



PhD doctoral contract in sociology

1. Job Information

Organizations

- Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD, Montpellier, France)
- Mines Paris, Université PSL (Paris, France)
- Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT, Mexico)

Research Field

Science, innovation and technology studies (sociology / anthropology)

Country

France / Mexico

Application Deadline

15/05/2023

Type of Contract

PhD contract, 36 months (3 years)

Delivered degree

PhD in sociology, delivered by Université de Montpellier, École Doctorale 60

Job Status

Full-time, 35 hours per week

Offer Starting Date

1/10/2023

2. Offer Description

Position available within the research project entitled *Coevolution of Equipment, Digital Technologies and Agroecological models* (CoEditAg), funded by French National Research Agency (ANR). The CoEDiTag project aims to understand the co-evolution between 1) the trajectories of development of equipment and digital technologies, and 2) the transformations of the structures, arrangements and organizations that frame agroecological transitions. This project posits that the direction of this co-evolution is not predetermined and depends, to a large extent, on the strategies of actors, their socio-economic interactions and public policies. Indeed, CoEDiTag gathers research in different social sciences to understand the mechanisms of this co-evolution.



The doctoral student is expected to formulate and conduct individual research addressing the topic “**Digital platforms and access to agri-equipment for Mexican family farmers**”. This doctoral research is situated at the intersection of two fields of social science research: science and technology studies (STS) and digital studies. It will contribute to analyse the drivers for farmers and providers to adopt a digital tool that offers increased access to agricultural equipment. In particular, it will provide a better understanding of how such a digital farm equipment rental platform fits into conventional rural community systems. The lessons from this analysis will provide insights on how, and with what effects, a bundle of socio-technical tools and knowledge products are inserted within the daily life of Mexican family farms, with a particular focus on the co-evolution of access to scale-appropriate agro-equipment and farming practices.

This research will be based on the case of the Tractilus application, which is being developed in Mexico within the framework of a public-private partnership between Cimmyt and the private think tank and investor Verne Venture, specialised in the social economy and inclusion. This application is being developed as part of a series of initiatives for scale-appropriate mechanization aimed at facilitating access to agro-equipment for family farmers, led by CIMMYT and in collaboration with representatives of the local machine value chain. The research will focus on 1) review the interaction components in the App design and understand how and to what extent it incorporates the specific characteristics of the target audiences and the agro-equipment proposed, 2) analyse the way in which this application constructs and meets - or does not meet - the needs and interests of farmers and other rural development actors, and how it contributes to organize a market for agricultural equipment rental.

This research will be based on classic methods of social science research, namely: ethnographic observation of the practices of actors dealing with the application and agro-equipment, semi-directive interviews with the agro-equipment providers/operators and with farmers, and actors of rural development, and digital technologies and markets. The fieldwork will be conducted in collaboration with the developers of the application, and in regions where family farming predominates within the innovation hub network of CIMMYT. It will be based on an in-depth analysis of the literature on STS approaches to agricultural technologies and markets, and agtech innovation in particular, on digital technologies in agriculture, as well as on digital applications, their design and their uses (App studies).

The doctoral student will be hosted in France at the Centre de Sociologie de l'innovation (CSI) – Mines Paris, Université PSL, in Paris, with administrative affiliation at CIRAD-UMR Innovation, Université de Montpellier, France. During the stays in Mexico for fieldwork, he/she will be hosted at Cimmyt, near Mexico City.

He/she will work under the supervision of Frédéric Goulet (Cirad), Jelle Van Loon (Cimmyt) and Liliana Doganova (Mines Paris). He/she will be integrated to the Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation at Mines Paris, (UMR Innovation) and to Cimmyt's Sustainable Agrifood Systems Program (SAS).

Responsibilities include:

- Implementation of the PhD project and writing of the PhD dissertation
- Being an active part in the research and educational environment of CoEditAg



- Being an active part in the CSI doctoral program (including the participation to seminars and teaching activities) and SAS program, and to contribute to the development of scientific articles and reports.

The applicant should fulfill the following requirements:

- a very good university degree qualifying for a doctorate at Université de Montpellier in Sociology.
- the methodological and scholarly maturity suitable for implementing a doctoral project within the fellowship's duration; and the documented experience of practicing, studying and/or researching any of the themes described in the doctoral project above;
- the willingness to conduct research in an interdisciplinary team and to communicate research results to stakeholders and the broader public;
- the ability to express oneself in written and spoken English and French, and spoken Spanish;
- a willingness to alternate stays between France and Mexico, and to conduct fieldwork in rural Mexico

You can expect:

- Insertion in scientific networks of excellence in STS and agricultural research
- A dynamic and motivated work environment at Cirad, Mines Paris and Cimmyt
- Internal and external training opportunities

Application:

Candidates must send application documents (cover letter, CV, certificates including your Master's certificate) to f.goulet@cgiar.org by 15th of May, 2023, compiled as a single PDF document.

3. Requirements

Research Field

Science, innovation and technology studies (sociology / anthropology)

Education Level

Master Degree or equivalent

Languages - Level

ENGLISH - Excellent

SPANISH - Good

FRENCH - Good