Call for Degree-Training Applications

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Cambodia) under its Feed the Future program aims to strengthen human resources within Cambodia’s food and agricultural development organizations and agricultural universities. Under this initiative, a limited number of scholarships will be awarded to qualified Cambodian citizens to pursue graduate study in the United States or within the Southeast Asia region including Cambodia.

These scholarships are open to Cambodian nationals residing in Cambodia. Priority will be given to applicants who are currently working in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Office of the Council of Ministers, the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Cambodian Development Resource Institute, and the Council for the Development of Cambodia; faculty and students from agricultural universities such as the Royal University of Agriculture and others; Cambodian participants in USAID-funded Collaborative Research Support Projects, and Cambodian staff of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

This call for application is for Masters and potentially PhD degree scholarship opportunities for study in the United States or in select agricultural universities in Cambodia or Southeast Asia. Graduate studies will begin in August or September, 2013. Scholarship recipients will complete required coursework at the overseas university, but the thesis/dissertation research will be conducted in Cambodia. Preference will be given to applicants interested in program evaluation/impact evaluation and whose research interests match the agricultural development priorities of Cambodia. It is anticipated that at least 50% of trainees will be women.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

- Academic preparation: For Master's degree, candidates holding Bachelor's degree with B or higher grade may apply. For PhD applicants, a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or above at the Masters level;
- Statement of purpose (1-page) describing applicant’s desired degree area, how the degree would benefit the development of agriculture in Cambodia, and his/her professional or career goal;
- Relevant educational background and professional experience; and
- Strong written and spoken English language skills.

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION:** Applicants are required to submit:

(a) Completed Application form (Application Form can be downloaded from: [http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/cambodia/index.htm](http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/cambodia/index.htm))
(b) Statement of purpose that specifies the applicant’s desired degree area and how the degree would benefit the development of agriculture or agricultural research in Cambodia,
(c) Up-to-date curriculum vitae,
(d) Copy of college and university transcripts,
(e) GRE (Graduate Record Examination) and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores if applicant has already taken these examinations,
(f) Letter of support from an employer if working for an organization, and
(g) Passport identification page (or other ID).

These documents will be used as screening materials for candidate selection.

When selecting the cohort of scholarship recipients, attention will be given to creating a diverse group of scholars around gender, academic discipline, and organizational affiliation. The Trainee Selection Committee will review applications promptly. Short-listed candidates will be invited for a face-to-face interview during January 21-22, 2013 in Phnom Penh. The recommended candidates must plan to take the TOEFL and GRE tests by February 2013. Final selection of degree training candidates will be made in March 2013.

**APPLICATION:** Submit application materials (scanned copies saved in a single document) as email attachment **by January 15, 2013** to: suvedi@anr.msu.edu