



South Asian
Association
for Regional
Cooperation

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)

Agricultural Knowledge & Information Hub in South Asia

Ref. No. SAC/778/PhD programme/application/2021/56

Date: 05 May 2021

H.E. Secretary General
SAARC Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal

Kind attention: Director (ARD), SAARC Secretariat

Subject: Request to issue the note verbal for "Calling applications for SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme – 2021 for the candidates of Bhutan and Maldives"

Your Excellency!

As a part of continuous efforts towards capacity building, the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) has initiated SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme in order to support aspiring young agricultural professionals to undertake their doctoral study in reputed agricultural University of SAARC region. Currently, five candidates (citizen of Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and India) are pursuing their doctoral degree in the reputed University of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India under the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship programme. During the current year, the Governing Board (GB) of the SAC recommended to offer the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship to the candidates of Bhutan and Maldives. The honourable GB member of Bhutan and Maldives are requested SAC to extend the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship - 2021 in the discipline of 'Plant Breeding' and 'Agricultural Economics', respectively.


Accordingly, the SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship - 2021 will be offered in the subject of 'Plant Breeding' and 'Agricultural Economics'. For both the subjects, the host institute will be University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The SAC already received the official confirmation from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka for hosting two doctoral candidates in the above-mentioned disciplines.

Applications are invited from the regular employees of National Agricultural Research System (NARS)/ Department/ Ministry/ University of Bhutan (for pursuing PhD in Plant Breeding) and Maldives (for pursuing PhD in Agricultural Economics). Information details (background, eligibility – educational qualification, age, experiences, how to apply, PhD synopsis, selection process, tenure and placement, host institute, coverage under scholarship, grant conditions, etc.) of SAARC Agriculture PhD Scholarship Programme - 2021 is provided in the announcement brochure. The aspiring candidates should apply as per the prescribed format. The announcement brochure and application format are attached herewith for circulation and is also available from the SAC website (www.sac.org.bd). The duly filed applications along with all supporting documents should be mailed to Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain, Director, SAC (director@sac.org.bd) through their current employer/ relevant ministry/ SAARC Division/ Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ External Affairs of the respective Member State on or before 30th June 2021.

May I therefore humbly request Your Excellency to kindly issue the *Note Verbale* to the Ministry of Foreign/ External Affairs of each Member Country with copy to respective SAC-GB members to facilitate the application.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,


05.05.2021
(Dr. Md. Baktear Hossain)
Director