Job Title: Ph.D. or MSc. Graduate Research Assistantship in Plant Pathology

Position description:
The common or dry bean is an important food legume crop grown worldwide including East Africa, where sustainable food production is of significant concern. Root rots caused by fungal and oomycete species are considered one of the most significant constraints to sustainability of dry bean production and pose a threat to global food security. Potential Ph.D. or M.Sc. students are invited to apply for an assistantship to support graduate research at Michigan State University, within the department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences on soilborne pathogens of dry bean in Eastern Africa and Michigan. The Graduate student project will involve identification and characterization of bean root rot pathogens in East Africa utilizing molecular, phenotypic and morphological tools. Of particular interest is the interaction of disease organisms that form the disease complex. The student will be housed in a plant pathology lab, but will work as part of the MSU team which consists of breeders and geneticists working to improve dry bean lines for resistance to root rot while increasing yields and improving dry bean nutritional composition. The project will present opportunities to participate and develop Extension and Outreach skills, with potential travel to East Africa.

The student should have a keen interest in one or more of the following areas: plant pathology, mycology, ecology and environmental microbial studies.

Job Materials:
Applicants should submit a statement describing their interests and experiences (maximum 2 pages), a CV, transcripts and GRE scores are required. Two letters of reference should be sent directly from referees. TOEFL English proficiency results should also be submitted if applicable.

Pay Scale: Stipend, health benefits, and full tuition waiver

The position will be open until filled.

For further information on the position contact:
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For information on the Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences visit http://www.psm.msu.edu/
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