

UC Davis and USDA California Climate Hub Postdoctoral Fellow in Social Science – Climate and Agriculture Needs Assessments

Overview: California is the largest and the most diverse agricultural economy in the nation with revenue from farms and ranches reaching about \$50 billion annually. Farmers and ranchers – including socially disadvantaged, beginning, and limited resource farmers and ranchers – are under constant pressure to adjust to uncertain weather and climate events to minimize risks. There is an increased demand from farmers, ranchers, and those in the agricultural and allied research and education fields for relevant information on climate change. Conducting a comprehensive assessment of needs, perspectives, experiences, and current knowledge related to climate change exposures, potential impacts, social vulnerabilities, and needs for tools, resources, and extension education programs of all these stakeholders is an essential step toward climate smart and resilient agriculture.

Position Summary: The Department of Human Ecology at University of California Davis (UC Davis) in partnership with this the USDA California Climate Hub has an opening for a Social Science Postdoctoral Fellow in Climate and Agriculture Needs Assessment. The successful candidate will work with a diverse team consisting of academics from University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California Cooperative Extension, University of California Merced and Davis campuses, and the USDA Climate Hub Network. The postdoctoral fellow will lead conducting a needs assessment through statewide surveys, focus group exchange sessions, and individual phone interviews of the above-mentioned stakeholders. It is expected that the candidate will work with UC cooperative extension advisors, specialists and others in a technical service provider capacity (NRCS, RCDs, Agricultural Commissions, etc.). The candidate will be hired by UC Davis Department Human Ecology but is expected to participate as a staff member of the USDA Climate Hub network and interact and participate with others in the Climate Hub network. The initial term of the position will be for one year with a possible extension pending satisfactory performance and availability of funding.

Requirements: The ideal candidate will have experience and background in social science and evaluation research related to agriculture, natural resources, or climate change. Applicants should have experience in extension education or program evaluation at a minimum. Applicants should have experience in conducting surveys via Qualtrics, focus groups, and individual phone interviews.

Qualifications

- PhD in sociology, geography, human dimensions of agriculture and natural resources, agricultural extension education, community development, ecology, environmental science and policy, applied climate science, or closely related fields that utilize social science research methods.
- Experience and background in social science and program evaluation research related to agricultural or natural resource applications as demonstrated through scientific publications.

- Experience with and/or technical skills for engaging with stakeholders to identify and understand needs, resource gaps, and barriers to adopting climate-smart agriculture practices.
- Experience in conducting surveys via Qualtrics, focus groups, and individual phone interviews
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a diverse, interdisciplinary team.

Additional Valued Skills

- An understanding of agriculture and climate change impacts to agricultural production in California.
- Familiarity with federal and state water policy and management frameworks.
- Experience in quantitative and qualitative data analysis, descriptive and inferential statistics and/or climate change impacts on agriculture are desirable.
- The capacity to balance multiple projects and adapt to changing priorities.

How to Apply: Interested candidates should email a cover letter (e.g. experience, potential research interests, and general career goals), a CV, listing all technical skills, transcripts (unofficial acceptable) and names of three references with contact information to Drs. Vikram Koundinya, Associate Professor of Cooperative Extension, Program Evaluation at vkoundinya@ucdavis.edu AND Steven Ostoja, Director, USDA California Climate Hub at steven.ostoja@usda.gov in a **single PDF** titled with your first and last name and Social Science Postdoc. The last date for submitting applications is March 15, 2022.

Salary and Benefits: Salary starts at \$54,540, but is commensurate with experience. Information on postdoctoral benefits can be found at: <https://hr.ucdavis.edu/employees/benefits/post-doc-scholars>

Start date: Preferred start date is **Spring 2022**