



Institute of Rural Research & Development (IRRAD)
Announces
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT IRRAD

Institute of Rural Research and Development (IRRAD) is an initiative of the S.M. Sehgal Foundation, registered as a Trust in India since 1999 to further the well-being of rural communities in India. IRRAD's mission is to implement Integrated Sustainable Village Development (ISVD) in select village clusters, build capacity in rural development, undertake rural research, improve village governance, and serve as a premier knowledge institution for rural development and poverty reduction in India. IRRAD implements programs and conducts research in the following areas: (a) Life Skills Education; (b) Rural Health; (c) Income Enhancement including Agriculture; (d) Water Management; and (e) Alternative Energy. IRRAD is based in Gurgaon, Haryana.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

IRRAD is pleased to announce two post-doctoral fellowships in rural development due to begin in October 2008. The broad objective of the post-doctoral fellowship is to provide a better understanding of the processes of development in rural areas and to conduct research on rural development related issues. Specific objectives are to:

- Understand processes and assess the impact of interventions done in rural development
- Provide suggestions for improvement of the rural development programs and recommendations for replicability
- Provide scientific rigour to work by focussing on a research topic or by more refined work to provide practical solutions at the grassroots level

The post-doctoral fellow will conduct research related to one or more of the themes under IRRAD's ISVD model in Mewat and Kurukshetra districts of Haryana, or in other states where similar programs have been implemented by other organizations. If a fellow proposes to conduct research in Mewat and Kurukshetra, IRRAD will provide the following support: (a) access to relevant data; (b) access to resource group at IRRAD who are most knowledgeable; (c) provision of logistic support; and (d) support in collection of survey data through the program implementation team who are active in the villages.

ELIGIBILITY

The candidate must have completed a Ph.D. in Social Sciences or Agriculture field during the last five years. The upper age limit is 40 years as on June 30, 2008.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The candidates fulfilling the above criteria are required to submit updated Curriculum Vitae along with list of publications, (both peer-reviewed and other published articles), short research proposal of about 2000 words, two references from persons who have known the applicant professionally for at least one year and a brief abstract of the completed doctoral research to: smsf@smsfoundation.org. Deadline for applying: August 15, 2008. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The candidates will be short-listed on the basis of the following:

- A good education and academic record
- Demonstrated ability for a project/idea to succeed
- Research publications
- Scientific approach and feasibility of the proposed research plan
- Quality of the completed doctoral research

The short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

DELIVERABLES

The candidate is expected to complete and submit at least one research paper, to a peer-reviewed journal at the end of the first year of fellowship. The candidate is also expected to make presentations to IRRAD team including one on 'plan of research' at the beginning of the fellowship period, and the other on 'findings of the research study' at the end of one year of the fellowship. Presentation of a paper in a national-level seminar is encouraged.

FELLOWSHIP PACKAGE

Monthly fellowship stipend at IRRAD is highly competitive and some of the best in the non-profit sector. An annual contingency to support research and field-work (e.g., travel, accommodation, food, books etc.), will be provided along with travel support for participating and presenting a paper at a national-level conference in India. IRRAD fosters gender and social equity. Therefore, women and candidates from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

IRRAD will encourage those fellows who have obtained funding from elsewhere to pursue post-doctoral research and will provide other necessary facilities. The fellows are encouraged to write proposals and secure funding from elsewhere using IRRAD as a platform.

DURATION OF FELLOWSHIP

One year, extendable to one more year based on the satisfactory performance and availability of resources.

For more information on IRRAD and the Foundation's activities, please refer to our annual reports that are published on our website www.smsfoundation.org.