

## Job Announcement

Position Title: **Data Associate/Assistant**

Project: **Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD) Project**

Qualifications: **Bachelor's / Master's degree in Economics, Statistics, Computer Science, Public Policy, Business Administration, or related fields**

Start Date: **As soon as possible**

Location: **19-A FCC, Syed Maratib Ali Road, Gulberg IV, Lahore**

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The Center for Economic Research in Pakistan seeks a qualified applicant for the position of Data Associate/Assistant for the Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD) Project. This is a full-time position based at the CERP office in Lahore. The Data Associate/Assistant will contribute to data collection, including data entry software development, the supervision of field work, data entry, data cleaning and data analysis. He/she will also have the opportunity to engage with leading economists from Harvard University.

### About CERP

The [Center for Economic Research in Pakistan \(CERP\)](#) is a non-profit research center in Pakistan that promotes the use of rigorous quantitative research and actively engages with policy counterparts to answer key questions in public policy. CERP was founded in 2008 by renowned Pakistani economists based at the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School, University of Chicago, Pomona College and Lahore University of Management Sciences.

This is a demanding but exciting role, given the scope and possibilities for professional growth. CERP's project teams are small, and the amount of work we accomplish is significant. The position is challenging but rewarding – only apply if you are the type of person who takes charge and responsibility, can do good work with little supervision, and are not afraid to learn new things in order to get the job done. **Strong data analytic skills are required** in order to clean and analyze the data collected for sampling purposes, through the pilot, and through the eventual roll-out phase. A willingness to travel and the ability to take on challenges are essential.

### Project Description

Smallholder farms support more than two billion people worldwide, but many rely on inefficient and environmentally unsustainable agricultural practices. Small changes in agricultural practices can substantially improve productivity and profitability. However, offering farmers standardized agricultural advice has limited effectiveness due to variation in local conditions and farmer characteristics. Traditional extension systems have been unable to incorporate and disseminate this information to farmers, in part due to the high costs of operating in rural areas.

In developed countries, precision agriculture technologies are transforming agricultural production by allowing farmers to better target inputs and management decisions to local conditions. In developing countries, most precision agriculture technologies are beyond the reach of most farmers.

However, several technological innovations have created new opportunities to provide customized information to farmers:

- Mobile soil analysis labs with spectroscopy improve access to high quality soil data
- Satellite and drone photographs enable data collection and validation from above
- New weather prediction models generate real-time estimates useful to farmers
- Widespread mobile phone use facilitates information delivery and collection

These technologies can be combined with the best available research to improve information content and messaging effectiveness:

- Behavioral economics can improve messaging and encourage adoption
- Social learning theory can facilitate the diffusion of relevant information
- Big data and machine learning allow for personalized advice
- A/B tests allow near instantaneous upgrades
- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) make for more rigorous evaluation

PAD harnesses these innovations in technology and research to improve the lives of smallholder farmers. We are taking ideas from precision agriculture in developed countries and adapting them to the needs and constraints of farmers in developing countries. Because individual farmers are often not able to invest in data collection and experimentation themselves, PAD brings this customized information to farmers' fingertips.

### **Job Description and Responsibilities**

Data Associate will work with PAD researchers and field teams in designing data collection tools, managing databases, cleaning and analyzing data for research and operational purposes. PAD is a start-up and will require flexibility from all its staff with regards to roles and responsibilities. The Data Associate will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Develop data management protocols and manage project databases
2. Assist development of data collection and entry tool
3. Work with Researchers to clean and merge databases, and prepare datasets for analysis
4. Conduct descriptive data analysis to support PAD's operations
5. Work with Researchers to conduct econometric analysis
6. Other tasks as assigned by Project Coordinator or Principal Investigators

## Qualifications and Skills

### Required

- Master's degree in economics, public policy, or a related discipline from an internationally
- Bachelor's / Master's degree in Economics, Statistics, Computer Science, Public Policy, Business Administration, or related fields
- Excellent skills in STATA
- Knowledge of R and Python preferred
- Excellent communication skills (both oral and written)
- Excellent management and organizational skills
- Experience with development economics/data science research preferred
- Ability to work independently
- Commitment to agriculture based sustainable rural development and transformation

### Salary

The minimum salary for the Associate position is PKR 80,000 per month (all-inclusive) and for the Assistant position is PKR 40,000 per month (all-inclusive). However, the final salary figure will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

### How to Apply

**Please follow the instructions below. Any applications or CVs submitted outside this process will not be considered. Only successful candidates will be contacted**

Interested candidates should:

1. Fill out the [online form found here](#), marking PAD as your first preference
2. Send an email to both [careers@cerp.org.pk](mailto:careers@cerp.org.pk) and with the subject **“Research Team-PAD”**. Please include your cover letter, CV, and academic transcripts.