VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Description for Consultancy with TALRI: Analysis and Report Writing ACGG Tanzania On-Station and On-Farm Data

African Chicken Genetic Gains Project (ACGG) is an Africa-wide collaboration led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and its being implemented in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania. ACGG is a platform for testing, delivering, and continuously improving tropically-adapted chickens for productivity growth in sub-Saharan Africa. The main outcome of ACGG is to identify farmer-preferred breeds based on empirical evidence, and data driven inferences.

The African Chicken Genetic Gains project (ACGG) -Tanzania is seeking to recruit a quantitative geneticist with expertise in handling big data to analyze ACGG-Tanzania’s on-farm, and on-station data. The data were collected on different chicken breeds over a 72 week period at two on-station test centers (Sokoine University of Agriculture-SUA and TALRI-Naliendele, Mtwara), and Six different Zones/agro-ecologies –Southern, Eastern, Central, Southern Highlands and Lake. The data collected on-station includes growth performance, egg production, feed intake, health & vaccination. The on-farm test was conducted with more than 1,800 smallholder chicken farmers across the six agro-ecologies/zones, and several data were collected such as bodyweight, inventory, egg production, farmer preference, household labor allocation, feeding, bodyweight, etc.

The geneticist will design appropriate models and develop analytical pipelines to highlight the genetic potentials, evaluate the production, and performance of each of the chicken breeds under optimal management system as well as under farmer management conditions.

Job description

1. Analyse both the on-farm and on-station data collected over the 72 week testing period for all possible production, performance & genetic parameters (Feed conversion ratio, growth curve, hen day egg production, consistency, survivability etc.)
2. Write a comprehensive report on the analysis (per breed & between breeds, per agro-ecology & between agro-ecologies)
3. Present the report at national forum where relevant professionals (breeders, geneticist, animal production and health) and representatives of development partners from Ethiopia are present
4. Incorporate comments and suggestions from the participants of the national forum, ACGG-Tanzania team and ACGG global; and submit the final report to both ACGG-Tanzania and ACGG Global/ILRI
5. Facilitate a two day training workshop on “big data analysis” and write-up/reporting to ACGG-Tanzania MSc/PhD students and others interested.

Qualification

- A doctorate or equivalent research experience in a relevant discipline area, such as applied breeding or quantitative genetics
- Background in managing large data sets, and experience with data analysis using advanced statistical software packages
- Experience in analysing, interpreting and applying quantitative genetics data to chicken data
- The ability to communicate effectively, both written and orally with a variety of audiences

Duration: 2½ months starting December 15, 2017.

To Apply: Submit as a single PDF: an application letter, CV (max. 3 pages), one page work-plan indicating where necessary all the possible analyses, and a one page proposal for the training workshop to the Principal Investigator, via email: t.dessie@cgiar.org copy to: egoromela2013@gmail.com. Application closes midnight 14th Dec., 2017.