



Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Guwahati Campus
14-A Bhuban Road, Uzanbazar
Guwahati- 781001, ASSAM

Application for Research Fellowship at TISS Guwahati

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) was established in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, and in 1964 the institute was declared Deemed to be a University under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act (UGC), 1956. In the recent initiatives of our institute, TISS has opened various campuses in different parts of India. Guwahati Campus is one of them and it is established in 2011 under UGC.

International Center for Development and Decent Work (ICDD), University of Kassel is an interdisciplinary and international scientific network of excellence with the head office located in Germany and partner universities in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is one of the partner universities. ICDD is funded under the programme “ex)/(ceed - Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation” launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

One of the ICDD’s core research areas for the period of 2015-2019 is Global Agricultural Production Systems (GAPS). The concept of production systems (value chains) has gained tract in many fields. The social dimension, however, has received so far little attention. Most of the research has focused on the issue of economic upgrading. As important economic upgrading is, it does not guarantee better living and working conditions for many working in the production system. Better value capture might not be distributed to small holders, farm workers or workers in distribution and processing. Hence, economic upgrading has to be complemented by social upgrading. Social upgrading is about enhancing the protection and rights of workers with positive spillover effects for their dependents and communities. The ICDD network will contribute to the research on the possibilities for social upgrading by making use of its multidisciplinary character, bringing together various strands of the global agricultural production systems analysis. The network will mobilize expertise concerning the production process from the perspective of agricultural science as well as mechanical engineering for agriculture, the local context for innovations (sociology), the power dimensions as the nodal points of the production systems (political science), the management of supply chains (management science), and the international political and market conditions (international political economy).

Under the GAPS research agenda, TISS Guwahati campus has undertaken research ‘**Study of Small Tea Growers in India: Issues of the Value Chain and Decent Work**’. By official definition, an individual grower holding up to 10.12 hectares of tea area is considered as Small Tea Grower (STG) but a majority of small tea growers (about 80 per cent) holds less



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than a hectare of land in India. About 35 per cent of the total annual tea production comes from over 200,000 growers. These growers sell leaves either to Bought Leaf Factory (BLF) or to tea estates through green leaf agents as they do not have direct access to market or set the price. Usually they were found in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu, Goodalur district of Kerala and Palampur district of Himachal Pradesh. Since 1994, a large number of small tea growers are mushrooming in the states of Assam, West Bengal (mainly northern part of the Bengal), Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Meghalaya. It was believed that large plantations have advantages in tea cultivation and production. Since they produce large quantities of tea leaves they can have their own factories for processing the green leaves into finished products. Small growers do not have this advantage of processing their tea leaves hence they have to depend on large plantations or on private tea factories that are set up specially to procure tea leaves from the growers. Having said these, the main **research questions** of this present study are as follows:

1. How do small tea growers (STGs) organise land, capital, labour and work? Are they following similar or diverse pattern?
2. How are the STGs getting organised in order to promote their interest and address the problems?
3. What factors do STGs consider while setting the price and quantity to be supplied and what role does market play?
4. How and in what ways do the STGs add value in the tea production?
5. What is the role of the state, how can small tea growers influence the state and what are the alternative structure do they have?

Under this research project TISS Guwahati invites applications for one research fellow. The details of application are as follows:

Job Description & Application Procedure

Research Fellowship	: ONE (1)
Duration	: 3 months (October-December 2016)
Locations	: Guwahati
Salary	: Rs. 25,000 per month (Consolidated)
Job Type	: Full-time
Qualification	: Good academic record with at least 55% of the marks or an equivalent grade of 'B' in the 7 point scale with letter grades O, A, B, C, D, E and F at the Master's Degree in Social Sciences (or equivalent). Candidates having research interest on labour issues will be given preference.



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Job Description : Research fellow is expected to do secondary and primary data collection, data analysis and report writing. Any cost incurred during primary data collection during fieldwork (mainly in Assam and West Bengal) will be covered as per institute rule.

Interested candidates may send their Resumes/CVs along with their letter of interest in not more than 350 words through email to debdulals@tiss.edu or debdulals@gmail.com.

Last date of receiving application: September 29, 2016, Till 6:00 PM.

Shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview through phone and email.

The selected candidates have to join immediately.