Vacancy announcement:

Systematic review on enabling environments and scaling of agroecology in Latin America

Context and objective

The CGIAR Research Program “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security” (CCAFS) leads research for development to support farmers in the context of climate change and to ensure food security and resilience. Along with climate-smart agriculture, agroecology or the ‘science of sustainable agriculture’ is currently promoted by international organizations, research institutions, and development agencies such as FAO, IFAD, the Committee on World Food Security, Biovision, the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, and, more recently, the CGIAR-convened Transformative Partnership Platform for its role in climate change adaptation, mitigation and future sustainability. Agroecology-based solutions are front and center in the R4D agenda of the CGIAR Two Degree Initiative (2DI) led by the CCAFS Program. In 2020, the Alliance Bioversity-CIAT, the International Potato Center (CIP)’s Andean Initiative, and the French research institutions CIRAD and IRD developed the project “Strengthening the evidence base for a climate-resilient and low-carbon smallholder agriculture through agroecology in Latin America”. The project aims to evidence agroecology’s contributions to adaptive capacity and climate resilience in Latin American smallholder farming systems, and to identify research gaps and potential pathways for scaling. To do this, the project will collaborate with agroecological communities of practice, farmer networks and NGOs in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

One research component of the project focuses on enabling environments for the adoption of agroecological practices and their scaling across smallholder landscapes. It will address two crosscutting questions: (1) Is there evidence of policies enabling or impeding the adoption of agroecological practices in Latin America, specifically in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru? (2) What conditions are needed -- e.g. differential market systems, local governance schemes, supporting institutions, public-private linkages, sovereignty movements — for agroecological scaling in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru?

The Alliance Bioversity-CIAT is looking for a professional that meets the specifications below to carry out a systematic literature review on factors and policies enabling the adoption of agroecological practices in Latin America.

Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will apply the PRISMA method for a systematic review of the scientific and grey literature on the subject matter and will specifically:

- Identify the relevant literature in English and Spanish, covering Latin America in general, and particularly the cases of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.
- Create a literature database including guiding analytical variables.
- Analyze the literature to extract pertinent information on enabling and limiting factors of agroecological practices, and policy instruments conducive for adoption and scaling out in the region.
- Draft a White Paper synthesizing the results of the study.

Duration:

This study will be carried out in 6 months, beginning in mid-late March 2021.

Implementation:

The candidate will integrate an interdisciplinary and interinstitutional team (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT, CIP, CIRAD, IRD). The position is of teleworking modality. Its funding and contract will be administered by the Alliance Bioversity-CIAT.

Requirements:

The sought candidate will:

- Manage bibliographical databases and reference software (e.g. Mendeley);
- Have experience in academic-level literature reviews;
- Possess analytical and synthesis skills;
- Have experience in academic writing.

The sought candidate will meet the following conditions:

- Master level background in social science (sociology, economy, public policy) with interest in agriculture, agroecology, or rural development issues;
- Proficiency in English and Spanish reading and writing skills.

Experience and knowledge in agroecology will be appreciated.

The application period will remain open until March 15, 2021.

For more information on the vacancy please contact:

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