

Opportunity to employ researchers via the Young Expert Programmes

Deadline: 1 December 2017



The [Young Expert Programmes Water & Agrofood](#) (YEP) offers young Dutch and local professionals the opportunity to take their first steps in the international Agrofood or Water sector. They are employed through Dutch organisations in a number of eligible countries. YEP aims to stimulate the influx of young professionals in the Agrofood & Water sectors and in this way ensure the continued availability of expertise for these sectors.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs consider the Young Expert Programmes as an opportunity to strengthen the strategic partnership between CGIAR and the Dutch government. The NL-CGIAR strategic partnership has a focus on four priority knowledge domains:

1. Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
2. Sustainable Value Chains and Sectors
3. Genetic Improvement and Propagation Material
4. Climate Smart Agriculture

The partnership is especially interested in the downstream part of research and development, i.e. enabling and scaling, collaboration with private sector and CSOs, to realise innovations and adoptions.

With a deadline of **December 1st, 2017**, applications for a Young Expert position (post-doc or researcher) can be submitted to work within a CRP (CGIAR Research Programme) in one of these four domains. YEP Programmes works on the principle of co-financing and the Young Expert has to sign a contract with a Dutch registered partner of the CRP.

This document provides an overview of the goals, specifications and benefits of the Young Expert Programmes, as well as the criteria and process for Dutch partners of CGIAR to submit a project proposal for a Young Expert.

About the Young Expert Programmes

The number of young professionals in the Agrofood and Water sectors is declining. At the same time, the importance of the food sector for sustainable development in Low & Middle Income Countries is on the rise, and the challenges regarding water management are ever growing. The Young Expert Programmes, therefore, strive to assure the continued availability of international professionals and expertise in the Agrofood and Water sectors.

YEP has a focus on deployment of Young Experts in the private sector, NGOs and knowledge institutes. Within the framework of the NL-CGIAR strategic partnership, it has been decided to also encourage research or research programme assignments. In the overall programme, the deployment of Young Experts is related to one or more of the themes of the Dutch development cooperation policy (see box).

Themes of the Dutch development cooperation policy

- Eradication of existing hunger and malnutrition
- Promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector
- Creation of ecologically sustainable food systems
- Efficient water management, in particular in the agricultural sector
- Improved river basin management and safe estuaries
- Access to safe drinking water and sanitation

Criteria for applying organisations

Dutch organisations that are involved in the policy for, and implementation of, development cooperation activities outside the Netherlands can submit a project proposal for the deployment of a Young Expert. The period of deployment is a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 2 years. During their assignment the Young Experts receive intensive training & coaching by YEP. [Standard criteria](#) for applying organisations are:

- to be registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce
- to be active in one of the eligible [countries](#)
- to supervise the Young Expert within the organisation
- to be ready to contribute and be involved in training & coaching
- to have a fitting position for the Young Expert, which is well-embedded within the organisation
- to take responsibility for the security and wellbeing of the Young Expert

Criteria for the Young Experts can be found [here](#).

Financial support

The financial support for the deployment of a **Dutch** Young Expert is maximised at €40,000 per year and 50% of the total costs. Financial support for the deployment of a **local** Young Expert is maximised at €12,000 per year and 50% of the total cost of the placement. A detailed specification of the division of costs can be found [here](#).

Process

- In total, there are **4 positions available** for Young Experts. 2 of these positions are for Dutch Young Experts and 2 are for local Young Experts.
- Project proposals must be submitted on **December 1st, 2017** at the latest. Application forms and guidelines can be found [here](#).

Benefits of employing a Young Expert for consortia of Dutch organisations and CGIAR

- Availability of a researcher within CGIAR, co-financed by the Dutch government.
- Contribution to international employment opportunities and perspectives for PhD & MSc holders.
- Access to the global network of CGIAR research and the Dutch network of international expertise in agrofood or water. Connecting both worlds.

Specific criteria in the framework of the NL-CGIAR strategic partnership

Besides the standard criteria for applicant organisations, there are a few specific points of attention for Dutch partners of CGIAR, interested in employing a Young Expert within the framework of the NL-CGIAR strategic partnership:

- In assessing the application, priority will be given to applications related to the four priority knowledge domains.
- The applicant organisation must be registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce, but the proposal should involve at least one CGIAR partner. The co-financing can be provided by any (combination) of the partners.
- The co-financing of the Young Expert position can be sourced from Window-2 CGIAR funding, but not from Dutch government Window-3 funding or other fully Dutch government funded projects. Co-financing can also come from any other non-Dutch government derived project finances.
- The applicant organisation must have a qualified local counterpart that can host the Young Expert. This can be a CGIAR office or research site.

More info? Contact YEP

Please do not hesitate to contact YEP in case you have any further questions:

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Paul is available for phone calls to answer your questions.