



Invites applications for Field Investigators

ICRISAT invites applications for **Field Investigators**, to be based at the selected villages of Pancha Mahal district in Gujarat, India, in its project on “Tracking Change in Rural Poverty in Household and Village Economies in South Asia”. The person needs to stay in the village assigned and build rapport with the farmers and other stakeholders. He/she should be able to communicate with farmers in the local languages/dialects (Gujarati), collect the required quality data from farm households and village institutions, and understand the key issues related to rural poverty and agriculture of semi-arid tropics of India.

About ICRISAT: ICRISAT is a non-profit, apolitical, international organization for science-based agricultural development. Established in 1972, it is an Alliance of centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and supported by more than 48 governments, foundations, and development banks. To reduce poverty, enhance crop productivity and food security and to protect the environment, ICRISAT research focuses on farming systems and crop improvement, management and utilization of sorghum, pearl millet, pigeonpea, chickpea, and groundnut in the semi-arid tropics.

Village-Level Studies (VLS): Village-Level Studies (or Village Dynamics Studies) were initiated by ICRISAT’s Economics Program in India in 1975, and later extended to Africa. The studies have provided important insights about changing household and village livelihoods and helped scientists identify and understand socioeconomic, agro-biological, and institutional constraints to agricultural development in the Semi-Arid Tropics (SAT). The Social Science research team at ICRISAT, in partnership with national research programs and leading institutes worldwide, has resumed the Village Level Studies (VLS) to improve the quantity and quality of longitudinal household panel data and complementary meso-level time series data to facilitate evidence-based decision making in rural development and its impacts on smallholding farming.

Responsibilities:

- Investigate into the rural poverty and agriculture in the Semi-Arid Tropics of India through regular interactions with farmers, collection of quality data from the farmers and other stakeholders using structured questionnaires with different modules of the longitudinal panel data of ICRISAT.
- Arranging interactive meetings with farmers and facilitate communication of ICRISAT project staffs with farmers and other stakeholders and helping the other researchers in data collection
- Provide useful feedback from the village to the research team at ICRISAT to improve the survey checklists, questionnaires, and also to fill the gaps found in quantitative data.
- In the process, the incumbent is expected to build a good rapport with the villagers and communicate with them on a regular basis in local languages/dialects.

Requirements:

- Post-graduate in Agricultural Economics, or any other Agricultural Discipline/Agri-Business Management/Economics/Sociology, with Graduate in Agricultural Science and/or good experience in farming activities (Preference will be given to the previous experience of socioeconomic survey, or working with farming communities, or rural development sector activities).
- Applicants should be fluent in English, and have excellent communication skills in spoken and written local language of Gujarati/Hindi.
- The applicant should have an inclination to the rural setting and be willing to stay in the village.
- The applicant should be a good team player with public relation skills.
- Experience in undertaking socio-economic surveys in rural areas, and good knowledge in application of basic computer software (MS word, excel)
- Previous experience in analysis of socioeconomic data is desirable.

General: The position is for two years, renewable based on the performance of the incumbent and the Institute’s continuing need for the position. An attractive compensation is offered for the right candidate.

How to Apply: The application should include an up-to-date resume, a recent passport size photograph, names and addresses (including phone & e-mail) of three referees and date of availability.

Please send applications by email to icrisat.nrsjobs@cgiar.org or by post to **Human Resources Services, ICRISAT, Patancheru – 502 324, Andhra Pradesh, India. The applications are accepted latest by 10 Feb 2013, or until the position is filled up.** On Subject line (or envelop) clearly mark as “**Application for field investigator-VDSA project, Gujarat**”.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for the interview scheduled to be held at Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR), Ahmedabad in late February 2013. The exact date and time of the interview will be intimated to the shortlisted candidates.

ICRISAT is an equal opportunity employer and is especially interested in increasing participation of women on its staff.