



AFRICAN UNION



NEPAD
A Programme of The African Union

Biosciences eastern and central Africa Network (BecANet)

Regional Network Director

Background

African Biosciences Initiative is an initiative of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) that is being implemented through regional networks of laboratories and technoparks that are involved in carrying out cutting edge research and development, and in transferring biosciences technologies. A regional network approach has been adopted where institutions have made their resources available to address common problems that impinge on the region in the areas of human health, crop and livestock production, environmental management, and bio-prospecting, etc.

Four regional networks have been established throughout the continent with the Biosciences east and central Africa Network (BecANet) covering countries in east and central Africa, the Southern African Network for Biosciences (SANBio) covering southern African countries, the West African Biosciences Network (WABNet) covering ECOWAS countries and the North African Biosciences Network (NABNet) for six countries in North Africa. A network comprises of a hub and nodes spread throughout the region. The hub is an institution that is involved in cutting edge research and has critical mass of expertise that is actively involved in research and development while nodes are institutions that are also actively involved in research and have expertise that provide unique skills and research facilities to complement the capacity of the hub. This arrangement allows institutions in the region to address problems that require a pool of human, physical and financial resources.

The Biosciences eastern and central Africa Network secretariat is located at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). The network has 17 member countries namely Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda. The secretariat is managed by a network Director who reports to the coordinator of NEPAD/African Biosciences Initiative and has the following functions:

1. Manage, administer and further the vision, mission and objectives of the BecANet.
2. Direct the scientific and administrative activities of the BecANet.

3. Implement strategic plans as well as undertake strategic marketing of BecANet.
4. Ensure that network activities are decentralized to member states in terms of planning and implementation in order to enhance maximum utilization of resources
5. Fund raise in order to secure adequate and stable sources of financing so that the regional network as an organization becomes self-sustaining financially and able to provide support to the Nodes in the region
6. Foster and promote entrepreneurial values and skills as an integral part of all programmes being provided
7. Prepare and submit to the BecANet Steering Committee and NEPAD Agency, quarterly and yearly comprehensive action plans and progress, financial reports and budgets
8. Develop and maintain proper reporting and effective relationship and good communications with partner institutions as well as stakeholders
9. Oversee the implementation of the Steering Committee resolutions, directives and guidelines
10. Ensure that the accounts relating to network funds are audited annually and timely by an authorized and certified Auditor
11. Implement all decisions of the Steering Committee

NEPAD/African Biosciences Initiative is looking for a suitable candidate to occupy the position of BecA Network Director. S/he should be a citizen of one of the participating countries with relevant qualifications as outlined below.

Qualifications:

The preferred candidate should have a PhD in biological sciences or related areas of science and will be an experienced and credible senior individual with strong leadership and excellent organizational skills. Additional position requirements include the following:

- In depth knowledge of new and advanced bioscience applications
- Skills and experience in strategic planning and implementation
- Experience in initiating and developing networks/collaborations with a range of stakeholders within a complex multidisciplinary and multicultural setting
- Excellent communication, writing, presentation and networking skills and proven ability to influence and engage a wide range of stakeholders
- Experience in developing proposals, negotiating and securing support from investors
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Experience in research management in biological sciences
- Work experience in the eastern and central Africa.

Remuneration

The remuneration level for this position is negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience.

Duration

The successful candidate will be offered a two-year contract subject to renewal based on performance assessment.

Interested candidates should send their applications and curriculum vitae (indicating three referees) by Wednesday, 31st March 2010 for the attention of:

Coordinator
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