

Lead Consultant, Punjab Program Management Unit- Stubble Burning Project

Location: Chandigarh, Punjab

Term of Engagement and Duration: Contractual- 4 months (September 2020- December 2020)

Background of the Project:

Air Pollution Action Group (A-PAG) is a foundation established in August 2019 with the intent to help reduce air pollution. Our objective is to assist Central and State Governments to achieve the target of 20-30% reduction in air pollution by 2024.

A-PAG will be working closely with the **Punjab Government** and other leading foundations to address the stubble burning crisis in the state. As part of the engagement, A-PAG will be embedding a PMU within the Department of Agriculture, Punjab as well as within the District Administration Offices of the three high burn districts of Sangrur, Bathinda, and Barnala.

Over the next four months, the PMU will support the government to implement an action plan to reduce the incidence of stubble burning in Punjab with a focus on three districts. This includes a successful implementation of a mass media campaign in the state that nudges farmers to use harvesting machines such as Happy Seeders or Super Seeders instead of burning stubble.

The PMU will comprise a Consultant and an Associate (both based out of Chandigarh) and 3 Associates located in each of the three pilot districts. While working with A-PAG, the Consultant will be contracted out of [ASAR](#), our partner agency.

Position Summary:

The Consultant will be stationed within the Punjab Department of Agriculture. (S)he will support the government as a resource focused on stubble burning initiatives working closely with the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer. You will be the **nodal officer** in charge of setting up and implementing the action plan, coordinating key initiatives across relevant agencies, and act as the single point-of-contact for the Punjab Government on this project.

This is a great opportunity for a development professional with great project management skills and ambition to personally lead and solve a pressing issue such as stubble burning in the state of Punjab. This role allows you to personally interface and work with senior government officials and will provide you with direct insight on how development challenges are solved at scale by state governments. The Consultant will report to the Team Lead, based in Delhi.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Coordinate and liaise with government officials and other key stakeholders to ensure effective and timely delivery of identified deliverables. This will include monitoring the progress of actions to aid effective decision making.
- Manage the Program Associates based out of the pilot districts and oversee implementation. This will include monitoring the progress of key initiatives across the pilot districts.
- Coordinate with farmer co-operative societies in the district to ensure maximum utilization of machines during the harvesting season so as to reduce the incidence of stubble burning. This will

involve developing and managing a farmer engagement plan in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Punjab.

- Lead relevant capacity building sessions, and implement field-based interventions to encourage use of harvesting machines (Happy Seeders and Super Seeders) as opposed to stubble burning in the villages of your district.
- Support in development and dissemination of a mass media campaign to increase awareness among farmers.
- Support in the management of events such as farmer meets, and ensure availability of the relevant communication collateral. This will include identifying farmers in all the villages of your district and sharing relevant communication directly with them.

Eligibility and Required Qualifications:

- Relevant Bachelor's degree from a reputed university. Preference for Master's degree in social sciences, public policy or an MBA.
- Experience of **at least 5 years**, working in project/program management and implementation with a government and social organization/ institution. Preference for candidates who have previous experience working on large scale government transformation projects.
- Candidates with less than 5 years of experience are encouraged to apply for Associate position
- **Fluent in Punjabi**, Hindi and English.

Key Skills and Required Competencies:

- Excellent communication, presentation, interpersonal and problem-solving abilities.
- Computer proficiency with a familiarity of MS Office tools.
- Good program and people management skills with experience in managing district/ village-level coordinators/ officers; should be comfortable working with senior government officials.
- Excellent organizational and administrative skills and execution-focused mindset.
- Entrepreneurial and action-oriented mindset with a can-do attitude to confidently accomplish set tasks.

Compensation:

We offer a competitive salary commensurate to the candidate's experience and skillsets up to **INR 60,000 per month**.

Application Process:

To apply for this position, please send your CV and cover letter describing your suitability for the role to hiring@a-pag.org with the subject line "Lead Consultant (Stubble Burning, Punjab)". Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Deadline: 20th August 2020, 6 pm IST