



PhD opportunity announcement

Determine the contribution of physiological traits to heat and drought stress adaptation in wheat

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico is working in the framework of the project “Harnessing translational research across a global wheat improvement network for climate resilience” on the effects of heat and drought stress on wheat genotype adaptation. The project investigates the expression of stress-adaptive traits that include early vigor, biomass accumulation, pigment-related indices, cool canopies and estimates of final biomass in contrasting (in terms of stress adaptation) wheat germplasm. Over the next 5 years various field trials will be established by CIMMYT at the experimental station near Ciudad Obregón in Sonora, NW Mexico beginning in November 2020.

Together with the Department of Management of Crop Water Stress in the Tropics and Subtropics (490g) from the University of Hohenheim, the Plant Physiology team of the Global Wheat Program (CIMMYT) is searching for a **PhD candidate, who will**

- (1) examine stress-adaptive traits during the winter wheat seasons (February to June) in Mexico, and
- (2) conduct experiments under controlled conditions with CIMMYT germplasm at the University of Hohenheim in Germany.

Furthermore, the candidate will be enrolled in a PhD program which includes coursework at the University of Hohenheim in Germany.

The identified candidate, together with supervisors from the Department of Management of Crop Water Stress in the Tropics and Subtropics (Germany) and CIMMYT (Mexico), needs to 1) develop a PhD project proposal, and 2) apply for a PhD scholarship at “ATSAF – Council for Tropical and Subtropical Research”, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in collaboration with giz.

Details about the Academy: <https://www.atsaf.org/en/atsaf-academy/>

Full scholarships (3+1 years) are to be awarded with a PhD project start 1 April 2021.

Expected qualifications of the candidate:

- General knowledge of plant physiology and genetics.
- Experience with field and greenhouse work is beneficial.
- Experience with reviewing literature to identify knowledge gaps.
- Very good and certified English skills (TOEFL: 550, IELTS: 6). Basic Spanish is an asset. Proficiency in German is not required, but would be an asset for daily living.
- Willingness to conduct field work in NW Mexico (depending on the possibility of international travel during the COVID-19 pandemic).
- MSc in Agricultural Sciences or related fields (e.g. Biology, Ecology, Plant Sciences, Soil Sciences).
- A curious personality, which is key in an early stage of a scientific career

To express your interest, please send 1) a 1-page cover letter expressing your interest and 2) a resume providing details of your education and experience **by 5 February 2021 to both of the following:**

Dr. Janet Lewis, j.lewis@CGIAR.org

Dr. Hannes Karwat, h.karwat@CGIAR.org