



## 2024 Internship Program For Emerging European Scientists

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**African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)** and **Agropolis Fondation** are jointly implementing the [One Planet Fellowship](#), a career development initiative targeting scientists working at the nexus of agriculture and climate change. The Fellowship is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and BNP Paribas Foundation with additional support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the European Union (EU) Commission. The Fellowship seeks to build a vibrant and highly connected network of African and European scientists equipped to lead cutting-edge research and innovation to help a diverse group of men and women small-scale farmers adapt to a changing climate in Africa.

Through the One Planet Fellowship, collaborative research, training, and professional networks are anticipated to increase by implementing a series of interventions, including **internship programs for emerging European** scientists.

### Objectives of the Internship Program

The Internship Program represents an opportunity to visit and conduct research for one month at an African institution and complete any other associated activities for the remaining five months in their home institution.

Offered by AWARD and Agropolis Fondation through the One Planet Fellowship Initiative, this is an opportunity for emerging European researchers to immerse themselves in the African context, learning about the environmental challenges and rural and agricultural development and supporting the design of appropriate solutions to climate change.

The selected emerging researchers will acquire field experience in a diverse African environment through the internship programs and broaden their perspectives of agriculture and food systems in varying landscapes.

In addition, it is a great way to enhance networking and build collaborative working relations with other scientists at national, regional, and global levels to solve climate change issues. It is hoped that new knowledge and best practices will be generated, shared, adapted, and replicated to the extent possible.



## Who do we look for?

The internship program specifically targets:

- European scientists (EU nationals), male and female, below 30 years old, ready to work in a multicultural environment.
- European students interested in conducting research in Africa as part of their study programs.
- European Master and PhD students or junior scientists working in various European research institutions and universities. Their focus research areas or study programs should be clearly connected to agriculture, food systems, climate change, and gender.

## Selection process

The call for the internship program is now open and will close in early February 2024. Eligible candidates are invited to submit their application forms online on or before **February 2, 2024**. The selection committee will review the submissions and notify the successful candidates **no later than three weeks** after submitting their applications.

## Matching process

Following the successful selection, each European scientist will be paired with an African scientist - "Science Mentor" - working in an African-based university or research institution. The matching will be done based on similar research interests. The matching pairs will be notified in good time to organize an **online introductory meeting** facilitated by AWARD. The Science Mentor will host the European scientist for one (1) month at his/her institution.

## Internship activities

### *Virtual work planning*

In the planning phase, each pair is expected to work virtually to identify the research topic and formulate research questions, develop a methodology, possible fieldwork, and report. The proposed work plan must specify the tasks that will be done at the African institution and those that will be completed on the return of the European junior scientist to their home institution. The work plan must be ready at **least two weeks** before the start of the internship program.

### *Launch, Training, and Networking Week*

The internship program will begin with a **Launch, Training, and Networking Week** in **Nairobi, Kenya**.

**Two sessions will be organized:**

- **One session in March, from 25 to 30 March 2024**
- **One session in April, from 15 to 20 April 2024**



The selected European junior scientists will attend the workshop with the African scientists and other African junior scientists. The one-week workshop will focus on:

- Developing roadmaps with guidance and input from African scientists and;
- Finalizing the work plan for the engagement during the one-month research placements in Africa-based institutions.

AWARD will also organize educational site visits for the participants during the workshop week.

### *Scientific visits to host institutions in Africa*

Following the one-week-long workshop in Nairobi, the European junior scientists will proceed for a **one-month scientific visit** at the African scientists' institution ("Science Mentors"). AWARD and the selected host institutions will support the European scientists in settling down in the country and institution, conducting desk review and fieldwork, and any other reasonable support they may require during their stay.

AWARD anticipates that the scientific visits may take place in the following countries:

- Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire
- Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria
- Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia

**Note:** While the scientific visits are scheduled for a one-month period, they can be extended if the European junior scientists can secure additional funding to complete the requirements under their study/research programs.

### *Virtual (monthly) follow-up sessions*

The one-month scientific visits will be followed by monthly check-in sessions up to July - August 2024. During these sessions, it is expected that all the researchers, including the European junior scientists involved in the internship programs, will pursue their mutual engagement and collaboration on the roadmaps and research work initiated in the program. AWARD will coordinate the follow-up sessions and collect, with the scientists' support, the necessary information/data for the program assessment.

## **Practical modalities**

AWARD and Agropolis Fondation will cover the costs of the internship programs and local hosting in African countries. These costs include a **round-trip flight ticket, accommodation, meals, living expenses**, and any other eligible costs approved by AWARD and Agropolis Fondation.



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**AWARD** works toward inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for the African continent by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender-responsive agricultural research and innovation. We invest in African scientists, research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa's agricultural value chains. [www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org).

**Agropolis Foundation** is a French scientific foundation established in 2007 that promotes, through research and higher education, the development and sharing of knowledge in the service of stakeholders in agriculture and sustainable development. [www.agropolis-fondation.fr](http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr)

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