

Job Announcement

Position: Project Manager

Project: Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD)

Start date: As soon as possible

Minimum commitment: 12 months

Location: 29-P, Gulberg II, Lahore

I. Project Overview

PAD is a non-profit organisation with a mission to support smallholder farmers in developing countries by providing customised information and services that increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

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 standardised 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 customised information to farmers:

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

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 customised information to farmers' fingertips.

PAD collaborating with the Government of Punjab, Pakistan on a multi-year endeavor with the goal to make customised mobile-based advisory services accessible to 5 million farmers by 2022. Our initial work will revolve around complementing the planned distribution of soil health cards with mobile phone-based explanation and encouragement to use the prescribed fertilizer types and amounts. This work is informed by evidence from our PAD lab in Gujarat, India.

In addition to the above, we are implementing an advisory system for the Agriculture Transformation Unit (ADU) for subsidy scheme crops.

II. Current Status

Since last year, we have finalized the design of the Soil Health Cards, setup IVR system with the Government of Punjab, Agriculture Department. The Soil Health Cards rollout is being planned and will be starting in the second quarter of 2019.

III. Links:

<https://precisionag.org>

Position Description:

We hope that the successful candidate will start as soon as possible. This is a full-time position based in Lahore. 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. The ability to take on challenges is essential.

The Principle Investigators of the project are Dr. Shawn Cole (Harvard Business School), Dr. Adnan Khan (LSE, IGC), Heiner Baumann (PAD) and reporting line includes Adeel Shafqat - Country Manager PAD - Pakistan

Your **primary responsibility** will be towards the *Precision Agriculture for Development* project. Your tasks will include:

a. Project Management & Reporting

1. Helping in implementing PAD projects with Government of Punjab
2. Acting as a PAD point person in Pakistan for Agriculture Department and Government research of Punjab (managing PAD team engagement as a whole)
3. Leading on communication and reporting with collaborating partners and PAD HO Boston and other countries of operations
4. Leading weekly conference calls with PIs (Shawn, Adnan, and Heiner)
5. Recruiting, managing and supervising field staff, as needed, during engagements with the Agriculture Department

b. Relationship Management

1. Responsible for liaising with various government officials at relevant governmental departments
2. Managing and troubleshooting any immediate concerns of stakeholders regarding the project
3. Outreach to potential partners in PAD's engagement with GoP such as CIMMYT, Agriculture Universities, Gates Foundation and others

c. Project Implementation

1. Designing and implementing RCTs and A/B tests for Agriculture Department's Extension 2.0 project and other PAD engagements with the Agriculture Department
2. Collecting and managing data from the field and Agriculture Department – Analysing and reporting on data
3. Potentially travelling across Punjab for project implementation related work
4. including monitoring, pilot testing, informal discussions/interviews, data collection etc
5. Coordinating any data related questions or concerns with the PIs, RAs and relevant officials in the government.

e. Other Duties

1. This is NOT an exhaustive list of tasks that you will be performing as a Project Manager. You may be assigned additional tasks on other CERP Projects as deemed necessary by your reporting points, Project or CERP management, or the CERP Board

Job Requirements:

- Bachelors and Masters degree in Economics, Public Policy, Computer Sciences or a related discipline from an internationally recognized university
- Preferably 5-6 years of relevant experience in research/program management and/or coordination with hands-on experience of implementation on-ground
- Experience of working with government departments and engaging with them implementing projects
- Demonstrated working knowledge of STATA and willingness and ability to learn more at a fast pace. Knowledge of other statistical and programming software is appreciated but not required
- Working knowledge of Python (optional)
- Familiarity with SurveyCTO & ODK (optional)
- Familiarity with ArcGIS or any other GIS software (optional)
- Ability to manage of fieldwork related to the project in both urban and semi-urban areas, including field visits
- Ability to work closely in a small team and take direction
- Ability to take a well-defined problem and come up with a response based on an independent analysis of the data
- Demonstrated ability to manage various tasks effectively and coordinate between project members
- Comfortable communicating with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors Willing to take on added responsibility as the project progresses
- Fluent in English, Urdu & Punjabi

How to apply:

Interested candidates should fill this [online form](#) and send their cover letter, CV, and transcripts to careers@cerp.org.pk with the subject title **“Project Manager - PAD”**.