



# SEARCA Visiting Research Fellow

## **RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES**

SEARCA is committed to fostering a capacity-building and research and development culture that proactively address the agriculture and development needs of the Southeast Asian region.

The objective is to improve the technical expertise and managerial skills of agriculture and development practitioners within and outside the Southeast Asian (SEA) region, who can assist in improving agricultural and rural development of SEA. Together, SEARCA and these professionals could make a difference in finding solutions to combat poverty and ensure food security in the region.

SEARCA provides various avenues for research, training, and graduate education activities aimed at creating synergies among and between the program areas of the Center. Among these avenues are the long-established Graduate Scholarship Program, Short-term Training Program, Professorial Chairs Program, the newly established Adjunct Fellows Program, Seed Fund for Research and Training, and PhD Research Scholarship.

In pursuit of generating a critical mass of professionals working on agriculture and rural development in Asia, SEARCA is revitalizing its Visiting Research Fellows (VRF) Program. The VRF is intended for researchers within and outside the SEA region who are doing research along the priority thrusts of SEARCA, namely: agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management.

The VRF is expected to form a strategic alliance and partnership between SEARCA and other research institutions within and outside the SEA region.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND APPOINTMENT**

1) The VRF Program is open to:

- a) Researchers with own research funding. The Researcher is expected to manage his/her fund. Participation in the VRF Program shall be by invitation or application to the program (see Application Form).
  - b) Researchers with no fund, but whose research experience will highly contribute to SEARCA's research programs and whose outstanding reputation will enhance the Center's standing and profile as an international organization. Qualified researchers shall be invited to the program.
- 2) The appointment, to be issued by the SEARCA Director, shall depend on the duration of the project activities. A visiting research fellow shall not be considered a regular employee of SEARCA.

## **ENTITLEMENTS**

A Visiting Research Fellow shall be provided with the following:

1. Workspace, office supplies, and access to necessary office facilities and equipment such as Internet connection, telephone, fax machine, photocopying machine, and printer.
2. Limited travel fund to attend meetings in Metro Manila.
3. Others that may be jointly agreed upon by the contracting parties.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES/OUTPUTS**

The responsibilities of a Visiting Research Fellow are as follows:

1. Carry out the approved research activity.
2. Provide regular quarterly progress reports/updates on the research being undertaken.
3. Generate a publishable material, which shall acknowledge the assistance of SEARCA and other involved parties/institutions.
4. Present the results of the study in a public seminar at SEARCA or elsewhere.

## **GUIDELINES**

In determining the suitability of an individual to participate in the VRF Program, whether by invitation or application, the following guidelines shall be applied:

1. The invitee or applicant must:
  - a. Have the intellectual capacity to undertake productive agriculture and rural development research within the priority themes of SEARCA;
  - b. Display evidence of his/her capability of doing high quality/publishable research;
  - c. Be established and well-respected in his/her field.
  - d. Researcher with funding and are affiliated with a research institution should obtain his/her institution's approval to apply or accept SEARCA's invitation to the VRF Program.
2. The research activity to be undertaken should complement the agricultural and rural development thrust and must be highly relevant to SEARCA's programs.
3. Application is open any time of the year.

## **SCREENING**

1. A researcher identified and invited by SEARCA to participate in the VRF Program will not go through the regular selection process.
2. Applicants of the VRF Program will go through the following screening process:
  - a. First Screening – A Committee, chaired by the Manager of the Research and Development Department, shall undertake a preliminary evaluation of the applicants based on the preset criteria and make recommendations to the SEARCA Directorate for final approval.
  - b. Final Selection - The Directorate shall evaluate the recommended applicant(s) based on the preset criteria and approve the appointment of the qualified participant(s).
3. Invited researchers will be identified by the Committee. Upon the approval of Directorate, an official invitation letter will be sent.



**Statement of Research Plan and Contribution (Use a separate sheet if necessary)**

Please describe the nature of research work to be done while on a Visiting Research Fellow appointment at SEARCA and indicate the expected contributions to the Center and to the Southeast Asian region.

What arrangements have been made or are contemplated for the ownership of any intellectual property that might result from the research project?