

Postdoc for a 2-year study on grasslands and pastoralism in Mountain and Semi-arid Landscapes

June 2024

Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) works on a range of pastoralists' issues across the country. The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) works on the frontier areas of biology to advance an integrated view of life processes. CfP and NCBS, are partnering on a research project that seeks to understand the relationship between grasslands and pastoralism in mountain and semi-arid landscapes.

This project outlines four research objectives aimed at addressing the gaps in our understanding of pastoral ecology. The project hopes to investigate the drivers and scale of sedentarisation among pastoralists, examining the effects of tree planting on carbon stocks and socio-economic impacts in rangelands, understanding pastoralists' decision-making processes and perceptions of environmental changes, and assessing the effects of grazers on rangeland dynamics. The project will involve field surveys, interviews with pastoralists, ecological assessments and data analysis to provide valuable insights for policy interventions and contribute towards knowledge on pastoral systems and ecologies.

NOTE: The postdoc fellow will be based full-time at Centre for Pastoralism, New Delhi and will be required to frequently travel to field areas in the Western and Central Himalaya and the Deccan plateau.

Postdoc fellows are expected to:

1. Co-develop appropriate research questions and study design.
2. Participate in all aspects of the research including data collection and analyses, writing reports and manuscripts.
3. Help build a team of and mentor graduate students and junior researchers.
4. Present findings at meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences.

Desired experience and qualifications in the Social Sciences:

We are looking for someone who has a strong research background and can understand the aspects of pastoralism, mobility and rural livelihoods. The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated, independent and a creative thinker with some experience in conducting field research and a demonstrated ability to lead projects and publish social science papers. Previous experience of being a part of collaborative research is highly desirable.

The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- A PhD in sociology, anthropology, development/environmental studies or a similar field. Candidates who have submitted their PhD dissertation and are awaiting their degree will also be considered.
- Ability to travel across field sites and conduct fieldwork for extended periods.
- Ability to synthesise interview and ethnographic data.
- Excellent social science communication skills including speaking and writing.

Please write to Aniruddh Sheth (aniruddh@centreforpastoralism.org) or Dr Mayank Kohli (mayankk@ncbs.res.in) for more information on CfP, NCBS, the project or the position.

To apply, please submit your **CV** and a **Cover Letter** to research@centreforpastoralism.org. Be sure to include the subject line - Social Science Postdoc - your full name.