Job description
Research Assistant

Precision Agriculture for Development, Inc. (PAD) seeks a Research Assistant to support research activities across our projects and geographies. PAD was established with a keen eye towards rigorous evaluation and constant experimentation. Each of our programs has a strong complement of research, ranging from large- and small-scale randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to A/B tests to pilot trials. Most of PAD’s research projects are led by Shawn Cole (Harvard Business School) and Michael Kremer (Harvard University). PAD’s research activities are also supported by affiliated researchers from other institutions and overseen by PAD’s Boston-based Senior Researcher.

This is an exciting and rare opportunity to contribute to academic-caliber research through a global start-up non-profit organization. This job is ideal for someone with enthusiasm for empirical research in international development and an interest in learning new data management and analysis skills.

Organization background

PAD is a US-based non-profit organization with a mission to support smallholder farmers in developing countries by providing customized agricultural information and services that increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability. PAD is pioneering a model for agricultural extension: delivering farmers personalized agricultural advice via their mobile phones. PAD implements this model in collaboration with partner organizations and gathers evidence on its impact. PAD aims to improve the lives of 100 million farmers in developing countries with its services.

Responsibilities

The Research Assistant will conduct data analysis for several research projects related to agriculture in developing countries. Specific responsibilities will include:

1. Clean and prepare datasets for analysis (household survey data, administrative data from PAD and partner systems, external administrative data sets, etc.)
2. With guidance from Principal Investigators, manipulate datasets and conduct data analysis (e.g. tabulate data, merge data, run regressions)
3. Support the write-up of results
4. Provide regular update reports to Principal Investigators and other research staff
5. Other duties to support research activities, as needed
Qualifications

Interested candidates with the following set of qualifications are encouraged to apply:

- Bachelor’s degree in economics, agricultural economics, public policy, international relations, or a related discipline with an impressive transcript/grades (we will consider Bachelor’s degree candidates with relevant coursework and experience.)
- Solid understanding of econometric principles
- Excellent skills in Stata
- Background in randomized field experiments a plus, but not required (this position might be well suited for individuals who worked as field RAs, but now want to get more experience with data analysis)
- Familiarity with development economics and/or data science research preferred
- Strong organizational skills
- Highly flexible and adaptable
- Self-starter

Position details

- Part time (minimum commitment of 10 hours a week but ideal commitment is 20 hours per week)
- Start date: ASAP
- Location: Can work remotely
- Compensation: commensurate with experience
- How to apply: Send your CV to jobs@precisionag.org.