



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, CAUSAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

About the program – SPIA

The Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) is an independent entity within CGIAR, with a mandate from the CGIAR System Council to generate evidence on the impacts of the CGIAR system. SPIA is responsible for providing rigorous, evidence-based, and independent strategic advice on efficient and effective impact assessment methods and practices.

About the position

We are seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Fellow with an interest in agriculture, natural resource management, food systems and nutrition, and expertise in causal impact evaluation to join the SPIA team, hosted by The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), to be based in Nairobi, Kenya.

SPIA aims to identify and facilitate the implementation of the most relevant independent causal impact studies of CGIAR innovations by using a systematic scoping of potential causal “learning” and “accountability” studies in collaboration with CGIAR researchers and external and internal impact assessment experts. The Postdoctoral Fellow will assist in the design and implementation of rigorous experimental and quasi experimental impact studies and long-term follow-ups.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will have time and be expected to pursue his or her own research agenda, especially as it results in original, publishable research in areas relevant to SPIA’s work plan, including close collaboration with SPIA panel members, CGIAR researchers, SPIA’s research team and partners. Responsibilities will include conducting literature reviews and writing synthesis papers; development of questionnaires; data management, analysis and writing of publications; and promotion of research outputs and relevant findings to key stakeholders, including policy-makers, researchers, and implementers.

Other key responsibilities include participation and organization of SPIA activities and events; supporting capacity-building activities and interactions with the Impact Assessment Community of Practice in CGIAR; and mentoring of predoctoral fellows.

The position will have an administrative reporting line locally to an ILRI staff in Kenya, but will report to SPIA Principal Scientist based in the CIAT campus, Colombia for the technical details of her/his work program.

The Postdoctoral Fellow is expected to travel across CGIAR priority hubs and work closely with CGIAR researchers in these different CGIAR locations.



Qualifications

PhD in Economics, Applied/Agricultural Economics, or a related social science field, preferably with a concentration in Development, Agricultural or Environmental Economics and with PhD-level expertise in impact evaluation and/or applied micro econometrics.

The PhD should be completed or duly planned by the date of the appointment. Applicants with a PhD obtained prior to 2020 will not be considered.

Skills required

- Experience in designing casual impact evaluations and solid understanding of causal inference and measurement challenges in applied micro-econometrics.
- Experience in conducting empirical field research in developing countries.
- Track record of implementing collaborative research with multi-disciplinary researchers.
- Proactive and reliable, with experience coordinating teams and managing a variety of tasks.
- Strong programming skills in STATA and/or R including experience with data analysis and econometrics.
- Research interests aligned with the broad areas covered by CGIAR research (desirable).
- Excellent oral and written English (essential) and a good command of other languages relevant for CGIAR priority countries (desirable).

Terms of employment

This position is at job level HG 16 and is open to both national and international applicants. The position entails a 2-year appointment, with the possibility of a 1-year extension dependent on funding and performance. ILRI offers a competitive salary and benefits package which includes medical and other insurances.

Start Date (negotiable): 1st June 2024

Applications

Applicants should send a cover letter, CV and the names and addresses (including telephone and email) of three referees who are knowledgeable about the candidate's professional qualifications and work experience, in English to spia@cgiar.org no later than 29th February 2024. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.