Announcement of Scholarship Opportunities
Under the
Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program

Under its Feed the Future initiative, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) Program. Implemented by Michigan State University (MSU), the BHEARD program honors the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug. The program will support long-term training of agricultural researchers at the master’s and doctoral levels. This is a major new effort to increase the number of agricultural scientists and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries.

Mali has been selected as one of 11 countries for the second cohort of BHEARD Fellows. The scholarships will support study in the United States or other English speaking African countries. Training programs will cover up to two years of courses for master’s students and up to three years of courses for doctoral students. Each student’s research will be carried out in Mali.

Priority is given to current staff members from the following institutions: Institut d’Economie Rural/(IER); l’Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (IPR/Katibougou); and the Laboratoire Centrale Vétérinaire. The primary fields of study identified by USAID in Mali are: livestock, genetics, transgenetics, biosciences, molecular studies, biometrics, biostatistics, biotechnology, agroeconomics & agribusiness, management of agricultural projects, rural sociology, extension services, database management, soil and plant analysis.

The Trainee Selection Committee will review applications and select candidates based on the following criteria:

1. Current and future role at one of the participating institutions.
2. Malian national residing in Mali.
3. Strong academic performance at the Bachelor’s level (first or upper second class pass) or Master’s level. Relevant educational background and professional experience.
4. Strong written and spoken French language skills. Good written and spoken English language skills.
5. Under 32 years of age for master’s applicants, and under 35 years of age for PhD applicants. An exception may be made for female PhD candidates up to the age of 40.

Qualified female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications and application procedures may be obtained from the BHEARD web site (BHEARD.isp.msu.edu). The application deadline is August 1, 2015. Queries may be made via e-mail (BHEARD@isp.msu.edu).