



# USAID | INDIA

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USAID/India is accepting applications for the following Foreign Service National (FSN) Personal Services Contract position.

- Advertisement No.** : USAID/15-06
- Position Title** : Development Assistance Specialist (Agriculture)
- Opening Date** : May 06, 2015
- Closing Date** : May 27, 2015
- Number of Positions** : One (1)
- Office** : Food Security Office (FSO)
- Grade** : FSN-12
- Location** : The position is based at New Delhi.
- Working Hours** : 40 hours per week, Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**Education:**

Master's Degree or equivalent in agricultural economics or related subjects (e.g. agronomy, crop science, animal husbandry) is required.

**Experience:**

A minimum of ten years of progressively responsible experience in agricultural research, agricultural development program administration, and/or agricultural business development is required. A significant portion of this work should have been performed in working for, other donor agencies, agricultural research organizations, think tanks, Government of India (GOI) organizations, or private-sector institutions, which included a strong research component, project design, performance monitoring, and/or the data analysis and interpretation of large amounts of data.

**Duties:**

The Development Assistance Specialist (Agriculture) provides technical and program expertise to the Food Security Office (FSO) and Mission. S/he serves as a principal FSN specialist for agriculture, climate change and food and nutrition security, and is a recognized leader and expert in agricultural development. S/he provides substantial assistance to overall Mission planning and the design and implementation of new agricultural programs and activities. S/he works closely with staff members of USAID/India, other US Government (USG) Agencies, international donors, NGOs, and the GOI to evaluate and

utilize results and lessons-learned from prior and on-going investments in the agricultural sector. The Specialist provides technical advice and leadership in the conceptualization, development, design, administration, and monitoring of the USAID/India agriculture development portfolio. The incumbent reports to the Office Director, Food Security Office, and/or his/her designee.

Broadly, the incumbent ' s responsibilities include:

**A. Agricultural and Food Security Analysis:**

The Development Assistance Specialist (Agriculture) provides rigorous analysis of macro and micro trend, public policies, and the latest research and development findings on relevant agricultural interventions to inform agricultural sector development assistance priority decisions; s/he applies the knowledge gleaned from the analysis and designs or participates in designing, new agriculture and food security programs or partnerships for immediate implementation, or continuing ongoing food security interventions as part of the USG Feed the Future Initiative; undertakes food and nutrition security and agricultural development analysis in close collaboration with the GoI and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other critical stakeholders, in order to develop a better understanding of key challenges in the agricultural and rural sectors; liaises with GoI agencies, international donors, private-sector agribusinesses, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers based in India (Eg: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CYMMIT)); assesses existing research, and analyses, conducted in India, the South Asia region, and Africa for possible use in constructing analytical foundations for USAID, Mission, and USG food and nutrition security strategies, and future interventions in agriculture; keeps the Food Security Office team abreast of current agricultural-related research and development efforts and significant events in India, the region and in Africa; advises senior USAID Mission management and others of agricultural and rural development activities and programs impacting on USAID activities in the sector; conducts consultations with stakeholders, including the private sector, and tracks developments related to agriculture and food and nutrition security; and, collects, analyzes, and synthesizes information to inform and strategically guide USAID/India planning; and utilizes outcomes of existing and new analyses to define and identify development programs or partnerships, especially those that leverage innovative ideas and approaches, incorporate technological solutions, focus on the role of women in agricultural development, and has the potential to be scaled.

**B. Conceptualization and Planning:**

The work includes a substantial conceptualization and planning component, resulting in project papers, gap analyses, and design documents focused on agricultural sector development that potentially lead to improvements to existing USAID food and nutrition security strategies, programs and procedures, and can lead to new research on social and development factors pertaining to agricultural development in India, the region, and Africa. The Specialist contributes to the development of overall USAID Mission conceptual frameworks, and formulates plans for their implementation; prepares concept papers and other relevant documents and initiates, describes, and justifies project ideas and initiatives in accordance with the sector strategy, the current development environment in India, the region and Africa, the institutional capabilities and purposes of potential USAID assistance and/or grant recipients, resource availability, and funding sources; conducts field trips to

ground-truth research efforts and concepts, and development programs as appropriate or requested; attends relevant meetings locally and internationally in order to develop contacts, gather information, and represent USAID and the USG; establishes and maintains contacts with Asian, African, and GOI officials and their offices, in dealing with issues related to USAID agricultural and food and nutrition security activities; and identifies potential new interventions, in order to provide a timely agricultural response to meet urgent Indian and international concerns relating to global hunger, food security, and climate change.

#### **C. External Coordination:**

The Development Assistance Specialist (Agriculture) develops and sustains close collaborative, professional relationships with senior government officials in India, select African and Asian countries, officials of other USG agencies, USAID Missions in select countries in Africa and Asia, key business leaders, other major donors, and international organizations; ensures effective coordination and alignment of USAID-funded activities with those of other donors working with GoI and agricultural producers and processors, and agricultural cooperatives and associations in India, Africa and Asia; promotes the expansion of effective strategies and approaches that can serve to expand the coverage and quality of agricultural development programs; represents the Food Security Office and USAID/India to stakeholders and external development partners in a wide variety of fora sponsored by USAID development partners, at conferences and workshops, donor subgroup meetings, and other relevant forums on economic development; and, in negotiations with GOI and the governments of select countries in Africa and Asia on project design and implementation, ensuring that host-country officials and USAID missions in relevant geographic regions are apprised of program progress. The external coordination responsibilities require the Specialist to demonstrate highly developed professional judgment, and to provide technical direction, leadership in the field, and management oversight.

The Specialist supports Indian stakeholders, in order to produce evidence to guide agriculture development, engages various stakeholders in order to respond to such changes; and, supports the development of a sustainable approach to agriculture and food and nutrition security agreements.

#### **Language:**

Level IV (fluency) Hindi and English language proficiency, in speaking and in writing, is required.

#### **Knowledge:**

The Specialist must have a substantial grasp of agricultural development policy and the institutional factors constraining agricultural growth in India, with strong emphasis on agricultural development, agricultural policies, production, marketing and finance, and/or trade.

#### **Skills and Abilities:**

The Specialist must have:

- Excellent verbal communication skills, tact, and diplomacy in order to establish and develop sustainable working relations and a high level of trust with senior-level GOI officials and technical contacts in the development area.
- Excellent writing skills to prepare regular and ad hoc reports; documentation of program impacts, research and conceptualization process; and briefing papers.

- Skills in agricultural development, programming, policy analysis, and plans and in developing strategies for implementing recommendations are required.
- Exceptional conceptual, analytical, and reasoning skills are required to analyze large amounts of disparate information and use it to target a variety of audiences.
- Ability to explain and interpret GOI attitudes, priorities, and concerns to USAID officials; negotiate program/project plans and resolve program/project implementation issues with appropriate organizations, technical advisors, counterparts, and peers.
- Ability to undertake analysis and understand complex and multi-sectoral programs; work under pressure and quickly produce results.
- Ability to be sensitive to USAID relationships with the host and collaborating countries government officials, other donors, the Embassy and private and public organizations.
- Good analytical ability to interpret public policies, and apply them to develop or revise USAID policies, or periodic work plans.
- Ability to work effectively and collaboratively in a team environment to achieve consensus on policy, program/ project, and administrative matters.
- Strong computer skills, especially in word processing and spreadsheet program application.

**To Apply:**

1. Interested applicants must apply on Application for Employment as a Locally Employed Staff or Family Member Form (DS-174) (attached). Please note: Must answer all the questions in DS-174 application form.

You may also click the link below to access the above form:

[http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/Application%20for%20Employment%20-%20Form%20DS-174\\_0.doc](http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/Application%20for%20Employment%20-%20Form%20DS-174_0.doc)

**Applications not submitted in the specified form will not be accepted.**

2. Submit **electronic copies** of applications to: [indiaper@usaid.gov](mailto:indiaper@usaid.gov)

**Or**

**Print copies** of applications to:

Human Resources  
 United States Agency for International Development  
 U.S. Embassy  
 Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  
 New Delhi – 110 021

3. **Applicants must specify the advertisement number and position title in Column 1 of the Employment Form.** Applications without reference to a specific advertisement number will not be accepted.

**Notes:**

**Probationary Period:** FSN employees currently serving their probationary period or with less than one year of USG service are not eligible to apply. Employees desiring a change after the initial probation period will be required to be in their present position for not less than 120 days.

**Compensation:** The selected individual will be compensated in accordance with the Local Compensation Plan for Foreign Service National (FSN) employees.

Applicants living outside New Delhi / NCR should note that if selected for the position, no resettlement travel or housing is associated with the position. It would be the candidate's responsibility to travel to New Delhi in a timely manner for the pre-employment clearances.

**Age Requirement:** Consistent with local law, customs, and practices, the separation/retirement age for Foreign Service National (FSN) employees is 60 years.

**Equal Employment Opportunity:** It is the policy of the United States Government to ensure equal employment to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, caste, sex, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

Due to a high volume of anticipated applications, only short-listed candidates will be notified.