



*Linking local priorities and global challenges*

## Researcher

### Job details

Group	Shaping Sustainable Markets
Reports to	Senior Researcher, food team
Responsible for	No direct reports
Purpose of job	To deliver research and contribute to policy influence on food systems, with an emphasis on the links between food systems and climate change. To contribute to ongoing projects, including “Sustainable Diets for All” in collaboration with Hivos and local organisations, and “MoreMilk”, in collaboration with ILRI. To support fundraising and business development.
Main contacts	Internal: Shaping Sustainable Markets Group, Natural Resources Group, Human Settlements Group, Climate Change Group, Business Development colleagues External: local partners and researchers; donors; national, local and municipal governments; citizen organisations and global networks.

Contract type	Fixed term
Duration	One year
Hours	Full time
Location	Central London
Grade and salary	Grade 5: £31,433 to £34,589 depending on skills and experience – plus benefits package.

### Context

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world’s most vulnerable people. We work with them to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions.

The [Shaping Sustainable Markets Group](#) works to ensure that markets – big and small – are fair and enable poor people and nature to thrive. Our research focuses on the mechanisms, structures and policies that bring about more inclusive and green economies. We are researchers, convenors and thought leaders. Our strength is in finding locally appropriate solutions to complex global and national problems.

The Shaping Sustainable Markets Group co-leads IIED’s work on food systems. Through evidence-generation, partnerships and convening power, IIED works to influence key nodes that can help create a fairer, more sustainable food system for all. This means that consumers have access to affordable, safe and nutritious food and that small-scale and informal producers, traders and processors –especially women– have better livelihoods.

IIED seeks to expand its research and policy advocacy on shaping markets for inclusive and green development, from agriculture to trade and consumption. The role has a focus on the “food system of the poor”, the largely informal system that is responsible for delivering affordable food and opportunities for livelihoods to a large proportion of people in poorer and fragile regions of the world.

IIED is currently implementing three major projects related to food and informal markets:

- [Salsa](#), assessing the role of small farms in Europe
- [Sustainable Diets for All](#), supporting advocacy to make more sustainable, diverse, healthy and nutritious food available to low-income citizens in Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Bolivia and Indonesia through evidence
- [MoreMilk](#), assessing innovative policy approaches towards informal dairy markets in Kenya, Tanzania and Assam (India)

## About the Researcher Role

The Researcher will be responsible for supporting research and policy influence on shaping sustainable markets, especially in the food system in the Global South. The Researcher will conduct research independently, as well as in coordination with the team leader. They will draw from a wide range of methods and approaches, including action research that builds a local evidence base. The role will include building and synthesising the evidence linking food systems –and specifically the food systems of the poor—with climate change, including its implications for agriculture, trade, and consumption.

The Researcher will develop links internally with other research groups within IIED, as well as with other research and policy institutions and networks, including grassroots organisations in the Global South.

The role has a strong fundraising component. The Researcher will play a key part in scoping, planning and developing new proposals in coordination and collaboration with the team leader and the SSM group director and manager.

## Main responsibilities

### Research, outreach and influence (60%)

- Carry out and support research on food systems, including small-scale agriculture, informal markets and trade, and diets and consumption. The role will entail several aspects of research including literature reviews, fieldwork, data analysis and publication.
- Help to synthesise available knowledge on the links between climate change and food systems, from production through to markets and consumption, and contribute to designing a research programme that explores key aspects of the climate-food link.
- Write up research in styles appropriate for publication and dissemination to identified audiences
- Develop networks within the institute (other research groups) and externally with relevant organisations and partners.
- Contribute to the successful implementation of the “Sustainable Diets for All” and “MoreMilk” together with colleagues in IIED, Hivos, ILRI and in-country partners.
- Work with IIED’s Communications Group and others to harness research outcomes and evidence to build compelling narratives that can influence planning and decision-making by policymakers and practitioners.
- Participate in, organise or contribute to organising, meetings and events.
- Travel as required to Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and/or Asia.

**Business development and fundraising (30%)**

- Scope possible funding opportunities, and help to identify donors and/or funding institutions.
- In collaboration with the team leader, develop ideas and prepare concepts and funding proposals, including writing of sections of proposals or application forms.
- Provide basic elements of information to managers and coordinators to help draft budget proposals
- Contribute to business development group / team strategies, plans and proposals.

**Management and coordination (5%)**

- Work collaboratively to organise and implement project planning, delivery and reporting including delegating tasks to other researchers, research partners and collaborators.
- Contribute to the creation and maintenance of project budgets and finances and to donor financial reporting.
- Liaise with funders to ensure regular communication on specific technical issues and tasks.
- Manage personal administrative tasks related to own work.

**Contributions to institutional life (5%)**

- Provide advice internally in areas of expertise and represent the group in the discipline community externally.
- Participate in group, cross-cutting and institute activities and processes as required.
- Participate in organisation-wide projects, initiatives, forums or working groups.
- Support the development of research agendas, plans and strategies.
- Develop internal contacts, networks and interactions and contribute to intellectual debates and peer-reviews.

*The job description defines the level of responsibility and area(s) of involvement of the post; the details of the duties may change over time and do not form part of the contract between IIED and the post holder.*

## Person specification

### Skills and experience

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>	A relevant degree in social or natural sciences, and initial work experience in research, advocacy or policy advice	A relevant post-graduate degree.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<p>Knowledge of and interest in food systems, including production, markets and/or diets and consumption</p> <p>Understanding of working with partners in developing countries</p> <p>Advanced knowledge of office software (word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software, databases and communications).</p>	<p>Specific knowledge and experience on the links between food systems and climate change.</p> <p>Familiarity with the informal economy</p> <p>Experience working with partners in developing countries</p>
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Solid research background, skills and experience</p> <p>Experience fund-raising, including scoping and writing of proposals.</p>	<p>A track-record of publications</p> <p>A track record of successful fund-raising.</p>
<b>Skills</b>	<p>Keen interest in and ability to provide policy analysis and advice.</p> <p>Ability to work in multidisciplinary and multicultural settings including from a distance</p> <p>Ability to network internally with other research groups in IIED and externally with relevant organisations and partners</p> <p>Strong technical, analytical and synthesis skills.</p> <p>Very good oral and written communication skills in English to convey messages in a clear, concise and effective manner to different audiences.</p> <p>Time-management and organisational skills for self and others</p>	<p>Working knowledge of another relevant language.</p> <p>Experience with project management and understanding of budgets.</p> <p>Familiarity with monitoring and evaluation systems and methods</p>

## Behavioural competencies

Competency	Description	Level required
Delivering excellence	A concern for delivering high quality work and improving performance. Consistently looks for ways to add value to colleagues, partners and stakeholders	3/2
Information seeking	A curiosity to find out more about people, concepts and issues. Asks questions to clarify understanding, conducts research or scans the environment for information that may be of future use	3/2
Initiative	Thinks ahead and takes decisive action to make the most of opportunities and avoid future issues	3
Integrity and commitment	Demonstrates a commitment to the values of IIED and acts in the best interest of the organisation and its partners / stakeholders	3
Understanding contexts	An ability to understand the organisational, political and cultural context within IIED and across other organisations / political bodies	3