

USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture (HIL)

Production Efficiency and Employment Nexus: Advanced Technology-based Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture in Bangladesh and Nepal

Announcement of the MSc Thesis Research Grant

The project "Production Efficiency and Employment Nexus: Advanced Technology-based Urban and Peri-urban Horticulture in Bangladesh and Nepal," a joint venture of Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) and Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), supported by the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture (HIL), University of California (UC) DAVIS, is awarding a thesis research grant to one dynamic MSc student of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, AFU. The candidate should be interested in conducting survey research for identification of the barriers and potentials in the development of urban horticulture in the major cities (Pokhara and Bharatpur) of Nepal.

The scope of the research could include the following thematic areas:

- Identify the barriers and potentials at the family and community levels associated with the development of urban horticulture.
- Identify the problems associated with institutional, environmental, and demand for and supply of the inputs for urban horticulture.
- Determine the contribution of urban horticulture to meeting the food and nutritional requirements of the urban community.
- Explore the potential for spatial extension and an increase in the production of urban horticulture, thus making it a potential source of employment for urban communities.
- Know the willingness and barriers to the involvement of women and youth in urban horticulture.

Application requirements:

- Cover letter explaining the motivation to apply for the research grant
- A research concept on the above-mentioned thematic areas
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Support letter from the supervisor

Application procedure

The required documents should be sent to kmishra@afu.edu.np by the application deadline of **August 09, 2024**.

The research grant will be a maximum of US\$ 1,000, which should cover all the expenses, including research materials, travel and accommodation, data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Based on the applicant's eligibility and the submitted documents, we will select one student to conduct research for up to six months.