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Dear Sir or Madam:

**RE: APPLICATION - REGIONAL OFFICE DATA ANALYST**

I write to apply for the position of Regional Office Data Analyst at International Fund for Agricultural Development.

My journey into data analysis was born of necessity while pursuing post-graduate research in Financial Economics at the **University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg** in South Africa, from 2017. My PhD research examined the transformation of Microfinance Institutions in Africa. I am to graduate later in 2021 or early 2022. The research journey saw me learn R programming by taking the **Professional Certificate in Data Science** course offered by Harvard University through EDx.

Consequently, I have become familiar with Big Data analytics ecosystems like SQL, Hadoop, and Spark through these courses. Moreover, as a research assistant at the Wits Business School, I have had five years of practical experience working with Bloomberg and the World Bank data.

Importantly, I embrace continuous learning, a critical personal quality in the era of rapid technological changes that also affect the evolving data science field. Currently, I am undertaking further data science courses to further my knowledge and independent data science projects. Further information is available in my **GitHub** account (see [github.com/Karuitha](https://github.com/Karuitha)) and **LinkedIn** profile page (see <https://www.linkedin.com/in/karuitha/>).

Although I am currently in academia, I have previously held professional positions. At Twana Twitu Cares, an NGO, I was in charge of finance, where I did financial reports for the management and donors (USAID and AMREF). I was the project manager at NECLI, a livelihoods improvement and environmental conservation community-based organisation, at the time, funded by the EU and DANIDA.

Given my background, I believe I can handle the tasks of a Regional Office Data Analyst. Please feel free to contact me for further information or clarification.

Best regards,

John Karuitha.