

Intern: Water, Gender and Sustainable Agriculture Intensification

The CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) offer an exciting opportunity for a strategic thinker to work on and inform the global transition towards a more equitable and sustainable food system

BACKGROUND

The CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) is a global research-for-development program working through partnerships to ensure agricultural intensification is sustainable, benefits smallholder farmer livelihoods and makes use of the services provided by ecosystems. WLE researchers aim to tackle key global challenges related to water scarcity, climate variability and environmental degradation and work from farm to landscape scale. WLE is led by the [International Water Management Institute](#) (IWMI), a CGIAR Research Center focused on the sustainable use of water and land resources in developing countries. WLE is run out of the IWMI headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with regional offices across Asia and Africa.

WLE interventions and approaches lie fundamentally at the intersection of equity and sustainability. We believe that focusing on one or the other – or for that matter on agriculture, water and environment – without attention to both is risky. Environmental degradation and natural resource scarcity present major threats to agricultural productivity, resilience to climate change and social equity. There is an urgent need to provide clearer guidance on practical ways forward for policy makers, farmers and business leaders, on this complex and contested set of issues.

Rethinking Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture: WLE/IWMI to lead work on inclusive sustainability

It is in this regard that WLE is planning to establish a global scientific Commission to bring together evidence on what transitions are necessary to deliver sustainable intensification of agriculture (SAI) at multiple scales, in ways that are ecologically, economically, ethically and socially sustainable.

To ensure that these transitions are foundationally inclusive, WLE / IWMI is currently leading and coordinating a series of workshops on the topic of “inclusive sustainability” in relation to SIA. This work addresses knowledge gaps on the “linkages between sustainability and equity” (Leach et. al. 2017) by viewing SIA discourse and interventions through a focus on water and gender as critical cornerstones for the agenda of sustainable, inclusive agriculture. Water’s fluidity connects agriculture and ecosystems, as well as domestic and productive domains, and these links provide a unique lens on the socio-ecological dimensions of gendered inequalities in both domains.

The applied conceptual approach will be science for transformative change. Simply put, this means a focus on perspectives and frameworks that enable voice, choice and agency of those currently excluded to be heard and included in new decision making around sustainable (intensification of) agriculture. Feminist political ecology and feminist political economy are potential frameworks that we seek to apply to enable firstly, an attention to the politics and economics of agriculture decision making and how this intersects with environmental governance and outcomes; and secondly to identify diverse experiences, meanings and values of agriculture, environment and water - i.e. how food systems have complex social meanings and how they co-produce cultures and identities. We are also interested in transdisciplinary approaches – for example, how AI and deep learning can intersect with FP Ecology and Economy.

(To learn more about SIA, inclusion and our approach, please read our blog: [Rethinking Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture - Engineering Inclusion](#)).

OPPORTUNITY

The Social Equity and Sustainable Agriculture Intern will work under the supervision of the WLE/IWMI Gender, Youth and Inclusion (GYI) Lead to support evidence gathering, proposal development, communications and

outreach. S/he will work as a core member of the GYI team to coordinate and facilitate development of key special issues, policy briefs, workshops and webinars that further the Water, Gender and Inclusion discourse in the planned global scientific Commission on SIA. The intern will bring strong written, communication and coordination skills, with the ability and interest to dig deep into feminist political ecology, and –economy framings agriculture, water and inclusion. This is an excellent opportunity for a committed and dynamic intern to learn and play a key role in work that prioritizes the SDG goal of “leaving no one behind”. At this critical point in agricultural history, the intern will gain insight into the transformations at scale within SIA – which includes attention to irrigation, the wider ecology and the gender dynamics that link production and reproduction.

The successful candidate will:

The Social Equity and Sustainable Agriculture Intern will be recruited for a year and will work closely with WLE’s Gender and Inclusion Lead to:

- Support evidence gathering and compilation, literature review, drafting and editing of reports, journal articles and policy briefs
- Undertake logistical arrangements and engage in a series of dialogues (webinars) and workshops
- Facilitate and support communications and outreach activities with partners and key stakeholders
- Assist in the development of new proposals.

The success candidate will have:

- Excellent academic and/or work experience reviews
- Interest and commitment to exploring the links between theories, policies and outcomes on the ground
- Ability to efficiently source, screen, review and summarise published and grey literature
- Excellent communication and organisation skills in reaching out to relevant stakeholders and supporting planning and organising processes, we highly value enthusiastic, positive and constructive communicators
- Academic credentials that match the proposed work are desirable.

Application:

Please send a CV, letter of motivation and one supporting document (thesis report, published literature, blog/ thought piece) to kokila.perera@cgiar.org no later than August 15, 2019.