

Notice



Announcement for the application in Faculty of Agriculture, AFU Ph.D. Program under Department of Agricultural Economics

The Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Agriculture and Forestry University hereby announces for the application to recruit two PhD students under the project. "Transiting to Green Growth: Natural Resources in Nepal" funded by DANIDA Fellowship Center. The basic academic requirement is either Master or M. Phil in Economics or Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, M.Sc.Ag (Agricultural Economics) or Master in Forest Economics or Master in Natural Resource/Environmental Economics. Applicants are requested to submit their application form along with their brief CV, certified copies of academic transcripts, copy of research concept note (not exceeding 1500 words), English language proficiency certificate and two academic reference letters, no later than **6th June, 2014** either electronically through the email on deanag@afu.edu.np or directly to the Dean's Office, Rampur, Chitwan. Applicants should develop proposal by choosing any one of the following two topics and submit along with his/her application. Application form is available on afu.edu.np/admission. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit their full application by 16th June, 2014. The detail information on application requirement is available through deanag@afu.edu.np upon request or from the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Rampur, Chitwan.

PhD topic 1: Determinants of Himalayan Medicinal Plant Demand and Supply

Himalayan trade in medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) involves millions of low income small-scale harvesters, thousands of traders and hundreds of industries. It appears that demand is particularly fuelled by the expanding middle classes in China and India. Yet there is no comprehensive knowledge for any determinants of demand and supply or do we know how demand and supply have changed over time or what factors shape those changes. The objective of this PhD project is to contribute to identifying the determinants of current MAP demand and supply in the final main consumption countries (Nepal, India and China) and the factors influencing longer term demand changes for Himalayan MAPs. The key research questions are: (i) what are the end uses of high value Himalayan MAPs, (ii) what individual and household-level factors determine current MAP consumption, and (iii) what factors determine changes in consumption over time. Proposals must include a brief overview of studies on medicinal plant consumption determinants, from the region and elsewhere. Methods must include face-to-face administered structured surveys aimed at randomly selected urban and rural consumers as well as semi-structured interviews with MAP wholesalers and other key actors. The proposal should focus on generic approaches; subsequently short-listed applicants will be asked to focus on specific species and geographical localities in Nepal and elsewhere. Familiarity with qualitative interview techniques, structured surveys and econometrics an advantage.

PhD topic 2: Medicinal plants and Himalayan transnational production networks

Trade has the potential to drive the transition to a green economy by promoting sustainable resource use, generating inclusive employment, and contributing to poverty alleviation. However, lack of empirically-based knowledge renders this transition difficult. This PhD project will contribute to investigating how the transition to green growth can be undertaken in the medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) sector in Nepal. The objective of the PhD project is to identify, describe and quantify MAP transnational production networks (TPN) from Nepal to India and China, vertically and horizontally, for selected economically important MAP species. The key research question is how livelihoods of the rural poor can be improved in natural resource-based transnational production networks when transitioning to green growth. The project should cover the four key theoretical dimensions of TPN: relational proximity, value, power and embeddedness. Proposed data collection methods should cover both vertical (e.g. quantification of volume and registration of prices of major species traded at different nodes in the networks) and horizontal (e.g. how and why producers organize and with what outcomes) elements. The proposal should focus on generic approaches; subsequently short-listed applicants will be asked to focus on specific species and districts in Nepal. The proposal must include a brief overview of current knowledge of commercial MAP trade in and from Nepal. Familiarity with TPN and/or global value chains an advantage.