

Consultancy Announcement

Research Assistant

(Impact evaluation of cash transfer programs)

The From Protection to Production Project (PtoP) focuses on the impact of cash transfer programmes on household economic decision-making and the local economy. PtoP seeks to understand the potential productive and economic impacts of cash transfers on the rural poor in sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to provide insights into how social protection interventions can contribute to sustainable poverty reduction and economic growth at household and community levels. The project uses a mixed method approach, combining econometric analysis of impact evaluation household survey data, general equilibrium Local Economy-wide Impact Evaluation (LEWIE) models, and qualitative research methods. On our website you can find a detailed description of the project, the countries we work in, and our analytical work thus far (<http://www.fao.org/economic/ptop/en/>).

We are seeking two new research assistants to deepen and push forward the research agenda on the gender-differentiated impact of cash transfer programmes and other social protection interventions on household livelihoods and food security, using econometric analysis of impact evaluation household survey data. Specific areas of research include women's empowerment, labour and employment, food security, agricultural technical efficiency and social networks. The two research assistants will join a team of economists, anthropologists and policy specialists.

As a research assistant on the PtoP team, you will

- ☞ Support advanced econometric analysis of experimental and non-experimental data from innovative impact evaluations of government-led cash transfer programmes and other social protection interventions, with a primary focus in Sub Saharan Africa.
- ☞ Support the preparation of journal-quality research papers in collaboration with PtoP team members.
- ☞ Support the production of research of immediate policy relevance to the design and ongoing implementation of government-led social protection programmes.
- ☞ Support preparation of policy outreach material to influence regional and global discourse on the linkages between social protection, agriculture, food security and rural development.
- ☞ Represent FAO in national and international fora to discuss analytical findings.
- ☞ Provide technical assistance to FAO and external partners on methodological innovations in impact evaluation.

The suitable candidate will have:

- ☞ Minimum Masters in Economics or related field in development, with at least 1 year experience in applying quantitative methods to household survey data. We will accept applications from both recent graduates as well as more experienced research assistants.
- ☞ Experience with quantitative impact evaluation methods, and more generally with advanced econometric methods, in both coursework and practical applications
- ☞ Good understanding of policy and institutional issues related to social protection and agriculture, including the role of gender.
- ☞ Excellent writing and oral presentation skills.

Previous experience in Sub Saharan Africa is desirable

Begins: as soon as possible

Duration: 11 months, with possibility of renewal

Salary: commensurate with experience

If interested please send your curriculum vitae to: PTOP-Team@fao.org by 20th April 2014.