

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Embrace equity research grant

Deadline: 16 April 2023



About the research grant

ICIMOD is awarding three research grants to young and dynamic students interested in exploring gender-friendly climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices along with the potential of digital innovation and technology integration. The research should address the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change on agriculture, contribute to generating scientific evidence, build on traditional or local knowledge, and offer solutions to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, particularly women.

The research should cover the following thematic areas:

- Access to agri-information and finance (agro-advisory, hydro-met and weather forecast, market and insurance) in Surkhet – Barahatal, Bheriganga, Birendranagar
- Women-friendly tools and technologies for climate-resilient agriculture in Dailekh – Bhagwatimai, Bhairabi, Dullu, Naumule
- Gendered role and ergonomics in agriculture in Humla – Kharpunath and Simikot

The research grant will amount up to NPR 50,000 each, which will cover research expenses including travel, accommodation, data collection, analysis, and reporting. Based on the applicant's eligibility and proposal review

criteria, we will be selecting three awardees to conduct short-term research of up to six months in any of the selected nine municipalities in Karnali Province, Nepal (Barahatal, Bheriganga, Birendranagar, Bhagwatimai, Bhairabi, Dullu, Naumule, Kharpunath and Simikot) where the GRAPE project is ongoing. The necessary supervision and guidance for the research will be provided by ICIMOD and our partners.

The awardees will sign an official contract with ICIMOD to start their research and will receive the approved budget in three instalments. Upon signing the contract, 40% of the agreed research budget will be disbursed. After submission of the preliminary field data synthesis report and depending on the satisfaction of the reporting officer, 30% of the remaining budget will be disbursed. Upon receiving the final report, the awardees will receive the remaining budget. The final research report should be submitted within two months after the completion of the research.

Selected criteria

- Currently enrolled in a master's or bachelor's degree in agriculture, environmental science, social science, or a related field in a university in Nepal
- Interested in mainstreaming gender and social inclusion into innovative technology, and digital agro-advisory services for climate-resilient agriculture

- Strong analytical, research, and writing skills are preferred
- Motivated to conduct field research in the selected municipalities
- Ability to communicate fluently in English and Nepali

Application procedure

- A cover letter explaining the motivation to apply.
- A research proposal as per the template (see Annex 1)
- CV and academic transcripts
- Contact details of two referees

The application materials mentioned above should be sent to ApplicationCRA@icimod.org no later than **16 April 2023**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview and the final selection will be made within a week.

Proposal review and scoring criteria

Key criteria for selection	Points
Academic achievements and experience as revealed by CV	20
Understanding of the problem along with proposed study design, tools, methodology and cost-effectiveness with a realistic budget plan	60
Motivation for research	20
	100

We encourage all eligible female students who are passionate about gender and social inclusion, innovative technology, and digital agro-advisory services for climate-resilient agriculture to apply for this grant and contribute to the GRAPE project's vision of enhancing the resilience and productivity of smallholder farmers in Karnali Province, Nepal.

For further information, please contact oshin.sharma@icimod.org

Annex 1: Research grant proposal template

Introduction (400 words)

Introduce the topic of your research proposal and present a brief overview of the subject matter. Explicitly state the rationale and objectives of your research and explain its significance. The focus should be on presenting the information in a concise manner.

Literature review (800 words)

Provide a comprehensive review of the existing literature on your research topic. You should critically evaluate the current state of research in the respective field and identify any gaps or areas requiring further investigation. Explain how your research proposal fits into the broader context of the literature.

Methodology (300 words)

Indicate the proposed research site (the selected GRAPE FA 2 municipality) and describe the methods you plan to use to conduct the research. Justify the reasons you chose the research site and the methods to be used and explain any limitations or potential sources of bias.

Expected output (100 words)

Describe what you are expecting to find through the research and its significance. Explain the deliverables and how your research will help local communities and support policy decisions.

Time frame

You will need to provide precise information regarding the dates and duration of the proposed project. The project's scope and deliverables should align with the proposed timeline for its completion.

	Key activities and deliverables	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept
1							
2							
3							
4							

Estimated budget (100 words)

Provide a detailed budget estimation for the proposed research. A sample budget estimate is given below:

	Budget headings	Unit	Rate (NPR)	Number of days	Total (NPR)

References

The proposal should include a reference list or bibliography that includes all the sources cited in your proposal. Use credible and reliable sources, such as peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and government reports and avoid using outdated or biased sources.



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GeoKrishi leadership programme

Deadline: 8 April 2023

About the research grant

The GeoKrishi leadership programme aims to reach highly motivated, young, and dynamic students to enhance and strengthen their knowledge and skills on digital technologies and web-based applications while also connecting with local communities to bring research into use.

GeoKrishi is a web and mobile application developed by Pathway Technologies Pvt. Ltd. which provides a comprehensive digital agriculture platform built to solve challenges faced by commercial and smallholder farmers. It applies a data-driven system approach to translate knowledge into actionable, timely, and context-specific advisories such as weather forecasts, market prices, and crop advisories. Under the GRAPE project, Pathways Pvt. Ltd. is rolling out the GeoKrishi application in selected municipalities of Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces and simultaneously building the capacities of farmers and local communities on climate-resilient agriculture and livestock rearing.

What the leadership programme offers

- Practical knowledge on web applications, digital marketplace, and use of information and communications technology for sustainable agriculture and livestock development

- Customised access to the GeoKrishi support system and resources
- Hands-on trainings and mentorships
- Networking opportunities
- Preparation for job-ready roles

We encourage eligible applicants to apply to the leadership programme in nine municipalities of Karnali Province (Barahatal, Bheriganga, Birendranagar, Bhagwatimai, Bhairabi, Dullu, Naumule, Kharpunath, and Simikot). The programme is designed for a period of three months with training sessions and hands-on guidance from the experts. Engaged participants may have an opportunity to continue and develop their professional careers in the field.

Any expenses related to travel and communication during the leadership programme will be reimbursed. Certificates will be awarded after successful completion of the programme.

Duration: 3 months

Number of positions: 18 (3 each in 9 municipalities in Karnali Province)

Eligibility criteria

- Must be enrolled in a technical or academic institution, or recently graduated with a higher secondary or bachelor's degree
- Interested in software development, application of digital technologies, and working closely with farmers and the local community
- Willing to travel to remote places
- Have strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Have leadership skills to engage, motivate and inspire women, youth, farmers, and their household members to use and adopt digital technologies
- Have access to a smartphone

Application process

An application with maximum two pages stating the motivation and interest in innovative technology and digital agro-advisory services for climate-resilient agriculture should be sent to Bobin Thapa (bobin@geokrishi.farm) no later than **8 April 2023**. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed, and the final selection will be made based on the motivation and overall eligibility.

We encourage all eligible female students who are passionate about gender and social inclusion, innovative technology, and digital agro-advisory services for climate-resilient agriculture to apply.



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For further information

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