WORLD BANK GROUP

Donor Funded Staffing Program

TOR No:	**2025-072**
Title:	**Junior Professional Officer**
Grade:	**UC**
Division/VPU:	Agriculture and Food South Asia Unit (SSAA1)/South Asia Region Vice Presidency (SARVP)
Duty Location:	Washington, D.C
Appointment Type and Duration:	Two-year Term Appointment

BACKGROUND

The South Asia Region comprises eight countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) that range in size from India (with a population of over 1.4 billion) to Maldives (with 0.3 million people). The region is at a crucial stage of development. The rapid economic growth, driven by urbanization and demographic dividend, that was helping to reduce poverty has now been hindered by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and fiscal pressures. The severe forms of exclusion in the Region and disparities based on ethnicity, caste, and gender will exacerbate the challenges of the pandemic. Private sector-led growth, focused on investments in infrastructure, energy, logistics, and cities, is essential to generate the jobs needed to employ South Asia's sizeable youth population. At the same time, the region needs to continue building human capital so that South Asia's population is well-equipped for the jobs of the future.

The Agriculture and Food South Asia Unit (AGF SAR) program priorities include: (i) agricultural and rural transformation fostering agriculture commercialization and value chain development; (ii) improving rural livelihoods and rural SME development through the development of modern farmer/non-farm rural associations – including women's self-help groups; (iii) developing, adapting and disseminating new innovative environmentally-sound technologies to strengthen all stages of key value chains; and (iv) promoting skills development, jobs, gender equality and increasing prospects for farm and non-farm incomes. The team also works in close collaboration with other Global Practices and with IFC in both analytics and projects.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The selected candidate is expected to collaborate in in areas such as:
  - Agricultural Productivity Analysis: Using remote sensing and GIS to monitor crop yields, assess land use changes, and estimate potential productivity improvements.
  - Market and Value Chain Analysis: Assessing market trends, supply chain efficiency, and price forecasting to improve market access.
  - Socioeconomic Impact Studies: Evaluating the impact of digital agricultural interventions on rural livelihoods, income levels, and food security.
  - Policy Impact Evaluation: Using data analytics to support the design of agricultural policies, subsidy programs, and credit access schemes.

- - Financial Inclusion Analysis: Assessing farmers' access to credit, insurance, mobile banking, and other financial services to enhance financial resilience and investment capacity.

Note:

The selected candidate will not be assigned to programs involving their own government such as donor coordination and trust fund management.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Educational Degree: At least a master's degree in Agriculture Economics, Information Technology, Data Science, or a related field with concentration in promotion of digital technologies and/or financial inclusion through digital technologies, in the agriculture sector.
- Relevant Experience:
  - At least three years of experience in digital agriculture or ICT for development, agriculture development projects, productive partnerships in agriculture.
  - Proven experience working with:
    - Farmer Cooperatives and Agribusiness Partnerships: Collaborations between smallholder farmers and agribusiness firms to improve access to inputs, technology, and markets.
    - Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Joint ventures between government entities and private sector firms for scaling agricultural innovations.
    - Research and Development Alliances: Partnerships with academic institutions and research organizations to co-develop innovative digital solutions.
    - Financial Service Providers: Collaborations with banks and fintech companies to enhance farmers' access to credit, insurance, and mobile banking services.
    - Technology Providers and Startups: Strategic alliances with ag-tech startups to deploy cutting-edge agricultural technologies.
- Strong organizational, research, and oral presentation skills
- Proven ability to work in a team and intercultural environment, with minimal supervision
- Hands-on and action-oriented approach
- Computer skills: proficiency in the use of MS Office and statistical packages equivalent to SPSS and STATA.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Enthusiasm for, and commitment to development work
- Willing to travel to remote areas in SAR countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)
- Field experience in developing countries a plus