

IMMANA Fellowships Programme

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LCIRAH

The London Centre for
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IMMANA Fellowships:

Building research careers that bridge agriculture, nutrition and health

- **Objective**

- Build a cadre of early career researchers to develop and apply new methods & metrics for agriculture-nutrition actions in LMICs.
- Rounds 1-4 (2015-19) were postdocs, launching new work
- Rounds 5-8 (2020-24) can be any stage, for validation & publication

- **Magnitude**

- One year of research, starting between June & Dec., with support for:
 - A “home” mentor, typically at the Fellow’s current institution
 - A “host” mentor, to help with additional data, methods and writing.

- **Eligibility**

- Doctorate in any field related to agriculture, nutrition and health
- One of the two mentors located in Africa or Asia
- Aim for gender balance
- Prefer candidates pursuing careers in African/Asian universities

Criteria for selection

Rounds 5-8

- 1. Demonstrated commitment and potential for excellence in research crossing disciplinary and institutional boundaries** in agriculture and food systems, nutrition and health in developing countries, in alignment with the IMMANA project priorities detailed in the call. Fellows should demonstrate this through past achievement, career trajectory and long-term goals (*15 points*).
- 2. Quality and feasibility of the proposed 12-month workplan**, including the existing data and prior research on which new data collection (if any) and analysis will build, with realistic expectations for timeline and resource needs towards completion and submission of results within the Fellowship year (*25 points*).
- 3. Potential for the proposed research to inform government and private-sector** actions in agriculture for improved nutrition and health (*25 points*).
- 4. Demonstrated commitment and potential** of the candidate for **leadership roles** and **transformational contributions** to future research (*20 points*).
- 5. Demonstrated commitment of the Mentors and their institutions** to support the proposed project, with evidence for the proposed Fellowship's contribution to their mission and strategic plans in agriculture, nutrition and health (*15 points*).

Timeline

1) Recruitment of candidates

- Call for proposals launched in October
- Concept notes reviewed on a rolling basis until 31 December
- Full proposals due in February

2) Selection of fellows

- Proposals scored by review panel in March
- Slate of 6 (+alternates) submitted for IMMANA approval in April
- Candidates notified in May

3) Support for fieldwork

- Start dates between June and December each year
- Payments against quarterly reports to document progress
- Location is wherever work done best, usually Africa or Asia
- Support via email, calls & webinars, plus ANH Academy Week

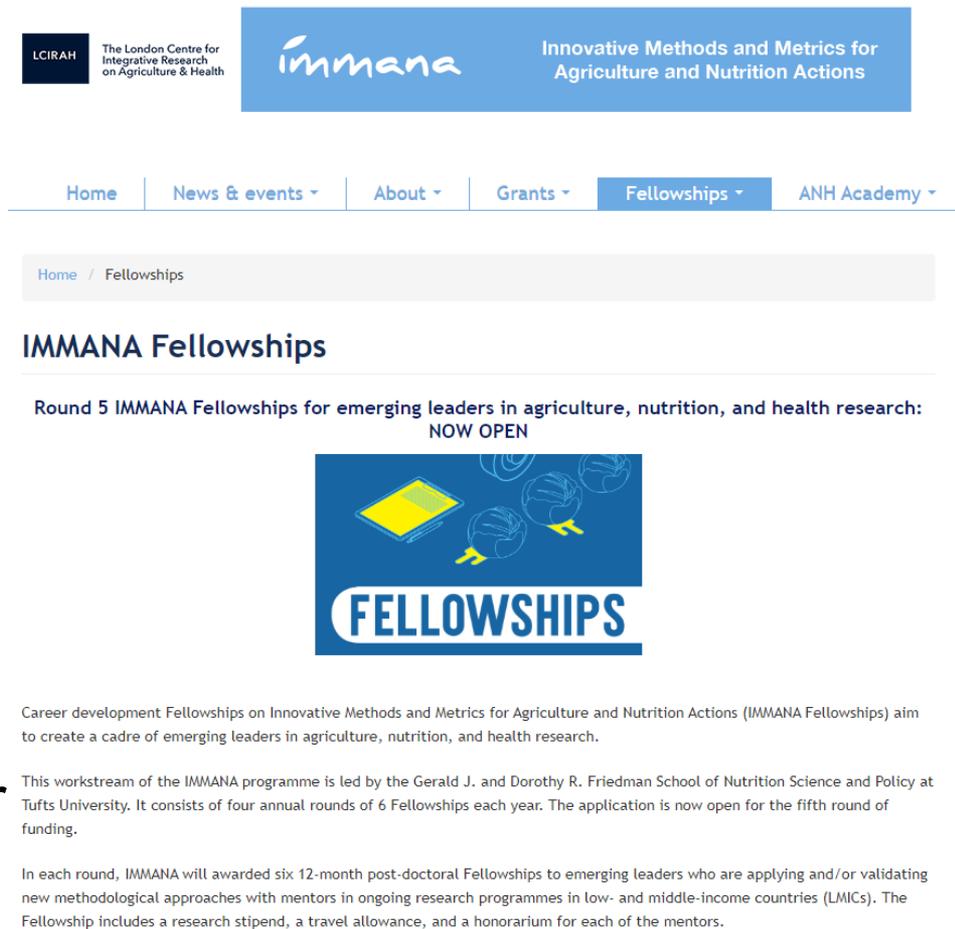
4) Financial support

- Fixed stipend to cover all travel & expenses (total £49,900 ≈ \$65k)
- Mentors' stipends (£2,100 each ≈ \$2,750)

Recruitment of candidates

Call for applications

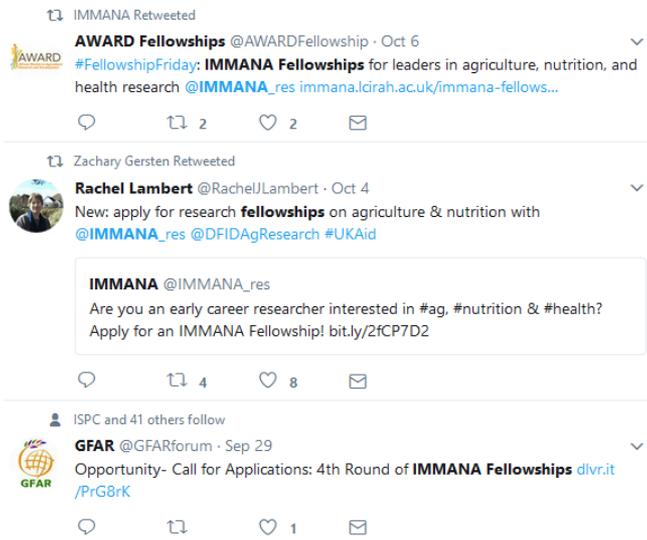
- Detailed call includes full documentation, plus FAQs
- Circulated via >100 channels (Ag2Nut, SecureNutrition, Chicago Council, LANSA, African Nutrition Society, etc)
- Reached over 30,000 individuals in 190 countries
- Yielded roughly 150 concept notes and 50 full proposals for 5 fellowships



The screenshot shows the website for the IMMANA program. At the top left is the LCIRAH logo (The London Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture & Health). To its right is the IMMANA logo (Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions). A navigation bar includes links for Home, News & events, About, Grants, Fellowships (highlighted), and ANH Academy. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / Fellowships'. The main heading is 'IMMANA Fellowships'. The sub-heading is 'Round 5 IMMANA Fellowships for emerging leaders in agriculture, nutrition, and health research: NOW OPEN'. Below this is a graphic with a blue background, a yellow diamond, and the word 'FELLOWSHIPS' in white text. The text below the graphic states: 'Career development Fellowships on Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA Fellowships) aim to create a cadre of emerging leaders in agriculture, nutrition, and health research.' Further down, it says: 'This workstream of the IMMANA programme is led by the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. It consists of four annual rounds of 6 Fellowships each year. The application is now open for the fifth round of funding.' At the bottom, it states: 'In each round, IMMANA will awarded six 12-month post-doctoral Fellowships to emerging leaders who are applying and/or validating new methodological approaches with mentors in ongoing research programmes in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The Fellowship includes a research stipend, a travel allowance, and a honorarium for each of the mentors.'

Feedback and engagement with candidates

- **Group webinars (live and recorded)**
 - Advertised via social media
 - Feature previous Fellows as well as program staff
 - Presentations with Q&A
- **One-to-one contact**
 - At ANH Academy Week in Addis, Kathmandu & Hyderabad
 - Other professional meetings, skype and email



IMMANA fellowships info session video

279 views

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Illustrative topics

Animal-source foods	Fish characteristics and consumer demand in Bangladesh Poultry improvement, food systems and nutrition in Tanzania Milk consumption, nutrition and health in southern Ethiopia
Fam household production	Farm/crop/livelihood diversity and farm household nutrition in India Impact of home gardens on breastmilk and child vitamin A intake in Ethiopia Soil nutrients, diets and health of children and women in southern Ethiopia
Diet quality and its consequences	Diet quality and its determinants among rural adolescents in Pune, India Dietary factors in maternal anemia and pregnancy outcomes in rural Ethiopia Effects of child nutrition on cognitive development in Ghana Nutritional barriers to agricultural productivity in Uganda
Household decision-making	Women's time use, agriculture and nutrition in Zambia Social networks, farm production, diets and child health in Burkina Faso Intra-household allocation and child nutrition in Bihar, India
Markets and policy	Agricultural trade policy and nutritional disparities in 22 LMICs History of agricultural innovation, food policy and pellagra in Lesotho
Program delivery	School feeding implementation and child nutrition in Ghana Implementation in nutrition-sensitive agriculture programs in Bangladesh

Key lessons from rounds 1-4

Design matters!

- limited restrictions on eligibility, to attract the strongest candidates
 - emerging leaders building a career in ANH research
 - focus on Africa or Asia: one mentor physically in either region
- simple and low-cost program design, to ensure value for money
 - only one year, towards publication and career development
 - fixed payments, disbursed against quarterly report milestones

Time is short

- to make one year valuable, successful projects must
 - build on previous work, adding some new data, methods & writing
 - have clear aims, timeline and targets for manuscript submission
 - choose mentors wisely, based on existing and new relationships

**For more information on
IMMANA Fellowships**
please visit us online at
immana.lcirah.ac.uk/immana-fellowships
or write to us at
immanafellowships@tufts.edu



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