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.

These scholarships are open to Cambodian nationals who are interested in agriculture, food security and nutrition. Applications are invited for Masters 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/September 2014. Scholarship recipients will complete required coursework at the overseas university, but the thesis research will be conducted in Cambodia. Preference will be given to applicants interested in food security or related area 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: Candidates holding Bachelor’s degree with an average grade of B or higher, Masters degree preferred;
- Strong English language skills—Study in the United States requires a TOEFL score of 80 or higher, or an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher. **Scholarship applicants must submit copies of their TOEFL/IELTS test scores with their application materials**;
- Statement of purpose (1-page)—applicants should describe their desired field of study, how their degree training would benefit the development of agriculture in Cambodia, and his/her professional or career goal(s); and
- A current resume or C.V. that demonstrates relevant work or professional experience.

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP 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 agricultural research in Cambodia (1-page),
c) Up-to-date curriculum vitae,
d) Copy of college and university transcripts,
e) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS score report,
f) Letter of support from their employer, and
g) Copy of Passport identification page (or other government-issued pictured 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 on or about January 15-16, 2014 in Phnom Penh.

The recommended candidates must already have valid GRE scores or plan to take the GRE tests by February 2014. Final selection of degree training candidates will be made in March 2014. The recommended candidates will be required to complete a separate application for admissions to select graduate programs in February/March 2014.

**APPLICATION:** Scholarship applicants should submit their application materials (scanned copies saved in a single document) as email attachment by December 31, 2013 to: suvedi@msu.edu