

Youth-Led Horticulture Training and Services Center in Guinea Internship Program

SUMMARY:

The Horticulture Innovation Lab's [Youth-Led Horticulture Training and Services Center](#) in Kindia, Guinea, is looking for motivated candidates for its graduate student internship program. The successful candidates will be university graduate students with substantial experience in agriculture, horticulture and/or agribusiness. Candidates should be devoted to continuous learning and sharing of their experiences. The position is located in Foulayah, Kindia, Guinea and will last between one to four months depending on availability and program needs.

BACKGROUND:

The Horticulture Innovation Lab is led by UC Davis and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative. Through collaborative research, extension, and capacity building, the Horticulture Innovation Lab works to build resilience and end poverty by:

- Advancing horticultural science, from seed to consumption
- Creating economic opportunities for smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs
- Improving dietary diversity and nutritional status
- Empowering women, youth, and the most vulnerable
- Facilitating the exchange of innovative ideas and technologies

The youth-led Horticulture Training and Services Center in Guinea responds to identified horticultural needs by introducing novel technologies that improve production practices and reduce postharvest losses. The interns will establish a revenue-generating Horticulture Training and Services Center that will feature appropriate technologies and top agricultural practices.

In 2016-17, the Youth-Led Horticulture Training and Services Center project established a presence at the *Institut Regional Agronomique de Guinée* (IRAG) and expanded its ability to reach surrounding smallholder farmers and cooperatives to build capacity and disseminate technologies. The Horticulture Innovation Lab program works with the Feed The Future AVENIR (*Apprentissage, Vulgarisation, Entrepreneurial et Innovation Rurale*) program to recruit, train and accompany AVENIR Agents in the entrepreneur program and, in collaboration, diffuse new postharvest agricultural techniques and technologies among urban and rural farmers throughout Guinea.

Additionally, the improved Horticulture Training and Services Center features horticulture test plots to display the benefit of enhanced horticulture production practices. Both dry-chain and cold-chain technologies such as the chimney solar dryer, the CoolBot and the DryCard™ have been implemented on site. The Center staff has partnered with local farmers and farming cooperatives to conduct trainings and initiate negotiations for supplying the cooperatives with these technologies. More information about the [Horticulture Innovation Lab work in Guinea](#).



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OBJECTIVES:

The Youth-Led Horticulture Training and Service Center in Guinea will host interns for one to four months in Kindia, Guinea. The Interns will support the Youth-Led Horticulture Training and Services Center to achieve the following objectives:

1. Improve institutional capacity by establishing technology demonstrations in the field and at the IRAG station to extend proven and profitable technologies to local agribusinesses and the surrounding agriculture community.
2. Establish in-country expertise through horticulture short courses and trainings; and build regional capacity for agriculture growth through farmer trainings.
3. Strengthen youth-leadership and build institutional capacity with other graduate students, U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers, Zamorano University students, and AVENIR Agents.

INTERNSHIP:

The Intern will spend approximately 50% of their time supporting the Center Manager and Chief of Party in conducting capacity building activities with local farmers and approximately 50% of their time working with private horticulture and agriculture organizations in the region. All of these functions support program areas, helping to ensure that their activities are on track to achieve development goals.

The internship will be based around four different aspects of the value chain - Dry Chain, Cold Chain, Production, and Processing. Agribusiness training and programming will be crucial in each subject. The interns will be able to work throughout the program but will be asked to choose one value chain. Each value chain has specific technologies that will be utilized.

POSITION ELEMENTS

Supervision Received: Interns will report directly to the Center Manager and Chief of Party. Incumbent will be mentored by Center staff on all aspects of professional development. However, incumbent is expected to use self-initiative in planning and carrying out assignments.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATION:

- One to four months of service
- 40-hour work week (flexible)
- Timeline: Start date is based on preference and availability, between July 15, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2018

SELECTION CRITERIA/ELIGIBILITY:

The **Youth Led Horticulture Training and Services Center in Guinea Internship Program** welcomes applicants from U.S. universities or Zamorano University in Honduras who are enrolled in graduate studies or recently graduated in relevant fields. The program plans to support 4-6 graduate student interns.



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MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist AVENIRs in training Guinean youth, farmers, and agricultural processors in developing a sound business process plan including economic analysis, pertinence of the enterprise, and identification of revenue generating activities.
- Assist in developing training courses and programs for agriculture trainings.
- Support the program staff in finding roles and value-added activities for future graduate students with NGOs and private sector agribusinesses.
- Plan daily activities, trainings, and experiments to test agriculture technologies at the Center.
- Help program staff create a sustainability plan for the Center for 2019 and 2020.
- Support Guinean AVENIRs in creating agribusiness plans during the AVENIR apprenticeship program.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- Currently enrolled in a graduate program in a related field such as agriculture, agro-economy, marketing, research or development
- Completion of bachelor's degree
- Must have basic computer skills and be comfortable using Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint programs.
- Must be able to work in English (speaking, reading and writing).
- Strong critical thinking skills and results-oriented.
- Ability to live in a challenging environment. Running water and electricity are not guaranteed for interns. Travel within the country is slow and difficult. Infrastructure in Guinea is limited and interns may encounter challenging living and working conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED

- Ability to work in French (speaking, reading and writing).
- Some experience in International Development, Program Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning skills.
- Experience in farm production – planning, field management.
- Experience with horticulture postharvest technologies (e.g. Solar Dryer, CoolBot, Zero Energy Cool Chamber, etc. and/or other postharvest innovations to improve production and reduce losses.)
- Self-starter, motivated, energetic, friendly and professional.

ALLOWANCE:

- The program will pay for transport to and from Guinea.
- Housing and transport in country will be provided for.
- Interns will be provided a per diem of 38 USD a day.
- Estimated average living costs are 5-10 USD a day

COUNTRY INFORMATION:

Agriculture in Guinea accounts for 85 percent of the economically active population. Guinea's regions differ greatly. Fruits and vegetable production is a major source of income there. Agriculture products are



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only exported to neighboring West African countries. Find more information in the Horticulture Innovation Lab's [report on the horticulture sector in Guinea](#).

APPLICATION:

Applications will be accepted until July 1, 2018 or until internship positions are filled. You can submit an application by visiting our online application portal at <https://rfx.piestar.com/opportunities/horticulture-innovation-lab-at-u-c-davis/rfp/53>. The applications includes a one page statement on why this opportunity fits into your current and future goals.

Information about this opportunity is at <https://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/blog/internships-guinea-2018>. Please share with others who may be interested.



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