

Job Description

Lead - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Expert

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

Location: Chennai

Reports to: Executive Director – Area Operations

Scope of work: Under the guidance of the Executive Director – Area Operations and close consultation and collaboration with the Area Directors and Senior Team members across the Programme Areas and regional centers of MSSRF, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) expert will develop the monitoring and evaluation tools and systems aligning with the overall institutional framework of Data Analytical Centre (DAC). Specifically, this includes detailed project driven results framework following MEL design, data collection, analysis and synthesis of learning and converting the results in to research/knowledge products. In the process, the MEL expert facilitates an inclusive and constructive learning landscape at the project and programme levels, identify innovative and transformative models/practices, put forth strategies for sustainability and upscaling the model with ideas for future. At the overall level, the MEL system push for an availability of Evidence-based data to measure the results and impact of the different projects at the bottom level.

Key tasks

- 1) Study and strengthen the Theory of Change of the project, in line with the MSSRF's mandate and updated logical framework
- 2) Develop a detailed MEL plan, with relevant disaggregation of variables, data collection tools and methodology, data flow maps for all projects in consultation with Area and Regional Centre Directors ' and support the team in project management
- 3) Build a systems for a strong baseline status aligning with the MEL plan for each of the projects as per the project proposals/agreements
- 4) Co-evolve the data collection system with data visualization set up in the form of Dash Boards to verify the quality, consolidate, disaggregate and manage the data at both monitoring and evaluation phases
- 5) Capacity development of the project team on the MEL plan, focussing on the tools and methods for data collection and updating on the platform
- 6) Handhold the team in analysing the data, enabling the team to synthesize and bring out regular knowledge products
- 7) Support the team to capture the change with data and write case-studies, blogs, reports, videos, podcast and other forms of communication products depends on the

levels of results and intended user community

- 8) Harmonize MSSRF and funding partners result framework with the DAC system to align the project/programme based indicators to the institutional level indicators to facilitate the annual /periodical progress reporting to the Board and other higher level donors.
- 9) Any other tasks at the request of Chair person and foundation

Desired Qualification:

Education:

- Master degree and above in Developmental Studies, Gender and Development, Development Economics, Anthropology, Social Science with additional training on Monitoring and Evaluation

Experience and Skills:

- 1) At least 10 years of experience, ideally combined with 3-4 years of M&E experience in development programmes in India (across agriculture, rural livelihoods, biodiversity, climate and health).
- 2) Good analytical and synthesis skills; experience in formulating a MEL design and establishing a sound analytical framework.
- 3) Strong statistical knowledge and experience in analysing both quantitative and qualitative data and softwares
- 4) Interest in interdisciplinary research framework and ability to link the macro and micro contexts
- 5) Keen interest in the challenge of working in a fast-paced environment.
- 6) Strong communication and good interpersonal skills and able to coordinate effectively with multiple team and stakeholders.