Postdoctoral research fellow positions: Impacts of forest-sector environment and development programs

The International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) research network is seeking two to three postdoctoral research fellows to join its research team at the University of Michigan. The fellows will support IFRI research projects on forests and forest-dependent livelihoods in less-industrialized countries. In particular, the fellows will be closely involved in a new project funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to evaluate the impacts of forest-sector environment and development programs.

The postdoctoral research fellows will report directly to Professor Arun Agrawal, coordinator of the IFRI research network. The fellows will work as part of an interdisciplinary team of faculty, postdoctoral researcher fellows, and students based in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, and some research colleagues outside UM.

Responsibilities of the research fellows will be to:

-    Coordinate research in one or more of the following five countries: Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, and Nepal

-    Contribute to data-collection, analysis, and writing

-    Travel internationally, including time in remote rural (forest and agricultural) landscapes

-    Mentor graduate students

-    Collaborate with partner organizations, including academic, NGO, donor, and development agencies

- Help with meeting research and outreach deliverables to DFID

The division of responsibilities between the two research fellows will depend on the skill-set of the applicant pool, but all applicants should offer some to many of the following skills, knowledge, and experience.

Required skills & qualifications

- A recent Ph.D. in development, environmental studies, geography, ecology, political ecology, or other relevant discipline. Applicants with an interdisciplinary degree are welcome.

- Advanced statistical analysis skills with large datasets and ideally including the use of matching methods for causal inference

- Fluency in R, Stata, or similar statistical package

- Familiarity with quantitative methods for dataset manipulation and analysis and with spatial analysis methods(e.g. with GIS)

- Strong writing skills

Knowledge & experience

- Clear understanding of rural livelihoods and development, particularly in forest landscapes

- Clear understanding of natural resource management and governance, particularly in forest landscapes

- Experience of research on impact evaluation or knowledge of statistical techniques related to impact evaluation

Experience of working in one or more of Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, and Nepal is desirable as also that or working in teams.

The positions are scheduled to start as soon as possible, but we will begin reviewing applications on a rolling basis from early September 2014. The exact start date can be negotiated if necessary. Salary and Benefits are competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Benefits include employee health and dental insurance.

Applicants should send 1) a copy of their CV, 2) a 1-2 page a cover letter that a) explains their interest in the position, and b) outlines their relevant skills and experience, 3) a recent publication or dissertation chapter, and 4) names and contact details (email addresses and telephone numbers) for three references, to Joan Wolf (joanwolf@umich.edu). Please also contact Joan in case of further questions.