

**USAID-funded pilot project on  
Strengthening Environmental and Agricultural Capacity through  
Distance Education (SEAC-DE)**

**A Collaborative program between the University of Florida and CIAT  
in partnership with University of Nairobi and Makerere University**

**The Project:** UF/IFAS is partnering with CIAT to build long-term collaboration for capacity building through distance education and related research, outreach, exchange and institutional strengthening. The overall approach is focused on developing multiple opportunities for linking international distance education and site specific research. This “Project” is focused on developing country partner institutions in Africa (Makerere University in Uganda, and University of Nairobi in Kenya). This pilot project seeks to provide training for degree seeking students currently employed at CIAT as research assistants and research associates, or working at local universities. Project activities will include program development and networking, graduate education and research, and faculty collaboration focused on capacity building. CIAT will work with the University of Florida and the “Project” the partner institutions to support the identification, application of students and potential research linkages for students funded by this project as outlined in this scope of work. The students will register for distance education courses leading to a Master’s degree program offered at the University of Florida. Students will register for courses leading to a Master’s degree program at the University of Florida. Total cost for each course, including costs per credit for a course, cannot exceed UF per credit cost in effect for distance education courses at the time of the course.

**Duration of the pilot project:** A Master’s program generally takes two years. Given that the candidates will continue working part time, the degree program could likely take up to 4 years, and must be completed within 5 years. Therefore, the pilot project will cover the time period for the first set of pilot students to complete a degree within 5 years (2005 - 2010).

**Commitments of Partners (CIAT and the UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA):**

1. All partners will identify a coordinating point of contact for the program and establish a core group of contact people.
2. Together the core group will define the criteria of selection of the candidates addressing all requirements, participate in supervision of research, and address institutional commitments, constraints and opportunities.
3. Disseminate this opportunity of study.
4. Select candidates that meet the program and UF entry requirements.

**Commitment of CIAT (headquarters, Uganda and Kenya):**

1. Responsible for submission of required reporting, fiscal and technical, to sponsor.
2. Actively participate in core working group and seek additional opportunities for expanding the pilot effort.
3. Support students accepted with flexibility of schedules, space of work, access to a computer, technical backup and software, e-mail, and internet.
4. Support the students with logistic and administrative services (provide access to adequate computer support and connectivity, deal with trip, visa, insurance, etc as needed).
5. Provide library services (reference, internal and external lending, electronic journals, databases, purchase of books, CDs, etc.)
6. Support students/scientists selected in course preparations (courses and exams of TOEFL and GRE, etc.)
7. Define jointly with UF professors and with a scientific advisor in CIAT the Masters thesis topic and serve on thesis committee as appropriate.
8. Orient the student/scientist in the preparation of their thesis and of an article to be published in a scientific journal of recognized international prestige.

**Commitment of the University of Florida:**

1. Actively participate in the core working group and seek additional opportunities for expanding the pilot effort.
2. Provide quality educational experiences and degree programs through distance education.
3. Work cooperatively with CIAT and partnering institutions for mentoring students.
4. Seek courtesy professorships for collaborating institutions at UF within appropriate departments and see faculty affiliate opportunities for UF Faculty in appropriate departments at the University of Nairobi and Makerere University and CIAT.
5. Seek opportunities for expanding curriculum through course development, enhancements and identification of alternative courses through partnership.
6. Prepare reports as required