

Vacancy

'Sandwich' PhD position on Water Resources, Conflict and Climate Change in Peri-Urban Areas of South Asia

Location	Bangladesh, India or Nepal / Wageningen
Scientific field	Social Sciences
Respond	E-mail with full CV, letter of application, and motivation letter to: dik.roth@wur.nl and anjal@saciwaters.org before 1-2-2014.

We are looking for

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD candidate who can work both independently and in an international team (detailed requirements: see below). Climate change and urbanization are creating growing problems of water insecurity in the peri-urban areas of the rapidly expanding cities of Khulna (Bangladesh), Kathmandu (Nepal), and Hyderabad and Gurgaon (India). However, a critical knowledge gap exists in measuring their direct and indirect effects on the lives of the poor and vulnerable, and their implications for conflict and forms of cooperation that are more sensitive to issues of water (in-)security. Another critical gap lies in devising innovative ways to use new knowledge and insights for capacity-building, to support sustainable, climate smart and pro-poor development trajectories that focus on the nexus of water security, climate change and urbanization.

In the broader framework of this programme, a South Asian PhD researcher will do an in-depth study of peri-urban water insecurity, conflict and cooperation in the context of urbanization and climate change in (primarily) one research location. The research will examine the roles of urbanization and climate change in shaping peri-urban water (in)securities, translating into specific vulnerabilities for (groups of) water users. Most importantly, it will analyse conflict and cooperation in managing water insecurities, and explore options for reducing the first and strengthening the latter.

We ask

We are looking for a candidate with:

- An MSc in social sciences, human geography, political sciences, policy sciences, or related fields from a recognized academic institution in one of the three countries mentioned above;
- An excellent academic record as proven by MSc grades and thesis; publications will make the application strong;
- A proven scientific interest in land and water resources, resource conflicts, and / or climate change, with commitment to and interest in issues of interdisciplinarity and equity; demonstrated capacity for critical, independent and creative thinking;
- Affinity with multiple (including ethnographic) research methods; ability to work across disciplinary boundaries and with regional partners; ability to work both independently and in a team;

- Excellent (English) writing, editing, oral communication, and interpersonal skills;
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to work with strict deadlines;
- Computer skills (Windows; Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access);
- High motivation to do a PhD.

We offer

The candidate will be supervised by the *Sociology of Development and Change Group* and the *Water Resources Management Group* of Wageningen University, and defend his/her PhD thesis at this university. S/he will spend around 18 months in the Netherlands for research preparation and writing up, and the remaining time doing fieldwork. The candidate will receive a living allowance during four years (no extension possible) on a full-time basis, with a go / no go decision between 10 and 14 months after starting. The living allowance will be € 1.190 per month for the periods spent in the Netherlands and € 595 for the remaining months. The appointment includes health insurance coverage for four years, international and local travel, and research costs. The programme will start on 1 January 2014, and the PhD project *as soon as possible*.

More information: Dik Roth (Wageningen University; dik.roth@wur.nl) and Anjal Prakash (SaciWATERS; anjal@saciwaters.org).

See also:

- <http://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/Conflict+and+Cooperation+over+Natural+Resources+in+Developing+Countries+%28CoCoN%29/Project+Dr+Roth>
- <http://www.saciwaters.org/>
- <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Environmental-Sciences/Water-Resources-Management.htm>
- <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Social-Sciences/Rural-Development-Sociology-Group/About-us.htm>