



## Help Evaluate Innovations for Water and Energy for Food: A Grand Challenge for Development

Would you like to be part of solving some of the world's greatest challenges for development? Now is your chance to contribute. USAID is recruiting External Surveyors for Water and Energy for Food: A Grand Challenge for Development.

Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) seeks to enhance access to innovations that help agricultural producers grow more food while improving biodiversity, energy efficiency, and water efficiency along the food value chain. Through the scaling of these innovations, WE4F also aims to improve gender integration, environmental sustainability/biodiversity, and poverty reduction.

WE4F's USAID Secretariat Unit is seeking **External Surveyors** to provide monitoring and evaluation support by conducting in-country field research and data collection with WE4F innovators.

**M&E External Surveyors should be current or recent graduate students with a background in agriculture, water, energy, technology innovation, environmental studies, research methods, international business, and/or international development.** External Surveyors will be expected to be (at a minimum) in the field 4-6 weeks during the Spring, Summer, or Fall season of 2021. Exact dates are dependent on farming cycles and innovator availability.

This opportunity will allow you to:

- Conduct in-country field research on topics related to technological innovations in agriculture as well as impact of innovations on the environment, gender equity, and local poverty.
- Interview 50+ farmers and other food value chain participants who use WE4F innovations.
- Utilize research methods to establish control groups and assess environmental, gender, and base of pyramid impact.
- Serve as a "fact-checker" and validate and expand upon information that WE4F has received from innovators as well as non-innovators.
- Be part of one of the leading new mechanisms in international development for discovering breakthrough solutions to the world's most pressing problems.
- Complete fieldwork requirement that could serve as a basis for thesis, capstone or dissertation work.

## QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will be comfortable learning about and synthesizing data concerning innovators and innovation ecosystems, and will have experience organizing data for consumption by non-technical audiences.

We are seeking graduate students with a background in water, agriculture, technology innovation, quantitative studies, international business, and/or development economics that possess a large majority of the following skills/characteristics:

### Required Qualifications

- Quantitative/social science research background with a strong understanding of data validity and experimental design
- Knowledge and experience using statistical software (SPSS, SAS, STATA, R) to analyze data sets
- Working proficiency in the local language of the countries conducting data collection including but not limited to: French, Hindi, Arabic, Bengali, Thai, Malay, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, Indonesian, Filipino, Tamil, Sinhala, Burmese, and Nepali.
- Comfort operating in rural areas with limited access to technology, and/or improved amenities
- Interest in development and social impact and enthusiasm for engaging with data from water, energy, and agriculture innovators
- Commitment to producing excellent work while maintaining a high level of professionalism and attentiveness to detail
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision while managing and meeting deadlines
- Experience working in a highly diverse environment and a commitment to embrace cultural differences.
- A high level of respect and courtesy towards local stakeholders as well as mindfulness and a commitment to do no harm.

### Preferred Qualifications

- Candidates residing in the countries of operation for the position who would not need to travel outside of their current country of residence to conduct required data collection.
- Prior professional experience in the countries where data collection will be conducted by the External Surveyor
- High or native proficiency in the local language of the countries conducting data collection including but not limited to: French, Hindi, Arabic, Bengali, Thai, Malay, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, Indonesian, Filipino, Tamil, Sinhala, Burmese, and Nepali.

If interested, read a [blog post](#) from the perspective of a previous external surveyor from Securing Water for Food Grand Challenge. For questions about this position, please email [info@we4f.org](mailto:info@we4f.org) with the subject “**2021 M&E External Surveyors.**” Applications materials sent to this address will not be considered. Please see the application process below.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter, resume and at least one professional reference letter in the [form linked here](#) **by December 18th**. **In your cover letter, please answer the following questions:**

1. How has your previous experience prepared you to be a WEF M&E External Surveyor?
2. What was your motivation to apply for this position? What are you expecting to gain out of this experience?
3. When can you start and during what time period are you available to serve in this position?
4. Can you meet the minimum time requirements (expected duration: 4-6 weeks) for the in-country research?

## Interview Process

The interview process will include two phases:

1. 20 minute interview on the phone with the WE4F team lead, M&E manager, and/or program coordinator to discuss your background and address questions on either side
2. mock field interview to preview a typical field evaluation experience and to determine a candidate's fit for the work.

## SCOPE OF WORK

### Preparatory Work

Selected M&E External Surveyors will be taken through the following:

- **Introductory Webinar** to explain WE4F M&E guidelines, survey tools and student fieldwork manual. (1.5 hour including Q&A).
- **Facilitated Introductory Meeting** with the Regional Innovation Hub associated with the assigned WE4F innovator organization.
- **In the Field:** Check in meetings every 2 weeks with your WE4F M&E Intern Coordinator, your primary point of contact during the internship. We expect that all interns will acquire an inexpensive local phone with enough credit to receive check-in phone calls.

### Potential Research Questions

1. To what extent are innovators reaching customers at or below the poverty line?
2. To what extent are innovators reaching female customers?
3. How does use of the innovation impact the lives/work of women?
4. What barriers exist to greater customer adoption among impoverished customers? ..among female customers?
5. What economic and development impacts does use of the innovation have on customers/households? (income, resilience, food security, time-savings, water savings)
6. What alternatives exist to use of the innovation? What are key factors influencing this choice?
7. To what extent are the social, economic, and environmental impacts on end-user different for those not using WE4F-supported innovations?

## Deliverables

1. Attendance at all training/meeting sessions
2. A minimum of 50 completed farmer/end-user interviews
3. Mobile app data collection
4. Regular communication and check-ins with the team lead (no unexplained absences/circumstances)
5. Data Reporting Support. You will provide data collection to support semi-annual and annual WE4F reporting.
6. Final Field Report. You will be required to submit draft versions during the field visit and a final version at the conclusion of the internship.
7. Final Presentation to Regional Innovation Hubs. You will present an overview of the final field report including the qualitative and contextual findings that have come about during quantitative data collection. This will also include a Q&A session.

## FINANCIAL POLICIES & LOGISTICS

### Total Compensation and External Surveyor Responsibilities:

- The total stipend provided to External Surveyors totals **\$5000** which will be disbursed following the completion of certain deliverables as described below.
- If the External Surveyors expenses go above the total \$5,000 issued as described above, WE4F will reimburse up to an additional **\$2,500** (with backup documentation for expenses\*), pending approval of those expenditures by the WE4F Team Lead.
- External Surveyors will be responsible for arranging their own accommodations and travel insurance in the host country. WE4F will not provide additional funding to cover these arrangements which should be covered by the total stipend amount cited above. However, WE4F will make an effort to liaise with innovators and appropriate RIH staff to help facilitate this process.

### Stipend Disbursement Schedule and Required Deliverables:

- Following acceptance of and finalization of the offer, External Surveyors will receive an initial **\$1,000** of the total stipend amount.
- The student's airfare and all relevant travel expenses must be booked by the External Surveyor and approved by the WE4F Team Lead *prior to purchase*. Once all cited travel expenses are approved by WE4F, an additional **\$1,000** of the total stipend amount will be disbursed.
- After submission and approval of *all* final deliverables listed below, WE4F will issue a remaining payment of **\$3000** to the External Surveyors. These required final deliverables include:
  - Raw data and supporting documentation from a minimum of 50 interviews with individuals {not groups} in separate households including: voice recordings, the primary interview data in excel format, and final site visit report
  - Final Field Report which reflects all final revisions requested by WE4F

- Final Presentation to Regional Innovation Hubs including follow-up on any remaining questions from the Q&A sessions.
- As cited above, if the External Surveyor's expenses exceed \$5000 and all expenditures are approved by WE4F, an additional **\$2500** will be disbursed following the completion and approval of all final deliverables.

## WE4F OVERVIEW

### Who We Are

WE4F is a joint international initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Netherlands, Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Announced at World Water Week 2018 and launched at Social Capital Markets 2019 signature event in San Francisco, California, WE4F aims to:

- Increase food production along the value chain through a more sustainable and efficient usage of water and/or energy.
- Increase income for those in the base of the pyramid, women, men in both rural and urban areas.
- Sustainably scale innovators' solutions to meet the challenges in the WE4F nexus.
- Promote climate and environmental resilience and biodiversity through the sustainable, holistic management of natural resources and ecosystems.

### How WE4F Works

The WE4F initiative will work with promising innovations that were identified and nurtured during the Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development (PAEGC) and Securing Water for Food (SWFF) Grand Challenge to support their next level of scaling. At the same time, the program will open up new calls for innovations within the water-agriculture-food nexus. WE4F will incorporate the Regional Innovation Hub (RIH) model used in PAEGC and the Technical Assistance Facility developed under SWFF. By combining these two successful key programmatic elements together, WE4F's decentralized approach will put a stronger focus on improving local framework conditions for innovations and facilitating end-user financing.

## QUESTIONS?

Please e-mail [info@we4f.org](mailto:info@we4f.org) with questions. No application materials will be accepted through email.