



## Call for PhD Scholarship applications 2024

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) is one of the leading public universities in teaching and learning, research and innovations in Kenya. The University would like to invite applications for three PhD scholarships from suitably qualified applicants to undertake research in a project entitled "Adaptation to climate change to improve food safety and livelihoods among pastoral communities in Kenya (ADAPTiVE)" funded by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

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### About the ADAPTiVE project

ADAPTiVE is a collaborative research project jointly undertaken by JKUAT, University of Nairobi, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, African Institute for Capacity Development and University of Copenhagen. The project will be carried out between 2024 and 2029. The main objective is to investigate how to promote the adoption and sustained use of food safety strategies that are adapted to climate change, thereby improving livelihoods. The study will employ a combination of qualitative, quantitative, and experimental research methods, with a particular focus on women-led smallholder dairy farms in Kenya. The project has four core research themes.

1. **Food safety hazards in the dairy sector in the face of climate change.** This theme asks "how can climate change be expected to affect food safety performance and livelihoods of different actors in the Kenyan dairy sector?" The theme aims to map the most prevalent food safety problems from farm-to-fork in the Kenyan pastoral dairy sector and assess how

these are influenced by climate change, whether value chain actors are aware of this and how livelihoods are impacted.

2. **Smallholder dairy farmers' constraints and preferences for adaptation strategies.**

This theme asks "what are the drivers and constraints for women dairy farmers' adaptation to climate change?" It focuses on understanding the constraints and preferences of smallholder pastoral women dairy farmers for adopting food safety practices adapted to climate change.

3. **Design and evaluation of climate-robust food safety strategies for smallholder dairy farms.**

This theme asks "which farm-level or community-level measures improve the food safety and livelihoods of smallholder women dairy farmers?" It aims at designing food safety strategies adapted to climate change and evaluates their impacts on food safety and livelihood outcomes, with particular focus on their applicability to women-led smallholder dairy farms.

4. **Scalability of climate-robust food safety initiatives in Kenya.**

This theme asks "what institutional contexts and market conditions can support the use of effective climate change adaptation strategies?" It assesses consumers' and other stakeholders' preferences for food safety in dairy products and develops realistic and feasible guidelines and market infrastructures to increase farmers' adoption of climate-robust food safety strategies in ways consistent with sustaining livelihoods.

There is one PhD scholarship at JKUAT for each of the themes 2-4. Each scholarship will cover tuition and all research expenses, participation in international courses and conferences, and a reasonable monthly allowance for 36 months. In addition, the PhD scholarship includes a three months stay in Denmark and covers costs related to travel and accommodation and per diem during the stay in Denmark.

## **Eligibility**

For the research themes 2-4, the call is open to Kenyan nationals with a master degree in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Natural Resources and Environmental Economics, Development Economics, Food Science and Technology, Food Science and Nutrition, Food Systems, Behavioral and Experimental economics, and related fields. A strong academic and research potential is desirable. Experience in laboratory/field data collection and analysis will be an added advantage. Female applicants are particularly encouraged to apply.

## **Application requirements**

Applicants should submit the following documents.

- Cover letter outlining your research interest and motivation
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of Bachelor and Master degree certificates, and transcripts.
- Two recommendation letters
- A Doctoral study synopsis (maximum 2 pages) related to one of the three themes (2-4) mentioned above. The concept note should include background, problem statement, objectives, and indicative methodology.

## **Deadline for application**

The deadline for applications is July 31 2024 at 5:00 PM. Applications should be emailed to [samuel.imathiu@jkuat.ac.ke](mailto:samuel.imathiu@jkuat.ac.ke), with copy to [mha@ifro.ku.dk](mailto:mha@ifro.ku.dk).

Applications not fulfilling the requirements and those received past the deadline will not be considered.

## **Selection**

After the deadline, only shortlisted applicants will be invited for in person interviews. **The tentative starting date for successful applicants is 01 December 2024.**