

The Ann Stroud Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Ann Stroud Memorial Scholarship Fund is being established to support young African researchers in stepping beyond disciplinary boundaries or professional standards that limit the ability of research to serve rural African communities. The launch of the Fund is a bit closer to reality thanks to large donations recently made by her friends and family. Once a reasonable-sized endowment is established, applications will be solicited periodically from young African scientists interested in doing an MSc or PhD. One applicant will be selected whose topic best suits the requirements of the call—namely, impact-oriented research that is holistic in nature and linked to action.

Ann Elizabeth Stroud, who served as the coordinator for the African Highlands Initiative (AHI) from 1998 to 2006, passed away one year ago after a long and dedicated career supporting smallholder farmers through demand-driven research in agriculture and natural resource management in eastern Africa. Ann's dedication to impact-oriented and empowering forms of research inspired many of those around her to move beyond disciplinary boundaries, generate and test new concepts, and experiment with new forms professionalism. She was a dedicated mentor—respectfully questioning assumptions, encouraging innovation and inspiring others to take steps into the unknown. This had the effect of bringing social and biophysical scientists closer to a mutual understanding, and helped bridge the gap between farmers and researchers. Ann's legacy lives on in those she touched personally and professionally, as evidenced by the many children who bear her name and the number of AHI staff and partners continuing to work with integrated and impact-oriented approaches.



Applicants' proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

- Research derives from the expressed needs of poor farmers and resource users, and in turn empowers them to make the decisions that matter to them;
- Projects aim to achieve "triple wins" to livelihoods, equity and the environment;
- Projects seek to enhance synergies between two or more disciplines (preferably linking the social and biophysical sciences), levels of analysis and intervention (from community level upwards), or strategies (technological, policy, social and/or market innovations);
- Work challenges the status quo in thinking, policy and/or practice; and
- Projects incorporate action research and/or seek to address problems in innovative ways.

Dynamic young women will be encouraged to apply; young men who demonstrate a sensitivity to gender and equity dimensions in their work will also be given due consideration.

Over the next two months, the Fund will seek to build up its endowment through this call for contributions from family, friends, colleagues and the broader agricultural development community in eastern Africa. If you wish to make a contribution to the Fund, please send an email to Hellen Ochieng at ICRAF (H.Ochieng@cgiar.org) copied to Roger Kirkby (R.Kirkby@cgiar.org). *Note:* US tax payers are advised to contribute through: The Agroforestry Council International, 4012 Pirates Beach, Galveston, Texas, 77554 USA so that their contributions will be tax deductible.

We sincerely hope you will help contribute to the success of this exciting scholarship opportunity for young African scientists!

ICRAF Memorial Scholarship Funds Committee