



An Opportunity to Lead New Technologies and Global Crop Improvement for an International Research Leader

CTI Executive Search (www.careertrax.com) has been retained by CIP (International Potato Center, Lima, Peru) to help them identify an outstanding plant breeding leader for a global role covering all aspects of crop improvement. This senior staff member will lead a vibrant and global scientific team working with national agricultural research systems and advanced research institutions to plan and carry out potato and sweetpotato breeding research, delivering a breeding pipeline in both crops, and capacity building and outreach towards quality and productivity gains, global food security, and overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a career opportunity leading to substantial professional development.

This position will report to the Research Director, with a job location based at CIP's headquarters in Lima, Peru. Frequent international travel will be required to work with team members and collaborators across Africa, Asia and Latin America. The position leads and coordinates CIP's potato and sweetpotato crop improvement strategies, along with a range of partners in developing and developed countries, breeders and scientists in genetic resources, bioinformatics/statistics, genomics, social science and biotechnology, in collaboration with other CIP Science Leaders and disciplinary teams.

This key role will lead the delivery of CIP's breeding pipelines, the increase of genetic gains for key traits in Target Populations of Environments in potato and sweetpotato, and will contribute towards meeting the growing demand for safe and nutritious food under challenges such as climate change and growing human population. Its responsibilities will include conducting and coordinating strategic and applied research and breeding product development within CIP and international collaborative contexts. One of the major objectives of CIP's applied research is the development of improved populations and varieties, the use of diploid and tetraploid potato germplasm, and increasing progress towards developing hybrid cultivars in both potato and sweetpotato. CIP and its partners have made substantial strides towards hybrid development, and this position will be in a leadership role to deliver such ground breaking technology in crops such as potato and sweetpotato in target agroecosystems and countries.

We are seeking to find an individual with in-depth knowledge and previous demonstrated accomplishments in setting strategic research priorities, allocating breeding resources from germplasm enhancement to variety development and registration, experience in defining product concepts and product advancement processes within the context of plant breeding, delivering breeding pipelines, fundraising as well as team management skills. Such are the key determinants of success of this position, which is a part of the senior management team at CIP.

Key responsibilities:

Strategic and Applied Research

- Provide strategic scientific leadership for potato and sweetpotato crop improvement, setting breeding priorities for the next two decades in interaction with other science leaders towards the achievement of CIP's strategic objectives, mission and vision.
- Provide the vision and long-term strategy for breeding research, as well as a customer/beneficiary/end-user driven perspective to CIP's breeding efforts to reach organizational goals and secure the delivery of the breeding pipeline.
- Achieve scientific excellence by bringing in experience with up-to-date crop improvement methods; breeding information management, as well as providing the team building experience and mentorship abilities required to strengthen a global breeding team.



- The incumbent will direct and support the use of basic and improved genetic resources in prebreeding activities, enjoying proximity to the largest potato and sweetpotato genebanks and diverse environments and cultures in centers of diversity.

Program Management and Planning

- As a member of the Science Leadership Team, contribute to CIP's Strategic Programs' business plans ensuring the contribution of crop improvement teams in the definition and delivery of breeding outputs and outcomes in the short, medium, and long term.
- Ensure proper management of projects and financial resources.
- Attracting competitive external funding from a range of public and private donors to implement crop improvement activities, as well as expand international linkages and collaborative programs.
- Attract talented researchers and visiting scholars to CIP and develop collaborative projects, and provide opportunities for breeders and breeding-related scientists to get exposure and expand linkages between national and international agricultural research organizations.
- Establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with both private and public relevant crop improvement science institutions to conduct priority research activities supporting breeding objectives.
- Promote the formation of multidisciplinary teams to support the delivery of breeding products that respond to demands of stakeholders.
- Articulate and execute career development and succession plans within CIP.

Requirements

- Ph. D. in Plant Breeding, advanced knowledge in quantitative genetics, population improvement, experience using linear mixed models to analyze breeding datasets, and molecular breeding including genomic prediction, preferably but not exclusively in polyploid and/or clonal crops.
- At least 10 years' experience and recognized achievements in clonal crop breeding or equivalent accomplishments in at least one major food crop.
- At least 5 years' experience as a senior crop improvement leader or project manager in public and/or private organizations. Having at least 3 years of experience as a project leader contributing to international research programs in an agricultural research for development context would be a plus.
- Experience in leading multi-cultural teams within a developing country context.
- Excellent leadership skills to collaborate effectively along with demonstrated success in managing multi-disciplinary teams and partnerships.
- Demonstrated experience in attracting substantial research funding.
- Strong publication record in the discipline.
- Strong written and oral communication skills in English is required. Spanish, French, Portuguese or other languages are an asset.

Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. If you are interested in this role or can provide suggested contacts for CTI on this search, please contact us in confidence. Our search is not confidential and this document may be redistributed.

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