

African Plant Breeding Academy – Call for Applicants

In collaboration with The African Union New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency and the African Orphan Crops Consortium (<http://www.africanorphancrops.org>), the University of California, Davis is opening registration for Class III of the African Plant Breeding Academysm. The Plant Breeding Academy is a premium professional certificate program currently offered in the USA, Europe and Africa. Ten classes offered worldwide since 2006 were attended by 215 breeders from 50 countries, making the UC Davis Plant Breeding Academy the most recognized program of its kind. The program covers the fundamentals and the most recent developments in plant breeding theory and practice. In 2012-2016, UC Davis was recognized as the top University in the world for teaching and research in agriculture in the world (<http://www.ucdavis.edu>).

The goal of the African Plant Breeding Academy is to train practicing African plant breeders in the most advanced theory and technologies for plant breeding in support of critical decisions for crop improvement. This includes the latest concepts in plant breeding, quantitative genetics, statistics and experimental design. It also includes accurate and precise trait evaluations, development of appropriate strategies to integrate genomics into breeding programs, and experience in identifying and utilizing DNA-based markers in breeding programs. The instructors are internationally recognized experts in plant breeding, genetics, and seed technology. The program is delivered in three 2-week sessions in Nairobi, Kenya, at the World Agroforestry Centre.

A call is being issued for applications for Class III of this course, for which the three 2-week sessions will be held:

Weeks 1 & 2: May 14-27, 2017

Weeks 3 & 4: November 26 - December 9, 2017

Weeks 5 & 6: May 13 - 26, 2018

Selected students will be offered a fully paid scholarship from the African Orphan Crops Consortium that covers tuition, all materials, travel and accommodations.

Participant criteria and selection

Classes are limited to 30 students. All participants must be based in Africa.

Ideal applicants will:

- 1) Have a Ph.D. or Masters degree with significant plant breeding experience
- 2) Have taken courses in statistics, genetics and breeding
- 3) Must be currently managing a breeding program in any crop
- 4) Have proficiency in English language
- 5) Be available to attend all sessions

Closing date for application is January 27, 2017.

For more information on course curriculum, dates, the application process and scholarships, please visit the PBA web site at http://pba.ucdavis.edu/PBA_in_Africa/.