Job description

Consultant – Agriculture

Background

Bihar is prone to multiple hazards including floods, earthquakes, drought, cyclonic storms, fire, hailstorms, and lightning of high severity. 28 of the total 38 districts in the state are prone to floods. Areas in south Bihar that were historically not flood prone have also started experiencing flooding in recent years due to various climatic and human factors. A large part of the state is also prone to seismic activities and cover multiple seismic zones. In 2018, the State faced serious drought, which affected 280 blocks of 25 districts. The State also faces extreme heat and cold wave conditions in peak summers and winter, respectively. Lightning and high-speed winds in parts of the state have added further distress.

Disaster Management Department is the nodal Department of the Government for effective management of disasters through timely response by coordinating and monitoring emergency relief as well as implementing long-term mitigation measures by mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in development planning.

The Department of Disaster Management (DMD) has signed an MoU with the Development Management Institute (DMI), Patna to establish a 'Centre of Excellence in Disaster Management (CoEDM)' at DMI. This Centre will function as an academic project unit of DMI with its own dedicated human resources team and infrastructure support with focus on disaster management studies through training research, education and consulting activities.

Vacancy

To operationalize the CoEDM, the DMI Patna requires the services of suitable candidates/officers with strong academic orientation to serve as 'Consultant – Agriculture' from open market on contract or on deputation basis, initially, for a term of three years. Officers from relevant departments of Govt. of Bihar are encouraged to apply for the above role of consultants.

Key Responsibilities

- White paper on assessment of agriculture and related departments such as Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Forestry, Co-operatives and others for technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and mitigation.
- Training Need Assessments (TNA) of different categories of functionaries in the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and allied departments of Govt. of Bihar and other states.
- Develop customised training programmes on the basis of TNA for different agriculture and allied departments of Govt. of Bihar and other stakeholders.

- Develop learning materials and conduct academic and professional courses (short and long term) on disaster management with reference to identification of hazards and risk analysis of farms and communities of the state vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters impacting agriculture and allied activities.

- To develop training modules on various aspects of Disaster Management such as creating awareness, planning for risk reduction, preparedness and resilience and conduct programs in 'training of trainers (ToT)'.

- Research and develop case materials in Disaster Risk Reduction, Response and Resilience for use in capacity building programmes as well as policy studies.

- Use of management techniques, MIS and GIS for prevention, adaptation and resilience with integration of disaster mitigation measures in all the central and state-sponsored schemes and programmes being implemented in the state.

- To formulate policies, strategies, sector specific plans and any other technical assistance required for disaster risk reduction and resilience-building with reference to agriculture and allied activities by any departments /organisations involved in disaster management.

- Preparation of hazard reduction plans keeping in view the impact of climate change on agriculture and allied activities. The hazard planning may also include research on proactive preventive action and investment promoting measures for adaptation and building resilience to climate change.

- To publish and contribute to reputed journals, author books and develop online knowledge resources.

- Forge academic collaboration and network with various government departments, institutions involved in disaster management within and outside the country for acquisition of new knowledge and developing a culture of innovation.

- Assist Govt. Departments in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dealing with displacement of communities affected by disasters in ensuring that affected people maintain access to food and livelihoods during and after disasters, and in building resilience over time.

- Conduct independent research, write research proposals, lead and execute projects involving research on disaster response approaches useful in proactive preventive action and investment promotion for mitigation, adaptation and resilience to natural and man-made disasters.

- Participate and present technical papers and research findings at national and international conferences and workshops.

- Document and disseminate data, information, case studies, indigenous knowledge and good practices on agriculture and related livelihoods with reference to disaster management.

- Perform 'After Action Review (AAR)' of disasters affecting the state and disseminate research findings on disaster management among the stakeholders.

- Actively network with relevant stakeholders including the policymakers, public agencies, businesses, subject-matter experts, funding agencies, academia, institutions and organisations working in similar domains.
- Any other task assigned by the Coordinator-CoEDM, Director, DMI and other senior members of faculty at DMI.

Role Requirements

- A person with deep understanding and experience of working in disaster related work/ projects
- Minimum 15 years of experience out of which atleast three years should have been related to disaster specific work or departments
- Good understandings about research design
- Exposure to technology
- Willing to travel for meetings and field work
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal)
- Self-starter with an ability to mobilise resources
- Design research/program protocols, tools and questionnaires
- Ability to collect, analyze, and interpret quantitative and qualitative data
- Ability to write scientific reports and concepts/proposals
- Ability to manage projects and keep liaison with different stakeholders
- Able to work independently as well as collaboratively with multi-stakeholders
- While the work headquarters would generally be at Patna, should be willing to work in the field intermittently for weeks and months outside the headquarters
- Written and spoken fluency in English and Hindi languages.

Qualification required

Essential qualification:
 (i) Master's Degree in Agriculture preferably in Agronomy, Economics or Extension
Desirable qualification:
 (i) Ph.D with a consistently good academic record; and
 (ii) Good record of publications
 (iii) A minimum ten years' experience in Post Graduate teaching or training and research in agriculture and allied areas at the National or State level Training Institutions.
 (iv) Contribution to innovation in training or education, design of new curriculum and courses, developing training modules in agriculture and allied areas.

Compensation

Competitive; Based on qualifications/experience. In case of deputation, the existing pay scale of the selected officer will be protected. Additionally, deputation allowances as applicable to officers of Govt. of Bihar serving on deputation will be payable.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with their updated resume in the format attached to Coordinator, CoEDM coordinator-coedm@dmi.ac.in mentioning the post applied for in the subject line on or before 30 September 2020.