

## **Background Information for ASIRA Online Course**

### **“Access to Scientific Information Resources in Agriculture (ASIRA) in Low-Income Countries”**

The online course “Access to scientific information resources in agriculture (ASIRA) in low-income countries” is now open for registration. This course is delivered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with Research4Life.

The goal of this online course is to provide a platform to enhance the visibility, accessibility and usability of agricultural data and science. Attending the course will enable you to:

- Identify your information needs
- Evaluate information resources in agriculture
- Set up search strategies and use various search techniques
- Identify relevant material types
- Search more efficiently on the internet
- Avoid plagiarism
- Cite correctly
- Work with reference management

#### **Duration**

The online course will last four weeks starting from 13 February to 10 March 2017, for 6 hours per week (time commitment for participants).

#### **Course structure and theoretical basics**

This course consists of 8 lessons, ranging from approximately 40 to 90 minutes, grouped into three units. Participants will be provided with access to all of the relevant course materials as well as online discussion forums, live webinars on the topics, videos and additional materials.

#### **Evaluation and Certification**

At the end of the course, the participants will be asked to take an online exam. Those who pass the exam successfully will be awarded with a course completion certificate.

#### **Registration Procedure and Deadlines**

Important dates for the course registration:

- Registration opens on **January 11th , Wednesday**
- Applications should be submitted by **January 27th , Friday**
- Announcement of selected participants by **February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friday**
- Course starts on **February 13th , Monday**

Applications must be submitted by **27 January 2017**. Please send the completed **Registration Form** and a signed **Confirmation Letter** form to [agora@fao.org](mailto:agora@fao.org). Online submission of the Registration Form is also accepted. Please see it at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HNRDHZ8>

This registration form should be completed, signed and send to [agora@fao.org](mailto:agora@fao.org) electronically **by 27th of January**.

### **Candidate Selection Criteria**

Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Anyone working in agricultural science related institution or studying in agricultural and related sciences can apply for the course.
- Priority will be given to anyone from Research4Life eligible countries. Group A and Group B respectively. Please see the list of Research4Life eligible countries at <http://www.fao.org/agora/eligibility>.

### **Requirements**

Candidates must have the following:

- Advanced knowledge of written English
- An approval letter from the employee at the current work place indicating that the applicant is allowed to allocate their time for the course.
- A proof of studentship, if the applicant is a student.
- Access to a computer and the Internet to participate in the online course.

### **Costs**

The online course is free.