

Foundation offers three scholarships for research on cassava  
The application deadline is April 30

[http://www.geneconserve.pro.br/jornaldaciencia/bolsa\\_para\\_pesquisa\\_sobre\\_mandioca.pdf](http://www.geneconserve.pro.br/jornaldaciencia/bolsa_para_pesquisa_sobre_mandioca.pdf)

Three scholarships for masters and doctoral students to develop research on cassava were announced by the newly created Nagib Nassar Foundation for Scientific and Sustainable Development (Funagib). The sum of the three scholarships to be offered is 40,000 reais and the application deadline is April 30 this year.

In 2014, geneticist and professor emeritus at the University of Brasilia (UNB), Nagib Nassar, received an award of US \$ 100,000 of the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS) for his work with research on botany, genetics and breeding of cassava . It was with this sum , and also own money, that Nassar created his foundation and decided to offer scholarships to encourage other scientists to devote themselves to research on cassava.

The scholarships were named Kuwait in 2016, Kuwait and 2016-2 and 2016-3 and Kuwait will offer US \$ 10 000, 15 000 and 15 000, respectively, to the best research projects presented by masters or doctoral students from a Brazilian university. For the third scholarship , Kuwait 2016-3, students can apply from Brazilian universities but must have come from a country in Sub-Saharan Africa, where cassava is the staple food and where the cassava program at the University of Brasilia (UNB) had the greatest impact in the decade 1980s.

<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Publications/Pages/ArticleDetails.aspx?PublicationID=163>

The Funagib is interested in funding three research lines, but considers other new innovative ideas. Lines with advancement made by the UNB cassava program in the last 40 years were: increasing productivity, improving the protein content and management of the reproductive system as bacterial infection control instrument.

The Foundation plans also to continue with its program to distribute improved varieties to small farmers and settlers. This is done with an ambitious plan to provide 30 scholarships for 7 years to masters and doctoral students studying cassava. Last year, the program has distributed improved varieties to more than eighty thousand families of small farmers and settlers in Goias, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Bahia and Sao Paulo. It is expected that the Foundation distributes more than 10,000 seedlings 200 settlements and communities of small farmers this year, and an equal amount in the coming years.

Registration for scholarships up to the 30th of April. The result will be announced on 1 July 2016.

Applicants must be enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree or have been accepted to the courses, with research on cassava projects.

Applicants are invited to submit their projects for: [funagib@geneconserve.pro.br](mailto:funagib@geneconserve.pro.br). Alternatively, they can also forward the proposal to Cassia Munhoz, at this adress [cbrmunhoz@gmail.com](mailto:cbrmunhoz@gmail.com) address.