FOOD SYSTEMS AND POVERTY REDUCTION
A Cornell University IGERT for PhD students

A DISCIPLINARY-PLUS PROGRAM
The Food Systems and Poverty Reduction IGERT is a “disciplinary-plus” program. IGERT Trainees fulfill all of the Doctoral requirements in one of twenty-one associated Graduate Fields (e.g. they complete complementary advanced field training in Food Systems and Poverty Reduction). Students receive IGERT funding early in their doctoral programs, usually during their first two years. This allows them from the outset to put 10-20 hours per week of training in the discipline(s) and program(s) they choose, which integrates and applies training from other disciplines.

IGERT-SPECIFIC TRAINING
The IGERT-specific training accounts for a total of 10 hours of credit hours per semester for 3 semesters, which qualifies Trainees for a minor in the Graduate Field of International Agricultural and Rural Development (IARD). It consists of:

- Three semester courses covering Dynamics Systems Modeling and Food System Concepts and Themes
- Research and Professional Skills Development Seminar
- Exploratory Field Research Experience

Please refer to our website (ciifad.cornell.edu/igert) for more detailed information about the individual training components.

Together, the three-semester training curriculum, multi-year professional development and research seminar and exploratory field research experience ensures that all Trainees, regardless of their field of doctoral study, possess some common analytical tools, are familiar with a common vocabulary, measurement methods and literature revolving around food systems and poverty reduction, as well as develop professional skills and interdisciplinary research group experiences that are commonly needed from formal curricula. The courses are taught in modular fashion by scientists from across the social and natural sciences, and emphasize small group discussions, debates, case studies, and group assignments rather than lectures and individual exercises.

IGERT RESEARCH AREAS
The following are examples of potential research areas that students might focus on (note these are examples and not exhaustive) (ciifad.cornell.edu/igert).
- Water Shortages
- Climate Change
- Soil and Land Degradation
- Emerging Agricultural and Human Diseases
- Policy and Poverty
- Climate Change and Human Health (including Pathobiology)
- Human Nutrition (including Pathobiology)
- Agricultural Policy and Environment
- Human Nutrition
- Food Safety and Health Links
- Multi-Scale Stability and Resilience

WHY SPECIALLY-TRAINED SCIENTISTS ARE NEEDED
Food systems are characterized by complex webs of connections, dynamic linkages and feedback loops such that food systems are complex and independent of the types of feedbacks that affect poverty and food system functioning. The program’s integrative framework allows students to develop an interdisciplinary training program that integrates and applies training from other disciplines.

CONTACT INFORMATION
For more information please refer to our website (ciifad.cornell.edu/igert) or email IGERT Associate Director, Dr. Beth A. Medvecky (food-systems@cornell.edu). Contact Professor Chris Barrett, IGERT Director, or other Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development (CIFAR) office at 31 Warren Hall.

HOW TO APPLY
Students apply for the IGERT through their associated Graduate Field rather than directly to our program office. They do so either as a Prospective Student (i.e., who is applying for admission to a doctoral program in an affiliated field) or as a Continuing Cornell PhD Student (i.e., who is in the first or second year of a Cornell PhD program in one of the affiliated fields).

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PROSPECTIVE STUDENT APPLICATION PROCEDURES
A. Contact at least one IGERT faculty member from a participating field to discuss your interest in the program. A faculty listing is available at http://ciifad.cornell.edu/igert/.

B. Submit the Graduate School’s online application and all supporting materials required by the Graduate School and the Field to which you are applying. Write a statement of intent explaining how the Food Systems and Poverty Reduction IGERT would contribute to your career aspirations.

- Submit the Application Notification Form (available on our website) to the IGERT office, indicating that you have completed and submitted a Graduate School application and are applying for a Food System and Poverty Reduction IGERT Traineeship. Include the specific PhD field to which you are applying and a 1 or 2 page statement of intent explaining how the Food Systems and Poverty Reduction IGERT would contribute to your career aspirations.

Application deadlines vary by field (see above), so any particular materials required for submission. You have to be accepted into a PhD field to be eligible for IGERT funding.

CONTINUING CORNELL STUDENTS
Continuing PhD students must submit a Continuing Student Application Form (available on our website) directly to the Director of Graduate Studies of their Graduate Field by the Prospective Student’s deadline for the Field. Please also submit: an IGERT Application Notification Form (available on our website) to the IGERT office, indicating that you are applying for a Food System and Poverty Reduction IGERT Traineeship through your Graduate Field. Submit the specific PhD field to which you belong and include a 1 or 2 page statement of intent explaining how the Food Systems and Poverty Reduction IGERT would contribute to your career aspirations.

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APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR AFFILIATED GRADUATE FIELDS

| December 1 | Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Entomology, Molecular and Integrative Physiology, Zoology |
| December 15 | Government |
| January 1 | Anthropology, Environmental Toxicology, Food Science, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology |
| January 5 | Plant Breeding, Soil and Crop Sciences |
| January 18 | Nutritional Sciences |
| January 19 | Animal Science, Applied Economics and Management, Biological and Environmental Engineering, Food Science, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology |
| February 1 | Economics, Development Sociology, Economics |

NOTE: For details regarding the specific PhD fields and Graduate Field application deadlines, please refer to "How to Apply."