TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PHD RESEARCH WORK SUPPORT UNDER THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC INITIATIVE IN KENYA

A. INTRODUCTION

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) wishes to support Ph.D. students with ongoing field work with funding support from the Swedish Society for Nature and Conservation. The funds will supplement the filed data collection expenses. The aim is to increase the knowledge of the University’s research results in the international research world and in the general public on Ecological Organic Agriculture and Agroecology. Priority will be given to cutting-edge research work addressing issues of agricultural production and productivity, food security and nutrition, income generation, access to markets and trade in Africa.

B. PROJECT SUMMARY

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative is an African Union-led continental undertaking currently implemented in the nine countries: 5 in eastern Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Tanzania) and 4 in west Africa (Mali, Benin, Senegal and Nigeria).

Its overall goal is to contribute to mainstreaming of Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa. It is implemented through programmes and projects under the guidance and oversight of the AU chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC) which has been mandated to establish an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and to develop sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality.

The project has 4 Objectives namely:
1) To increase documentation of information and knowledge (evidence) on organic agricultural products along the complete value chain and support relevant actors to translate it into practices and wide application (scaling up).
2) To systematically inform producers about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivate their uptake through strengthening access to advisory and support services.
3) To substantially increase the share of quality organic products at the local, national, regional and global markets.
4) To strengthen inclusive stakeholder engagement in the development of organic commodity value chains by strengthening national, regional and continental multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for changes in public policy, plans and practices.

Based on its current 10 years strategic plan, the initiative is anchored on six interrelated pillars: (i) Research, training and extension, (ii) Information and communication, (iii) Value chain and market development, (iv) Networking and partnership, (v) Policy and programme development, and (vi) Institutional capacity development.
Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is one of the lead organizations working with other partners and networks to support the development and growth of EOA Initiative in Africa. BvAT is a not-for-profit organization established in Kenya in 2009 by the Biovision Foundation for ecological development in Switzerland and is located in the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Campus in Nairobi. The Trust’s goal is to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya and other African countries through supporting dissemination of information and knowledge on appropriate technology to improve human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

Under this call for research publication support, BvAT is taking lead in the implementation of the Research Component of the EOA Initiative under support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

C. PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

To support PhD students with field data collection expenses in order to finalize their data collection work successfully. Areas of interest that will be viable for the funding support will include organic agriculture, sustainable agriculture, agroecology, agroforestry, policy related studies in organic agriculture, marketing related studies, consumer studies, food security and nutrition in the context of organic agriculture and any other related studies.

D. DETAILS OF THE APPLICATION

⇒ Personal information
⇒ Title of the Thesis
⇒ Concept note of the thesis
⇒ Letter of recommendation from the University
⇒ Reference letter from 2 university supervisors
⇒ Quote / cost calculation for the field study expenses

E. QUALIFICATIONS

PhD students from Kenyan universities already undertaking field data collection. This call is open to both public and private universities.

F. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORT

The authors have to acknowledge receipt of the financial support of the research by Biovision Africa Trust and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation: e.g. This work was supported by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) with funding from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) [grant number xxx].
Applications must be received no later than **Friday, August 31, 2020**.

Applications received after this deadline will not be processed. Decision on which applications to fund will be made in September 2020, and successful applicant informed accordingly.

If you have a ready research manuscript for consideration for publication, please send your application to [info@eoai-africa.org](mailto:info@eoai-africa.org).

If you have any questions about the application procedure, the processing of applications or the electronic application system, please contact us through the provided email.