



ORGANISATION  
AFRICAIN-ASIATIQUE POUR LE  
DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL

AFRICAN-ASIAN  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANIZATION

المنظمة  
الأفريقية الآسيوية  
للتنمية الريفية

Cooperation for Rural Development

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL

مكتب  
الأمين العام

No. IEC/Scholarship /IIT-KGP/2025

21 December 2025

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries  
Government of the Republic of Tunisia  
Tunis, TUNISIA

**Subject: Upcoming AARDO-IIT Kharagpur Scholarship Programme (Fourth Batch)  
- Commencing July 2026**

Honourable Minister/Excellency/Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that, under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP), the joint scholarship programme for the Master of Science (MS) by Research will soon open applications for its fourth batch, scheduled to commence in July 2026.

This prestigious programme was initiated in 2022 with the objective of nurturing highly capable officers and students from AARDO member countries in advanced scientific and technology-driven research. Over the past three batches, the programme has witnessed encouraging participation, and the feedback received from enrolled scholars has been consistently positive, reflecting the academic excellence and enriching research environment at IIT Kharagpur.

The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, the first IIT of India, established in 1951, is internationally recognised for its distinguished faculty, research excellence, and state-of-the-art laboratories. Its specialized schools, centers, and departments, including those focusing on agriculture, sustainability, innovation, and rural development, align closely with AARDO's mission and mandate of promoting sustainable rural advancement and transformation.

I am pleased to convey that the official invitation letter, containing detailed guidelines and application procedures for the July 2026 batch, will be circulated in February 2026. Your esteemed Government may kindly disseminate the forthcoming invitation widely among national institutions, universities, training academies, and other relevant agencies to ensure broader participation and to enable deserving candidates from your esteemed country to fully benefit from this opportunity. You may wish to note the key eligibility requirements for prospective nominees:

2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021, INDIA  
Phones: (91-11) 24100475/26115936/26877783/26877784, Fax: 26115937  
E-mail: aarido@aarido.org, Website: http://www.aarido.org

Essential Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in engineering/technology/architecture (minimum 4 years) from a recognized institution with at least 60% marks or CGPA 6.5/10;  
OR
- Master of Science (MSc) in appropriate sciences or relevant disciplines (minimum 3 + 2 years duration) with at least 60% marks or CGPA 6.5/10 in science subjects or 55% marks/CGPA 6.0/10 for humanities/social sciences;
- The maximum age of the candidate shall be below 35 years on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 However, the age limit can be relaxed to 45 years for candidates who have extensive experience in the field.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English as the medium of instructions would be English only .
- Must be in good health both physically and mentally to undergo scholarship programme.

You will appreciate that this scholarship has expenditure inclusions and exclusions as highlighted in the following table:

S. No	Inclusions (Covered jointly by AARDO & IITKGP)	Exclusions (to be covered by Candidate's nominating Country/Institution)
1	One-time admission fee	Pre -Scholarship expenses: Passport, Visa Fee, Vaccination, Airport Taxes etc. Travel, Health Insurance Premium and Medical Expenses
2	International student tuition fee	Telephone Calls, Laundry
3	Hostel fee (Room rent only)	Extra Baggage Allowances (Above that provided by the Airline)
4	Monthly living allowance equivalent to the stipend given to domestic students.	Mess food charges for complete duration of the programme
5	Return Air Ticket by economy class (from Capital City)*	Post -Scholarship expenses: any other expense after the event

\*Airfare will be provided only to nominees of countries that regularly pay AARDO membership contributions.

Your esteemed Government is kindly encouraged to consider providing support allowances to nominated candidates, especially to meet excluded expenses. Candidates are strongly advised to carry valid travel health insurance during their stay in India. Further details, including the application link and deadline, will be provided in the formal invitation in February 2026.

Kindly accept, Hon Minister/Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh  
Secretary General