



AfricaRice

Support to two students enrolled in PhD programme in Africa

The Africa Rice Centre (AfricaRice) is seeking to provide technical and financial supports to two highly motivated PhD students enrolled in an African University to work on key research topics in Nigeria.

About AfricaRice

The Africa Rice Centre (AfricaRice) is a leading pan-African rice research organization committed to improving livelihoods in Africa through strong research and effective partnership. AfricaRice is a CGIAR research Center. It is also an intergovernmental association of 28 African member countries, with headquarters in Côte d'Ivoire.

About the project

The AfricaRice Centre is implementing the "Carbon Offsetting Rice Emissions (CORE) project" and the Climate Action Science Programme in Nigeria. The CORE project is funded by the "Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit" (GIZ) and aims to support smallholder farmers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from rice cultivation through the adoption of scientifically validated mitigation practices which enhanced rice yield and farmers income. The Climate Action Science Programme, funded by the One CGIAR System Organization, comprises five areas of work, including the Low Emission Transitions component, which focuses on developing Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks and evaluating cost-effective methane and carbon mitigation strategies. The PhD studies will directly support the goals of the CORE project and the Low Emission Transitions area under the Climate Action Science programme.

Rice is a critical staple and income source in West Africa, with Nigeria being a major producer. However, the average rice yield remains low due to limited adoption of improved technologies and constrained access to inputs by smallholder farmers who dominate the sector. Intensification of rice production is increasing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane and raising environmental concerns. To address these challenges, the CORE project and the Low emission transition area of work of the Climate Action Science Programme will generate evidence on climate-smart practices and develop carbon accounting methodologies tailored to Nigerian rice systems.

The AfricaRice through the CORE project seeks to provide technical and financial supports to two students already enrolled in PhD programme in an African University. The successful candidate will work on one of the following key research topics in Nigeria.

1. Assessment of the effects of alternate wetting and drying (AWD) and azolla on greenhouse gas emission, rice yield and global warming potential in irrigated lowlands
2. Effects of biochar on greenhouse gas emission, rice yield and global warming potential in rainfed lowlands.

The selected student is expected to start on January 2026 and will be based in Kano and Benue or Nasarawa.

What we offer

AfricaRice will provide technical and financial support from January 2026 to December 2028. The scholarship requires a three-month annual research stay at the AfricaRice Centre in M'bé, Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire to enable interaction with the supervisor. It covers tuition fees, stipends, insurance, research expenses, travel between Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, and participation in three regional or international conferences. The selected students will be enrolled in a University in Nigeria.

Qualifications

- A university degree (MSc) with specialization in Agronomy or Soil Science or Environmental management or any other closely related field obtained within the last five years.
- Proficient in English
- Proven qualifications in advanced use of statistical methods
- Excellent analytical skills preferably demonstrated through previous research or work experience (e.g. MSc thesis, peer-reviewed papers, scientific reports)
- Evidence of previous publications in quality peer-reviewed journals is an advantage

Eligibility

- Candidate must hold a passport from one of the 28 member states of AfricaRice (See the AfricaRice website, www.africarice.org for the list of countries).

How to apply

Interested and qualified candidates should submit their applications as pdf file(s) to L.Dalie@cgiar.org. In the subject line of your email, write "application to PhD in greenhouse gas emissions" underscore your family name and abbreviations of your other names, e.g. Kone_O.P.

A complete application package should include:

1. Motivation letter clearly stating the motivation for conducting research on the selected topic. Please choose one of the two topics. However, candidates are also permitted to apply for both.
2. Concise curriculum vitae, focusing on relevant work experience, publications, and scientific engagement;
3. Two recommendation letters from candidate PhD supervisor; and a former supervisor
4. Brief proposal, a maximum of 500 words on the selected topic above, focusing on research questions, research design and methodology
5. Certificates and transcripts of candidate Master and Bachelor degrees, listing all subjects and grades obtained.

Complete application package should be sent Not later than **30th November, 2025**

*AfricaRice promotes equal opportunities and believes that the diversity of its staff contributes to excellence. We thank all candidates, but **only applications with complete application package will be considered and shortlisted candidates will be contacted.** For more information on AfricaRice, please visit our website at: www.AfricaRice.org*