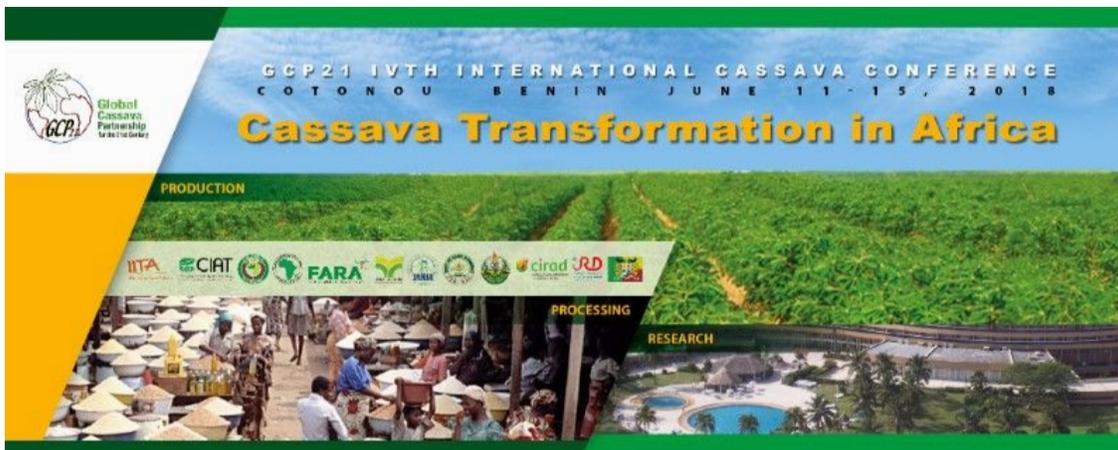


GCP21 NewsLetter #14

[View this email in your browser](#)Important
Announcement

GCP21 is seeking a new Director to take the lead and drive the project to its second phase. You will find below the details of this position and where to apply if you are interested.



In this Issue

- [GCP21 is seeking a new director](#)
- [GCP21 and its goals](#)
- [The position and key responsibilities](#)
- [Qualification and terms of employment](#)
- [How to apply](#)

GCP21 is Seeking a New Director

Conference Statement



The African Development Bank – AfDB - is launching, with the contribution of IITA and many other institutions in Africa and in the world, a very ambitious agricultural program entitled: Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation – TAAT, in which cassava is one of

The Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century - GCP21, will reach the end of its first phase of funding by September 30th 2018, and its current Director will retire after 5 years of exercise. Therefore, GCP21 is seeking a new Director to take the lead and drive the project to its second phase. You will find below the details of this position and where to apply if you are interested.

GCP21 and its Goals

CIAT

The [International Center for Tropical Agriculture \(CIAT\)](#) seeks to develop technologies and generate knowledge for making agriculture more competitive and profitable, as well as sustainable and resilient, to benefit smallholder agricultural producers and poor consumers in the world's tropical regions. CIAT is a CGIAR Center which conducts research to improve key crops (cassava, common bean, rice, and tropical forages), to reverse soil and land degradation, and to foster better decisions about issues such as climate change and environmental management.

Headquartered near Cali, Colombia, CIAT was a co-founder of [GCP21 – The Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century](#), and is currently the recipient of a BMGF grant to support GCP21.

The Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century (GCP21) was created in 2002, to create a partnership of institutions dedicated to leveraging the tools of modern biotechnology and plant breeding to transform cassava into a more productive and resilient crop.

GCP21's main goal is however to enhance global food security, sustainable production and economical opportunity for hundreds of millions of people, through the development and deployment of improved cassava technologies.

To achieve this goal, GCP21 will act on three levels:

- [Advocating, networking and rallying variable stakeholders](#) to trigger an increase of funding for cassava

the major crops. It is a unique opportunity for all participants to know more about the program and see how they could contribute to this formidable opportunity!

Links



- [GCP21](#)
- [BMGF](#)
- [CIAT](#)
- [IITA](#)
- [AfDB](#)
- [RTB](#)
- [CORAF](#)
- [FAS-UAC](#)
- [INRAB](#)



R&D, to facilitate the transfer of science and technology to cassava to fill existing gaps, and to enhance international collaboration geared at cassava productivity increase.

- Identifying gaps in R&D in the cassava production and transformation chain, from farmers to consumers. Developing modern tools towards the creation of more advanced improved cassava cultivars, towards a better management of cassava diseases and towards improving healthier cassava products for multiple users.
- Collecting and circulating information through a global network and an inclusive cassava portal about the crop, the scientists, the projects, and multiple databases to be regularly updated. In addition, meetings and conferences will convene regularly.

The overall concept of GCP21 is not to implement projects but rather to stimulate the creation of new projects based on scientific and technical gaps identified through broad participatory meetings with experts from different horizons.

GCP21 is a partnership of institutions cooperating to achieve these objectives. They include national research organizations in developing countries, international agricultural research centers, advanced laboratories, private companies, cassava production and processing associations and a number of donor organizations supporting cassava R&D. The work of GCP21 will strengthen national research organizations in cassava-growing countries and benefit their constituents, i.e. cassava farmers, industrial users, and consumers.

GCP21 will play a major role at identifying scientific and technical bottlenecks, such as the potential spreading of deadly cassava viruses throughout Africa or the rest of the world. Typically, these meetings will generate a road map which will be published and will be used as a reference for implementing action plans involving many organizations, acting in a synergistic manner towards this common goals.

The Position and Key Responsibilities

The new **GCP21 Director** is expected to be an African from one of the sub-saharan countries producing cassava, and will

have the task to run GCP21 and continue all the activities that have been undertaken in the first phase of the project. These activities can be summarized as follows: 1) advocating for cassava R&D in institutions, instances, meetings and conferences where cassava is of importance for the world. 2) organizing strategic meetings on key topics for cassava to invite scientists, developers and other key persons to contribute at identifying and filling important gaps in cassava value chains all over the world. 3) generating and spreading information about cassava production and processing, in the form of a unique cassava portal, organizing tri-annual cassava conferences, publishing relevant publications to boost R&D consideration, seeking financial support for GCP21 and related activities.

Key Responsibilities:

- Running regular meetings of the GCP21 Secretariat by skype or similar technology
- Generating and submitting concept notes about GCP21 to seek financial support from a range of donors
- Writing full proposals to interested donors to support GCP21 phase II.
- Co-organizing the IVth GCP21 International Cassava Conference, Benin, June 11-15, 2018, with the current Director of GCP21.
- Updating the different components of the GCP21 website.

Qualification and Terms of Employment

- PhD. or Engineer level in applied/development/agricultural/environmental studies preferably with specialization on cassava value chains and systems.
- Minimum 5 years of field-oriented economics research experience relevant to cassava.
- Broad knowledge of the cassava agriculture sector and its interface with food and industrial processing.
- Demonstrated capacity for communication in various ways; presentations, documents, digital...

- Commitment to interdisciplinary R&D cassava development.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.

Terms of employment

The position is a two-year consultancy contract and the candidate will operate from home, until new funds will allow to relocate GCP21 at AATF, Nairobi, Kenya. The initial contract will be for two (2) years, subject to a probation period of six (6) months, and could be extended as an International position depending on performance and availability of resources. The position shall be under the supervision of CIAT's Director of Agrobiodiversity.

CIAT is an equal opportunity employer, and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

How to Apply

African applicants are invited to send a cover letter illustrating their suitability for the above position against the listed qualifications, competencies, skills together with a detailed curriculum vitae, including names and addresses of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate's professional qualifications and work experience. All correspondence should be addressed to the CIAT Human Resources Office to Andrea Linares (z.a.linares@cgiar.org) and should clearly indicate **"GCP21 New Director Position"**.

Closing date for applications: December 31th, 2017.

Pre-application inquiries may be addressed to the CIAT Director of Agrobiodiversity

(j.tohme@cgiar.org)

We invite you to learn more about us at:

<http://www.ciat.cgiar.org> and **GCP21:**

<http://www.gcp21.org/index.html>



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