World Vegetable Center

**PhD Research Fellowship in Regenerative Agriculture at World Vegetable Center in Taiwan
(deadline 15 January 2026)**

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) invites applications from highly qualified PhD students for a Research Fellowship to conduct their doctoral research at WorldVeg's headquarters in Taiwan.

About World Vegetable Center

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and five regional offices in Africa and Asia. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to realizing the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods. For more information, please visit our website: worldveg.org

Research topic background

There is a rapidly growing interest in regenerative agriculture, with increasing dialogue about the potential of regenerative practices to improve not only soil health but also the nutritional quality of food. This fellowship is associated with a dedicated research project examining the impact of regenerative agricultural practices on soil health, greenhouse gas emissions, and crop nutritional quality. The initial focus is primarily on mungbean, a nutrient-dense, fast-growing legume crop, with the potential to include an additional rotation crop.

Under this holistic research topic, the student will explore a range of regenerative practices such as reduced tillage, cover cropping, and substitution of mineral by organic fertilizers, and how interactions of multiple regenerative practices affect soil health, greenhouse gas emissions (N_2O, CO_2 and CH_4), and mungbean productivity and nutritional quality.

In addition to management practices, identification of best cover crops for nutrient cycling, and comparisons of selected high-performance mungbean varieties are expected to be included in this PhD project, to identify optimal management-variety combinations for scaling regenerative approaches in future projects.

This study will be conducted through robust field experimentation over at least two cropping seasons, complemented by laboratory analyses, statistical analyses, and the development of high-quality scientific publications. The overall aim is to identify the most effective regenerative approaches that offer multiple benefits for soil health, climate resilience, and human nutrition.

The student will work with the Agroecology research team, contributing strongly to the new Climate Resilience Action Area. The student is expected to be at the start of their PhD program

and will collaborate with WorldVeg to conduct field and lab work in Taiwan as part of their doctoral research, contributing toward the completion of their degree at their home university.

Research topic title
Preliminary topic (which can be adjusted) is the Effects of Regenerative Practices on Soil Health, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Nutrient Density of Mungbean.

If you have some specific questions on the research topic, you can contact Dr. Lukas Pawera: lukas.pawera@worldveg.org

Fellowship support
- A stipend of US$ 800 / month to cover leisure activities and food
- Accommodation at WorldVeg HQ for the duration of stay in Taiwan
- Travel, health, and accident insurance coverage
- A round-trip, direct economy airfare to and from Taiwan is negotiable if reasonably justified.

The project will cover all research and experimental costs, and the student will have an opportunity to learn from and contribute to other ongoing research projects in agronomy and agroecology at WorldVeg. Combining this fellowship from WorldVeg with the student's own academic scholarship or travel grant is welcomed.

Supervision
Students will be supervised by Dr. Lukas Pawera, Agronomist/Agroecologist, co-supervised by Dr. Samuel Mathu Ndungu, Associate Scientist in Agroecology & Soil Health, in close collaboration with the student's university supervisor. At WorldVeg, the student may also interact with other students and WorldVeg scientists.

Location
The student will be based at WorldVeg Headquarters in Shanhua, Tainan, Taiwan. The Center's campus has good accommodation, a cafeteria, and recreation facilities.

Duration
12 months, with a possible extension of 6-12 months, subject to student performance and funding availability.

Eligibility
- Having a completed MSc. degree in agronomy, agroecology, horticulture, soil science, climate change, microbial ecology, or related fields
- Being currently in the early stage of a PhD program at a recognized university, and being able to undertake the research topic above for a PhD research.
- Experience with the design and data analysis of agricultural experiments

- Demonstrate a strong interest in agroecology and regenerative agriculture
- A willingness to conduct field experiments and collect data in tropical environments, and carry out laboratory analyses on soil and plant samples with the local team.
- Proficient in spoken and written English.
- Advantage: demonstrated publication skills, lab experiences with soil/plant/gas samples, experiences using agricultural models (e.g. APSIM, DSSAT, DN-DC).

Application deadline
15 January 2026

How to apply
Applications must be submitted in English using the designated application form, including the attachments merged into a PDF document, and sent by email to: **training@worldveg.org**

Please include the PhD fellowship title (PhD Research Fellowship in Regenerative Agriculture at World Vegetable Center) in the email subject line.

Selection process
All applications will be reviewed within two weeks after the deadline. Only students who are shortlisted for a virtual interview will be informed by January 31, 2026. After the final selection, the student will be permitted to start their research work as soon as possible, based on an agreement signed between the student and WorldVeg. The starting date will be determined through mutual agreement between the student, WorldVeg, and academic supervisors. Ideally, the student will begin their placement at the center in February/March 2026.

Illustrative photos of field and lab activities