



Cochran Fellowship Programme 2024



The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) received an invitation to participate in the 2024 Cochran Fellowship Programme. The goal of the Cochran Fellowship Program is to help eligible countries develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations, as well as strengthen and enhance trade linkages with the United States.

More information about the Cochran Fellowship Program is available at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/cochran-fellowship-programme>. The Cochran Fellows receive 2-3 weeks of training in the United States in partnership with U.S. universities, government agencies, and private companies. During the training program, fellows may meet with professionals in their fields, participate in industry visits, experience on-the-job training, attend university courses and seminars, and tour agricultural shows or expos. All training occurs in the United States and reflects the philosophy that participants should be provided with sound technical knowledge and the opportunity to test and practice new skills in practical situations.

1. Eligibility criteria

- Citizen of South Africa
- Proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking in English
- Currently employed by the national governments of South Africa
- Must be a mid-level or senior specialist or administrator working in trade policy and have responsibility for WTO reporting related to food or agriculture
- Intention to continue working for the government of their home country for a minimum of two years following return from the United States
- Early/mid stage of professional career (2-10 years of experience preferred)
- Fellows must be in good physical and mental health. A thorough physical exam is required by a licensed doctor prior to traveling to the United States.

2. Documents to be submitted:

- Completed application form (attached) **Typed please**
- Signed approval from applicant's home institution,
- Two letters of recommendation (academic and professional preferred)
- Copies of diploma(s) for college/university degree(s) received,
- Copy of passport identification page

3. Programme available:

The USDA has approved the below focus area for Cochran Fellowship Programme for 2024: Trade Facilitation - Overview of World Trade Organization (WTO) Notifications and Reporting. This training will help fellows understand what should be reported to the WTO and how. Noting the resource constraints of many countries in this region, the program will include tutorials on the submission process, how to streamline reporting, and how to lower the barriers for timely WTO reporting.

4. The Fellowship will cover:

- J1 visa referral (no visa application fee required)
- Stipend/travel allowance for hotel accommodations, meals and incidental expenses during the duration of the program
- Domestic transportation within the United States as required for the programme
- Emergency medical insurance

5. If selected as the Cochran Fellow, you will be responsible for:

- Submitting an online application (DS-160) for a U.S. J1 visa
- Airfare to and from the United States (including transportation cost to and from the airport in home country)
- Medical costs for physical examination before travel to the United States

6. Deadlines:

Completed application forms and attachments should be submitted before or **on 28 June 2023**. All applications must be submitted by email to Ms Jacky Smit (JackyS@Dalrrd.gov.za) and Mr Sello Tlhatlha (SelloTlh@dalrrd.gov.za) no late applications will be accepted.



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries and submission of application forms:

Mr Sello Tlhatlha
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Email: SelloTlh@dalrrd.gov.za

For Further Enquiries:

Ms Jacky Smit
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