



JOB DESCRIPTION FOR LEAD - CLIMATE CHANGE- PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST

Job Title: Lead – Climate Change – Principal Scientist

Job Code: LCC-20324-C

Programme Area / Department: Climate Change

M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation requires research leadership in climate change involving guiding and coordinating research efforts to address the complex challenges posed by rising climate change, with a focus on developing innovative solutions that contribute to both adaptation and mitigation strategies. This is a senior leadership position at MSSRF, that builds on the work done over the past 3 decades and would strengthen a strong research program for the future. This requires a combination of scientific expertise, strategic vision, collaboration skills, and commitment to making a positive impact on the planet and society.

- **Qualifications:** PhD or equivalent degree in Agricultural sciences, Environmental science, climate science, Ecology, or a related field.
- **Experience:** Minimum 10 years of experience in climate change research, with a track record of leading research projects, publications and securing funding from government agencies, foundations, or international donors.
- **Setting Research Direction:** To be responsible for defining the strategic direction and provide scientific leadership in climate change research within the organization. This involves identifying key research questions, priorities, and emerging trends in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- **Formulating Research priorities:** To closely work with research teams and stakeholders, you will develop clear and measurable interdisciplinary research priorities aligned with the organization's mission and goals. Collaborate with researchers from other programme areas within and outside the organization on diverse disciplines, such as agricultural science, Environmental science, Gender, Economics, Ecology, Sociology, Anthropology, Policy studies etc, to address complex climate change challenges from multiple perspectives.
- **Designing Research Studies:** To oversee the design of research studies and experiments aimed at advancing our understanding of climate change processes, impacts, and solutions as a cross cutting theme within the foundation's programmes. This may involve designing field experiments, observational studies, modelling, simulations, or policy analyses to assess the effectiveness of various adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- **Securing Research Funding:** Identifying funding opportunities from government agencies, foundations, or private donors, and developing competitive grant proposals to secure research grants.
- **Building Research Teams:** To assemble and lead multidisciplinary research teams comprising scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders



- **Mentoring and Capacity Building:** To be a research leader, you will mentor junior researchers, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, providing guidance and support to help them develop their research skills and advance their careers in climate change research. This may include providing training, supervising research projects, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development.
- **Disseminating Research Findings:** To be responsible for communicating research findings to both scientific audiences and the broader public through publications in peer-reviewed journals, international forums and conferences, policy briefs, and outreach events.
- **Partnerships and Stakeholders Relationships:** Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including government agencies, philanthropies, non-profit foundations, industry partners, and local communities for ensuring the relevance, applicability, and impact of research outcomes.

Required Competencies

- **Technical Skills:** Strong quantitative and qualitative research skills, including data analysis, modelling, use of GIS tools and working with farmers.
- **Leadership Abilities:** Excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills. Ability to lead and motivate multidisciplinary teams and foster collaboration among researchers and stakeholders.
- **Networking:** Demonstrated ability to build and maintain professional networks with relevant stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, NGOs, and community organizations.
- **Project Management:** Experience in project management, including budgeting, planning, and monitoring project progress and outcomes.
- **Policy Analysis:** Knowledge of climate change policy frameworks and regulations at local, national, and international levels. Experience in policy analysis and advocacy preferred.
- **Commitment to Equity:** Commitment to promoting equity and inclusion in climate change research and action, with a focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities.