February 4, 2020

TO: CALS Graduate Students, International Faculty, Department Chairs and Directors of Graduate Studies

FROM: Global Development

RE: Graduate Student Supplemental Research Support Program

For the 33rd year, the First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca is providing funding to graduate students who intend to help improve food security in developing countries. Grants are made without regard to an applicant’s religious beliefs or absence thereof. IP/CALS has been asked to make this information and opportunity available to faculty and graduate students. The funds will provide supplemental financial support to several international graduate students whose thesis research deals with food security issues in their countries. In the broadest sense, topics can range from environment and natural resources issues to nutrition or water quality. The main goal is, in some way, to address the problems related to food security. Selected proposals will receive a modest grant that can be used for expenses related to the research project.

A description of the Student Field Research Support Program is below. In addition to information about this program, application forms can be found on our website: http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/ or at the Global Development main office, B75 Mann Library.

Funds will be available beginning with the 2020 summer period. Applications must be received by Friday, March 21, 2020, and must be typed. The student’s graduate committee chair must provide a letter indicating his/her evaluation of the student and the research proposal, together with his/her willingness to attest, at the conclusion of the project, whether funds were used as intended. Interviews will be held at the Church on Saturday, April 11, 2020.

For additional information about this program, please contact Denise Percey (dmp3@cornell.edu), Assistant to the Director of Global Development or Christina Mead, (christina.mead@gmail.com), Chair of the Church’s International Hunger Committee.
First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

International Food Security--Student Field Support Program

The First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca has an outreach fund to invest in food security in developing countries. Beginning in 1985, a group of Presbyterians interested in world hunger and food problems met to consider ways the local church might help in a modest way to address the issues of food security. From these discussions, a student assistance program was initiated and has continued through regular contributions from the congregation. It is now in its thirty-second year. To date more than 90 Cornell graduate students from 30 different countries have received International Food Security Grants from the First Presbyterian Church.

**Purpose and Operation of the Program**

The primary purpose of the program is to provide supplemental research funding for international graduate students whose work shows significant promise to improve food security. Grants are made without regard to an applicant’s religious beliefs or absence thereof. The funds are to be used in some phase of field research or work in the student’s home country. For example, funds may be used for additional technical assistance, equipment, local travel, or other needed resources to implement the thesis research or MPS project. Funds are not ordinarily awarded for international airfare. A second purpose of the grant program is to involve and educate church members about a country’s food security issues. As a condition of receiving the grants, students must make a presentation to members of the church about their research and how it will address hunger in their country. Because members of the church financially contribute to the award, they look forward to hearing about the results of students’ work after it is completed. Typical grants awarded are in the range of $2,000.

The International Food Security Committee of the Church reviews the applications, conducts interviews, and selects students who will receive grants. This committee works closely with the Senior Associate Director of International Programs/Global Development at Cornell. This office will serve as the center for identification of students who might be eligible for this financial aid.

Announcements of this program are being distributed by the IP/CALS office to the appropriate Cornell faculty and offices. IP/CALS will provide, upon request, additional application forms and will receive the completed forms. The funds will be paid by the Church directly to the student(s).

Applications are due on March 21, 2020. Interviews will be conducted on Saturday, April 11, 2020.
To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

• Be an international student from a developing country.

• Be enrolled in a graduate (MS, MPS, or PhD) program at Cornell in field of study that is likely to contribute to improved food security (for example, agricultural production, nutrition, education, communications, food policies, environment and natural resources, water resources, global development).

• Have plans for doing thesis research or an MPS project in her/his home country and in cooperation with others working on food security issues in the area.

• Agree to financial oversight of the grant by her/his graduate committee chair.

• Be committed to returning to her/his home country to work on food security after completion of the graduate degree.

• Be willing to share plans and experiences with the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, as described below.

Report of Research Program

Awards will be presented during the church service on April 19 or 26, 2020. The exact date is still to be determined. We ask that grant recipients set aside time from 10:00 to 11:30 on both mornings until the date is finalized. The recipient will be asked to attend the service, accept the award, and meet members of the congregation during a short fellowship time after the service.

Upon completion of the project, grant recipients are expected to make a brief presentation to church members during the church’s adult education time, from 11:30 to 12:30 on a Sunday. In addition, the church committee will expect to receive a short, one or two page summary describing the student’s field research experiences and an appraisal of the likely impact of his/her results on food security.
First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, New York

International Food Security - Student Field Support Program

2020 Grant Application Form

Biographical Information

Name ___________________________ Home Country ___________________________

Email Address: _____________________________________________________________

Campus Address: __________________________________________________________

Ithaca Address: ____________________________________________________________

Preferred Phone: _____________________________ (please specify home, cell, or campus)

Home Country Address: _____________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Major and Minor Fields of Graduate Study: _________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Graduate Committee Chairperson: __________________________________________

Other Members of Graduate Committee: ____________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Degree & Expected Completion Date: _______________________________________

Questions:

1. Describe briefly your graduate program at Cornell.

2. How do you think your research and/or extension interest will help in improving food security in your country?
3. How will your research be related to or coordinated with that of others working on food and hunger problems in your country or region?

4. What are your professional objectives after you complete your graduate studies?

5. How much money are you requesting? For what specific purpose(s) are you requesting these supplementary funds?

6. When will you return to your home country to conduct the research or project?

7. Are you willing to report on your research to the church by making a presentation to the congregation and submitting a 1-2 page summary of your work?

Ask your Committee Chairperson to write a letter of evaluation and support for your proposal, including his/her willingness to attest, at the conclusion of the project, whether funds were used as intended. The letter should be sent to Denise Percey, via email dmp3@cornell.edu or by campus mail to Denise Percey, B75 Mann Library.

Date submitted: __________Signature:_____________________________________________________

Return application to the Global Development office, Attn: Denise Percey, B75 Mann Library (dmp3@cornell.edu) by Friday, March 21, 2020.