POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY (2022)

Applied mycology: creating research and entrepreneurial opportunities in Maluti-A-Phofong Municipality

Background:

The Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (housed on the QwaQwa Campus of the University of the Free State) seeks to appoint a highly motivated full-time postdoctoral research associate beginning as early as 01/08/2022. The initial appointment will be for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year, depending on the availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

The successful candidate will work on a multifaceted project aiming to create research momentum on the use of mycology for the purpose of poverty alleviation in the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality. The project will include a research component focusing on the selection, cultivation and growth of candidate edible fungal species suitable for the montane region of the Maloti-Drakensberg. A social component complementing the former, will focus on community outreach, knowledge transfer and entrepreneurial workshops.

The incumbent will work under the supervision of Dr P Voua Otomo (Senior Lecturer in the Department of Zoology and Entomology). The Fellowship offers a stipend of R220,000.00 per year and an additional R30,000.00 for running costs.

Qualifications:

The fellow must have: 1) a Ph.D. degree in one of relevant academic fields, Mycology, Agriculture, Ecology, Environmental Science, or any other closely related area, 2) prior experience in a similar agricultural-related project, 3) experience in collecting, processing and analysing quantitative data, 4) a predisposition to engage and work with local communities and, 5) a demonstrated potential to publish peer reviewed papers in accredited journals.

Duties:

1. Contribute to original research. This will include conducting comparative studies on candidate edible fungal species suitable for cultivation in the montane region of the eastern Free State.
2. Undertake extensive surveys on the contribution of edible fungi farming in the local bioeconomy.
3. Initiate a community outreach programme with identified stakeholders, with an emphasis on knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship.
4. Present papers at national and international conferences and workshops.
5. Publish a minimum of 3 peer reviewed papers per year in high impact accredited journals.
Eligibility:
1. A PhD degree in a relevant background discipline as described in the Qualification section above.
2. Applicants should have obtained their Doctoral degree within the last five (5) years.
3. Applicants who are currently completing their Doctoral dissertation may apply, provided they complete their Doctoral degree by 30 June 2022.
4. Full-time employees are only eligible to apply if they intend to take unpaid leave for the duration of the Fellowship.
5. Excellent people and organisational skills, including teamwork.
6. Willingness to undertake fieldwork among rural and remote, marginalised communities.
7. Self-driven and be able to set and meet own deadlines.
8. A proficiency in English, both verbal and written, is required.
9. A valid driver’s license is preferable.

How to Apply:
Applications should be submitted to Dr. P. Voua Otomo (OtomoPV@ufs.ac.za) by 30 June 2022, with the following:
1. A one-page Letter of Motivation explaining how you meet the requirements and why you are interested in this fellowship.
2. Full CV with contact details of 3 traceable referees.
3. Academic Transcripts and SAQA verification of qualifications obtained from institutions outside South Africa.
4. Copy of ID or Passport (latter if a foreign applicant).

Correspondences will be limited to shortlisted candidates via their provided contact details. The UFS reserves the right to re-advertise this post if a suitable candidate is not found.

For further enquires please contact:

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