

CARE-Cornell Collaboration - Call for Applications: Graduate Student Research Intern to write a Literature Review for the CARE Climate Center, January-February 2017

Purpose of the internship

The CARE-Cornell Collaboration seeks a Cornell graduate student to complete a literature review for the CARE Climate Center of the evidence of whether and in what ways gender differences affect the adoption, up-scaling and outcomes of initiatives to support small-scale producers to increase the productivity, sustainability and/or resilience of their agricultural activities. Specifically, this work requires:

- A search of the peer-reviewed literature, downloading and collecting relevant research from 2000 to-date, and producing an annotated bibliography of this literature,
- Preparing a short discussion of the peer-reviewed literature,
- A search of the grey literature – policy and practice documents – and downloading and collecting relevant documents, and
- Preparing a short paper discussing the key findings and recommendations of the grey literature.

Logistics

Timeline: This remote internship (from Cornell or elsewhere) takes place in January and February 2017. It is anticipated that the intern will complete 40 hours of work before spring classes begin on January 25, and then an additional 40 hours (average 10 hours per week) by March 1.

Pay: This position pays \$15/hr for 80 hours.

Mentoring and support: The intern will work directly with Dorcas Robinson (CARE Climate Change Resource and Partnerships Coordinator). Other CARE colleagues will support the work, review the two papers, and discuss these in a virtual meeting with the intern.

Background for the internship

Understanding the barriers to the sustained adoption of potentially productivity- and income-enhancing agricultural practices and technologies has long been a concern in the research literature about how to strengthen the livelihoods of small-scale producers in developing countries. With the growing impacts of climate change and the stresses and risks arising from increasingly variable weather patterns being felt in the agriculture, pastoralist, fisheries and natural resource management sectors, the question of barriers to adoption is increasingly of concern.

One response to the challenges of climate change in agriculture is provided by the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) paradigm. In 2013, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defined CSA as

‘agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, enhances resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes GHGs (mitigation) where possible, and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals’.

There are three pillars to CSA, which can be described as (see: <https://csa.guide/>):

- Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, to support equitable increases in farm incomes, food security and development
- Adapting and building resilience of agricultural and food security systems to climate change at multiple levels; and
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (including crops, livestock and fisheries).

CARE’s Climate Center¹ has been leading CARE’s critical and constructive engagement with the CSA paradigm for several years. A key area of concern for CARE continues to be the lack of attention paid to gender dynamics in the small-scale agriculture sector. The CSA paradigm is shaping how projects and investments intended to support producers to increase productivity, resilience and food and nutrition security are being designed. If these are gender-blind – do not take account of gender differences – then women farmers may not have the same access to technical advice, inputs, finance and markets as men farmers, and their specific needs and priorities for these areas of support may not be evident or addressed by projects.

In recent years, the research literature has paid more attention to the ways in which gender differences affect and impact the availability, accessibility and appropriateness of support to small-scale producers to sustainably adopt new practices and technologies. As global attention is paid to upscaling CSA – and building the adaptive capacities of small-scale agriculture dependent communities and households – the question of whether and in what ways gender differences matter is critical.

CARE seeks to better understand the research literature in order to inform programme development and the ways in which CARE inputs to the unfolding of the CSA paradigm in practice. This literature review will contribute to the development of a discussion paper.

Application Process

We seek to fill this position as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted from continuing Cornell graduate students on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Questions may be directed to Nina Chaopricha, CARE-Cornell Collaboration Program Manager, at ntc24@cornell.edu. Applicants should submit a brief cover letter, resume, and writing sample as one single Word or PDF file attachment to ntc24@cornell.edu. Name the attachment in this manner: Surname_Givenname_ClimateInternAp_1-17 (a student named Micah Brown would send an attachment named Brown_Micah_ClimateInternAp_1-17). The strongest applications will be forwarded to CARE, and a Cornell faculty letter of support may be requested of finalists before hiring.

¹ <http://careclimatechange.org/>