **Present employment (Name of designation):**

3. **Official address:**

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

4. **Permanent residential address:**

Telephone:

Email:

5. **Date of Birth:**
6. **Age as on 30th April 2019 (Years/ Months/ Days):**
7. **Nationality:**
8. **Gender:**
9. **Marital status:**
10. **Passport No:**
11. **Academic Qualifications (from highest qualification):**

Degree	Year		University/ Institute	Major subjects	Grade/ Class/ Division
	From	To			

12. **Title of the postgraduate (MSc, MS, MPhil) research / Title of the thesis**

13. **Employment records (from most recent position):**

Post / Position / Rank held	Name and address of organization / institution	Period of service (Month/Year)		Brief job description and responsibilities
		From	To	

14. **List of scientific publications including research articles, books, chapters, abstracts and popular articles etc (Attach a separate sheet if the given space is inadequate):**

15. **Consent for pursuing of PhD under the given thematic area/ specialization (Tick off (√)):**

No.	Name of the PhD program	Thematic area / Specialization	Tick off (√)
1	Agricultural Economics	Trade and Development	

14. Title of the proposed PhD research (PhD synopsis must be annexed):

Declaration by the candidate

I do hereby declare that particulars provided by me in the foregoing items are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statements or any required information withheld from this form may provide grounds for the withdrawal of any offer of scholarship. In the event of my being selected for the program of study I have applied for, I do agree to abide by such regulations of the institute as applicable to me.

.....
Signature of the applicant
Date:

Recommendation of the candidate's employer / Head of Institution / Head of Department

I do hereby certify that Mr / Ms.....
..... (full name) of
..... (official address) shall be released on deputation for 3 years to pursue the PhD program offered by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from the day of commencement of the program

Date: Signature:
Name:
Address:

.....
Official rubber stamp

Recommendation of the concerned Ministry

I do hereby certify that Mr / Ms.
..... (full name) of
..... (official address)
under ministry of
(name of the concerned ministry) shall be released on deputation for 3 years to pursue the PhD

program offered by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh from the day of the commencement of the PhD program

Date: Signature:

Name:

Address:

.....
Official rubber stamp
