

Overseas Volunteer Opportunity – Mongolia

Livestock Fodder Researcher

WHERE: Mongolia

START DATE: Exact timing to be negotiated with the successful candidate

DURATION: 3 – 6 months

REPORTING TO: Program Manager for Mongolia

DEADLINE: Open until filled

Note: *This is a voluntary assignment. Domestic and international economy airfare, ground transport, visa, travel insurance, out of country accommodation, and a meal/incidental allowance will be covered by CDF Canada. Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident.*

BACKGROUND:

The INVEST Co-op Mongolia: Steppe and Gobi Region project is a four-year, CAD \$1.34 million initiative within the \$22,135,773 INVEST Co-op Program. The Program is funded by the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) with a \$5,042,417 contribution from the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA). The Ultimate Outcome of the program is improved sustainable, gender equitable economic well-being for women and men small producers through co-operatives in Indonesia, Malawi, Mongolia, and Peru. The total reach of the program is 69,787 women and men. The majority of rural Mongolian income generation activities center on livestock husbandry and the dairy, fibers, skin and meat industry. Due to many issues including but not limited to access to finance, markets and quality low cost inputs it is difficult for herders to justify dedicating resources required to improve quality and quantity of livestock outputs. This results in low producing animals or products that do not meet quality standards (health and safety, fat content, fiber micron) necessary to access higher markets prices which results in herders focusing on herd size rather than quality. With more animals in competition for already over grazed pastureland livestock are getting less of the nutrients required to support them through the long winter months which makes them less resilient during extreme winter conditions known as dzuds. During the dzud of 2010 the United Nations reported that eight million, or about 17% of the country's entire livestock, had died taking with them many families livelihoods.

The INVEST Co-op Mongolia: Steppe and Gobi Region project aims to improve the lives and livelihoods of 3,000 herder households representing 1,500 women, 200 of which will be women headed households, and 1,500 men. The project will build the capacity of herders' livestock rearing practices to increase quality and quantity of sheep and camel wool production and reduce livestock mortality rates, as well as improve financial literacy and agriculture enterprise management skills. The project will further develop 30 existing co-ops to assist women and men herders' ability to access new markets, extension services and low-cost quality inputs as well as work with the co-operative sector to promote a supportive environment.

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT:

The livestock fodder researcher will conduct research on ways and means to introduce and manage fodder crops for nomadic herders. Livestock are especially vulnerable during harsh winter months and the INVEST project is committed to assisting herders to improve their livestock survival rates. The researcher will examine other initiatives currently under research in Mongolia and in other countries that could be applicable to the Mongolia context. The researcher will work in collaboration with the MCTIC INVEST Agricultural Specialist. This can either be an e-volunteer position or a 3-6-month volunteer mission in Mongolia.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please submit your resume and cover letter using the [volunteer information form](#). You must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. Successful candidates will be required to obtain a police-check from their local police/RCMP detachment. ***All applicants are thanked for their interest in CDF Canada; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.***

Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada

Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF Canada) is an international development charity that helps improve the lives of women, men, children and their communities through cooperatives. We envision a world where self-reliant communities flourish. CDF Canada is working with local partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and in Eastern Europe to establish and grow community owned co-operatives that help people achieve more prosperous, self-reliant lives. For over 70 years, CDF has been mobilizing financial resources, volunteers and knowledge — mostly from Canadian co-ops and credit unions — to make the world a better place. For much of that time, CDF Canada worked partners to help communities move toward prosperity and create more secure lives through community-owned cooperatives. For more information about CDF Canada, visit www.cdfcanada.coop