



INTERNATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCIAL SCIENTIST - RESEARCHER

(Hyderabad, India)

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is a non-profit research organization and one of 15 international research centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). IWMI's mission is to improve the management of land and water resources for food, livelihoods and nature. With headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka IWMI also has offices across Asia and Africa. The Institute's aim is to find solutions to the water and land management challenges faced by poor rural communities while contributing to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing poverty and hunger and maintaining a sustainable environment. In all three goals, water plays a pivotal role. IWMI has offices in 12 countries in Asia and Africa and has links with researchers in 50 international, regional and national organizations.

We are looking for a highly competent and motivated individual for the position of Social Scientist for our expanding research program in India. The successful candidate will be based at IWMI's office in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India and will report to the head, India and Nepal Offices. The Social Scientist will work as part of multi-disciplinary teams and will collaborate and interact with both international and national researchers.

Key Functional Areas:

IWMI is further expanding and strengthening its social, economic and policy research capabilities relating to water resources development and management in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of research and for achieving impacts.

A key area of research is to develop management strategies to improve water productivity in mixed farming systems thereby leading to improved livelihood security, reduced poverty and improved environmental security in rural areas of developing countries.

For developing effective water management strategies, a better understanding is required of the interactions between various water uses by women and men; their associated water-based livelihood activities; of access to and control over various resources, different social and cultural aspects pertaining to water.

The Social Scientist will take the lead in developing and applying methodologies for analyzing livelihood systems, gender and poverty impacts of recommended technological and water management options, conduct research on social and institutional issues in water resource allocations. He or she will contribute specifically to studies which will result in water management strategies to improve water productivity in mixed crop-livestock farming systems. The Social Scientist will in addition contribute to a study on agrarian transformations in river basins which are experiencing water shortages, and will also be expected to participate in and advise on research methodologies for social science investigations of other studies carried out by IWMI.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

- Carry out high quality analytical studies using sustainable livelihoods framework to 1) characterize the major crop-livestock farming systems set within the immediate ecological, social, institutional and economic environment of the Indo-Gangetic basin 2) assess gender related impacts of proposed livelihood strategies of small-holder farmers centered on crop-livestock systems and associated water-based livelihood activities
- Conduct studies designed to understand institutional systems that support sustainable and equitable water management, including design and implement policy oriented research studies on changes in land tenure, production systems and supporting services structure, and other related rural institutions.
- Conduct studies to assess the impacts on the agrarian changes of rural communities due to changes in the natural capital, especially biodiversity and environment, resulting from planned and unplanned human interventions
- Analyze coping strategies of poor people occupying marginal lands and ecologically sensitive environments and explore ways to make such strategies as effective safety nets to those who are vulnerable
- Design and implement field data collection, and supervise the field-work of research assistants and supervise data tabulation and analyses
- Prepare research reports, journal articles, seminar papers and other scientific manuscripts for the dissemination of research results
- Contribute to IWMI's capacity building efforts in the area of policy analysis and institution building

Qualifications & Experience:

Qualifications: A Ph.D. in a social science discipline with specialization in livelihood systems analysis.

Skills:

- An ability to understand the water issues confronting the poor and to assist in developing solutions to them will be highly important.
- Demonstrated competence in the application of the sustainable livelihoods framework for analyzing poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability of rural agrarian communities
- Competency in institutional analysis, especially the application of concepts and methods of New Institutional Economics to analyse problems relating to the water sector and the rural context is an asset.
- Competence in the application of statistical methods is an advantage.
- Ability to design and conduct field research
- A proven track record of publications in international peer-reviewed journals.
- Scientific writing skills are at a premium and an ability to write clearly and concisely in English is essential.
- Ability to effectively work in teams and with people from different cultural and professional backgrounds

Experience:

At least five years research experience on water/land or natural resources management in developing countries. A candidate experienced in the application of the sustainable livelihoods frameworks for analyzing rural livelihoods and poverty in developing country settings will have a distinct advantage.

Salary & Benefits:

This is an internationally recruited staff position. Salary and benefits are competitive with those of similar international institutions and include a housing allowance, transport, education, annual home leave, retirement and health package.

How to Apply:

Please send your application and résumé, with a list of publications, and the names and contact information of three referees to the Human Resources Office, IWMI, P.O. Box 2075, Colombo, Sri Lanka or e-mail to work-at-iwmi@cgiar.org

Application deadline: **15 April 2008** or until the position is filled.

To obtain further details about IWMI visit <http://www.iwmi.org>

IWMI is an equal opportunity employer and is keen to further diversify its staff in terms of both gender and nationality