

CCAFS Flagship 4 Call for Students/Interns/PhD Fellows

Introduction

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) is a collaboration of all 15 CGIAR research centers and brings together the world's best researchers in agricultural science, climate science, environmental and social sciences to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and trade-offs between climate change and agriculture.

The Flagship 4 program (FP4) focuses on policies and institutions for climate-resilient food systems and works from district to global levels to better understand the enabling environment and power dynamics and processes that effect climate and food systems policy development. At the same time, the Flagship works to integrate innovative tools and knowledge into the development of policies for climate-resilient food systems, and works to ensure that climate-smart research informs investment decisions of national governments as well as donors.

The complexity of project activities is growing, and within FP4 several distinct opportunities/topics are emerging that could be designed and implemented through students, interns or PhD fellows.

Objectives

- To support FP4 project portfolio implementation by creating high quality research outputs, supporting engagement and helping FP4 achieve its outcomes
- To provide opportunities for upcoming professionals to gain experience in a research for development (R4D) setting and provide mentorship
- To provide potential topics for Master's and PhD research, and to support and build lasting partnerships with universities

Ideally, students will work in teams on joint or related activities in order to facilitate collaboration, teamwork and reduce transaction costs.

Application procedure

Interested students should apply by emailing Wiebke Foerch, Flagship 4 Science Officer, at w.foerch@cgiar.org. Please send a cover letter describing your background and your research interests, along with your CV. Review the list of potential topics below to identify the areas to which you believe you could contribute. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Administration and Logistics

Flagship 4 is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, with additional staff in Washington DC, USA. We would like interns to be based in Nairobi for 2-3 months during the internship, but the possibility of working from other locations can also be explored. Flagship 4 administrative staff can help find accommodation and make other logistical arrangements as needed. Due to budget constraints, we are unfortunately unable to offer compensation or financial assistance for interns at this time. We encourage students who are able to find their own funding to apply.

Potential topics

We list below the areas of interest for FP4. Students should consult with their academic advisors and committee members if they wish to use the internship as a foundation for thesis or dissertation research or produce other outputs that can be counted towards academic requirements. Topics related to FP4 but not listed below could also be discussed.

Climate Change and Social Learning (CCSL) Evidence Base Building

Work with CCSL partners to support documentation of projects to contribute towards CCSL evidence base.

1. Support to individual projects: CCSL M&E framework operationalization and documentation (e.g. Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture project, Policy Action for Climate Change Adaptation project, and others)
2. Support in documentation and analysis across projects to build evidence, with IIED

Candidates must have some interest in social learning and related approaches for enhanced outcomes. Analytical skills, knowledge of impact pathways, R4D and development projects.

Related research that could be written up for a Master's thesis could revolve around the drivers of successful uptake of social learning processes and/or the barriers to implementation within projects or organizations studied.

Equitable Policies – Literature Review and Strategy Development

Work with FP4 to conduct a desk study of equitable policies – how can food systems policies be made more equitable and socially just (gender, youth, disadvantaged groups)? Develop a framework for FP4 to operationalize equitable policies and a strategy for FP4 projects to support equity considerations in their policy research and influencing processes.

Candidate with good analytical skills and writing skills. Background in political or social science, gender and development, or similar.

The literature review and concept development can form a substantial portion of background research for a thesis on food system policies and equity.

Equitable Policies – Cross-Regional Analysis

Work with FP4 and CCAFS regional teams and partners, building on above conceptual framework, to document and synthesize existing initiatives at supporting equitable policy research, policy formulation and implementation.

Candidate with good analytical and writing skills. Background in political or social science, gender and development, or similar. Ability to work with people from different backgrounds necessary for interacting with regional partners.

A cross-regional synthesis of efforts to design equitable policies could form the basis of a Master's thesis or perhaps PhD dissertation. Other topics related to policy possible.

Evaluating Innovation Platforms

Work with FP4 and partners on identifying relationships between factors that contribute to the performance of innovation platforms in reaching its development outcomes, and on refining a conceptual framework for the M&E of impact of innovation platforms.

Candidate with agricultural economics, development studies or related background.

Quantitative data analysis skills and good analytical and writing skills

CCAFS baseline data analysis

Work with M&E and regional teams to identify potential analyses using the CCAFS baseline data – from household surveys, focus group discussions and organizational interviews. This could feed in to a “grand synthesis” paper that is planned for 2015 which will utilize baseline data from five regions.

Candidate(s) with strong quantitative data analysis skills. Strong qualitative candidates who are interested in pursuing analyses of the qualitative data (with additional field work) are also encouraged to apply.

We have a rich dataset of household, village and organizational data, and our active research sites can facilitate follow up or additional field work for Master’s or PhD students.

In addition to the CCAFS baseline data, CCAFS could also provide support in using the IMPACTlite dataset, a farming systems characterization database with intra-household survey data and additional gender data for selected sites.

M&E/Communications – Infographic for impact pathways

Work with the M&E team to develop a visualization or infographic of the CCAFS impact pathways, including a nesting mechanism that allows for highlighting of specific elements of the impact pathways for different audiences. This should also be linked to the CCAFS online planning and reporting platform.

Candidate with communications for development and IT background. This topic may not lend itself very well to a research component, but is critical for helping CCAFS communicate its impact pathway approach.

Climate Finance

Work with the Flagship 4 Science Officer based at IFPRI in Washington, DC. Develop literature review on current climate finance system, emphasizing adaptation and developing opportunities for funding policy-related initiatives.

Candidate with political or social science, policy analysis or related background.

The literature review could form a foundation for a more detailed research topic of the student’s choosing.