



Call for Application: *Student Fellow in International Research in Agricultural Water Management*

We are seeking **three** highly motivated graduate students from minority-serving institutions to enroll in the Master's in Agricultural Sciences program at Tennessee State University, commencing in June 2024. This program provides extensive learning experiences and skills development for future leaders in water and agriculture from historically marginalized groups in the U.S. The program at TSU is supported under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems, sponsored by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and led by the Daughtery Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL). Participants will have the opportunity to build a network with faculty members associated with the project at UNL and connect globally with professors and students in Feed the Future countries. This diverse network serves as an excellent choice for future career development.

The applicant should be a U.S. citizen. We strongly encourage applicants from minority-serving institutions to apply.

College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University

Tennessee State University is a respected public land-grant university and a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). It holds the designation of an R2: Doctoral Institution - Higher Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

TSU faculty involved in this project

Faculty members are from two academic departments in the College of Agriculture at TSU: Department of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering and Department of Agricultural Business and Education.

Dr. Behnaz Molaei (PI), Assistant Professor, Irrigation Engineering and Precision Water Management
Dr. Aditya Khanal (Co-PI), Associate Professor, Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Economics
Dr. Jason de Koff (Co-PI), Professor, Agronomy and Soil Science

Each faculty involved in this project will be the main advisor of one of the selected students. They will provide mentorship to ensure student success toward the objectives of this project. Each selected student will earn a Master's degree with the specialization area and degree (as applicable) established in the major advisor's affiliated department.

Research Study Location

The field-level research activities will be conducted at the project's research sites in partnership with the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) in Nepal. AFU is a leading agriculture university in Nepal and a partner institution in this project to engage student research activities. The AFU faculty members involved will facilitate graduate students of TSU (research fellows of this project) in research activities and data collection in Nepal along with the involvement of AFU's graduate students in the project.

Graduate Assistantship

Three graduate students will be funded through TSU under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems. The project offers stipends of **\$2,900** per month for up to two years for each M.S. student, with \$2,100 allocated for living expenses and the remainder covering tuition and fees for graduate school. These students are also eligible for in-state tuition rates. All costs of travel and living abroad during the summer of 2025 and 2026 will be covered by the project.



Additional benefits and opportunities for these graduate students include opportunities to:

- Enroll in real-time online courses on "Advanced Irrigation Management" provided by the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at UNL.
- Participate in the "Irrigation Laboratory and Field Course" in person at UNL in July 2024.
- Participate in professional conferences.

List of qualifications for this M.S. application:

Ideal candidates for this program should have completed a B.S. degree (by May 2024) in the related fields of the project, such as water science, agricultural or soil science, agribusiness or agricultural economics, remote sensing, GIS, and computer science. Candidates should demonstrate a strong academic record (minimum GPA of 3.0). Candidates should have a GRE or GMAT score fulfilling TSU's unconditional admission requirement (minimum scores for GRE and GMAT are 290 and 370, respectively).

Demonstrating a keen interest in agricultural research and a clear understanding of the program focus areas is crucial. Motivation and commitment to advanced studies in agricultural research, including international travel for a 3-month research stint in Nepal, are required. Effective communication skills, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities are essential. Adaptability to changing research requirements, technical proficiency in research tools, and ethical professionalism are expected. While previous publication and research experience are preferred, field experience in agricultural work is also valued. If you are interested in this program, please fill out the Online Application using the QR code below. We only review the applications that are received before the deadline on the online form. The deadline for the application is **April 12th, 2024**. We will reach out to the selected candidates for this position after this deadline.

Online Application Form



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