Advertisement for Engagement of Research Associate(s) to Undertake Field Investigation on Consultancy Basis

The **Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru,** invites applications from eligible candidates for engagement on a purely temporary and consultancy basis under the project titled **"Situational Analysis of Tobacco Cultivation in India: A Landscape Assessment"**, funded by **Vital Strategies**. The project aims to undertake a comprehensive assessment of tobacco cultivation systems, value chains, institutional arrangements, labour dynamics, and transition opportunities across major tobacco-growing states in India.

1. Research Associate(s)

Number of Positions: 7

Essential Qualifications

- Masters in any subject related to any Social Science Subjects (Agriculture, Economics, Rural Development, Sociology, Statistics, Public Health, Social Work, Geography, or any allied discipline).
- Minimum **two years of research experience** in socio-economic surveys, agricultural research, policy research, public health research, rural development studies, or related fields.
- Proficiency in MS Office and data management.

Desirable Qualifications

- Postgraduate and above degree in a relevant discipline.
- Experience in literature review, secondary data analysis, report writing, and stakeholder consultations.
- Experience in handling quantitative and qualitative data.
- Working knowledge of statistical software such as SPSS, STATA, R, or similar packages.

Job Responsibilities & Key Deliverables

1. Data Collection and Compilation

- Collect, compile, and validate secondary data on tobacco cultivation, including area, production, and productivity for the agricultural years 1960–61, 1970–71, 1980–81, 1990–91, 2000–01, 2010–11, 2015–16, 2020–21, 2024–25, and 2025–26 or the latest available year.
- Identify reliable data sources, including government publications, official databases, research reports, and relevant institutional records, and maintain proper references for all data collected.

2. Tobacco Crop Life Cycle Mapping

- Map the tobacco crop life cycle from seed selection and nursery preparation to cultivation, harvesting, curing, processing, and disposal of crop residues.
- Document the major inputs, production practices, government schemes and subsidies, institutional support, environmental implications, and occupational and public health concerns associated with each stage.
- Develop a flowchart illustrating the crop life cycle, supported by relevant photographs, illustrations, and documentary evidence wherever available.

3. Tobacco Value Chain Mapping

- Map the tobacco value chain from seed supply and input procurement to cultivation, aggregation, procurement, processing, manufacturing, distribution, and retail sale.
- Identify the key actors, activities, input and output flows, market linkages, value addition, and institutional arrangements at different stages of the value chain.
- Prepare a comprehensive value chain flowchart highlighting the linkages among farmers, intermediaries, processors, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and other relevant stakeholders.

4. Institutional and Stakeholder Mapping

- Identify and document key institutional facilitators and stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, Tobacco Board, National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture (ICAR-NICRA), tobacco industry representatives, tobacco growers' associations, research institutions, and other relevant organisations.
- Summarise their respective roles, functions, programmes, support mechanisms, and linkages with tobacco cultivation and marketing.

5. Preparation of Research Documentation

- Prepare and organise tables, graphs, charts, flowcharts, photographs, descriptive briefs, and other supporting materials required for project documentation.
- Assist in preparing background notes, analytical summaries, technical reports, stakeholder profiles, and reference lists.
- Ensure the accuracy, consistency, clarity, and proper referencing of all data, illustrations, and research outputs.

6. Project Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement

- Coordinate with the Principal Investigator, project team members, and relevant stakeholders for data collection, information sharing, and timely completion of assigned tasks.
- Facilitate communication with concerned departments, institutions, industry representatives, and tobacco growers' associations, as required.

7. Field Validation and Dissemination

- Provide research and logistical support for field visits, stakeholder consultations, and validation of the mapped life cycle and value chain.
- Assist in organising dissemination workshops, stakeholder meetings, and other project-related events.
- Incorporate feedback from field validation and stakeholder consultations into the final documentation and reports.

Expected Deliverables

- Compiled and referenced time-series dataset on tobacco area, production, and productivity.
- Tobacco crop life cycle map and accompanying explanatory note.
- Tobacco value chain map and accompanying analytical note.
- Institutional and stakeholder directory with a summary of roles and linkages.
- Tables, graphs, photographs, briefs, and supporting research documentation.
- Inputs to field validation, stakeholder consultation, and dissemination workshop reports.
- Consolidated research documentation and other outputs assigned by the Principal Investigator.

Consolidated Remuneration

- **₹1,15,000** payable in two installments (₹50,000 upon signing of the consultancy contract; and ₹65,000 upon satisfactory completion and submission of the assigned deliverables).

General Conditions

1. The appointments are purely temporary and contractual/consultancy-based and shall not confer any claim for regular appointment at ISEC.
2. The engagement will be for the initial project period, depending on project requirements and satisfactory performance.
3. Selected candidates may be required to travel extensively across tobacco-growing regions in India.
4. The Institute reserves the right not to fill any position, increase or decrease the number of positions, or modify the selection process without assigning any reason.
5. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.

How to Apply

Interested candidates may send:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae,
- Copies of educational qualifications,
- Experience certificates, and
- Contact details of two references

to:

The Principal Investigator

Project: Situational Analysis of Tobacco Cultivation in India: A Landscape Assessment

Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi

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Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 13th November 2026